

GOD'S VOICE: THE ETERNAL THEN AND NOW

Hebrews 1:1-14, Micah 5:2-5, Isaiah 7:14, 9:6-7

We are going to dig into what the voice of God is speaking to us in this Christmas season. But first, here are some statements others have spoken about Jesus and the celebration of His birth.

"Christmas is not a time or a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." – Calvin Coolidge

"Peace with God, peace with others, and peace in your own heart." – Rick Warren

"Best of all, Christmas means a spirit of love, a time when the love of God and the love of our fellow men should prevail over all the hatred and bitterness, a time when our thoughts

and deeds and the spirit of our lives manifest the presence of God." - George F. McDougall

"The giving of gifts is not something man invented. God started the giving spree when He gave a gift beyond words, the unspeakable gift of His Son." – Unknown

"You can never truly enjoy Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell Him you have received His Christmas gift." – John. R. Rice

"And when the Lord Jesus has become your peace, remember there is another thing, good will towards men...do not try to keep Christmas without good will to men." – Charles Spurgeon

- **God spoke of Jesus since the most ancient days:**

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14 NASB

- **Immanuel: "God is with us."**

⁶ For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness

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From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of armies will accomplish this. Isaiah 9:6-7 NASB

- ***Mighty God, Prince of Peace, King of kings.***

² But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.” ³ Therefore He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth. Then the remainder of His kinsmen will return to the sons of Israel. ⁴ And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. ⁵ This One will be our peace. When the Assyrian invades our land, when he tramples on our citadels, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight leaders of people. Micah 5:2-5 NASB

- ***Ruler of Israel who is from the 'days of eternity.'***
- ***A child will be born, He will arise and shepherd His flock.***
- ***He will be great to the ends of the earth.***
- ***This ONE will be our peace.***
- ***God has spoken much of Jesus but now, and expressly at Christmas time, we turn our hearts to hear Jesus speak to us. God has spoken of Him but in our day, He is speaking through Him.***

¹ God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, ² in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom He also made the world. ³ And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become so much better than the angels, to the extent that He has inherited a more excellent name than they. Hebrews 1:1-4 NASB

- ***God is speaking to us through Jesus in these last days (the last days started with Jesus first coming). (Hebrews 1:2)***
- ***Peter refers to the last times (1 Peter 1:17-23) and John uses the term 'last hour'. (1 John 2:15-18)***

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² ***[But] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of a] Son, Whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom He created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order].***

³ ***He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying or radiance of the divine], and He is the perfect imprint and very image of [God's] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high,***

⁴ ***[Taking a place and rank by which] He Himself became as much superior to angels as the glorious Name (title) which He has inherited is different from and more excellent than theirs. Hebrews 1:2-4 AMPC***

- ***The 'last of these days.'* (v2)**
- ***Jesus made the worlds...the universe, the reaches of space and the ages of time. He made, produced, built, operated, and arranged them in order...WOW!* (v2)**
- ***Jesus is the radiance...the brilliance or reflection of God's light shining forth...***
- ***"He is the exact representation of His essence" ... "His actual being...His reality...His substance." (v3 N.T. Transline)***
- ***"Jesus is superior to all angels by nature, name, position, and power. (v4)***

⁵ ***For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?***

⁶ ***And when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says, "AND LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM." ⁷ And of the angels He says, "WHO MAKES HIS ANGELS WINDS, AND HIS MINISTERS A FLAME OF FIRE." Hebrews 1:5-7 NASB***

- ***Jesus is God, the Son of God, and the Son of Man...***
 - ***Angels worship Him and serve Him.***
 - ***They minister to Him and to us.***
 - ***Winds (the moving of the Spirit) and Fire (His powerful Word and Presence).***

⁸ ***But of the Son He says, "YOUR THRONE, O GOD, IS FOREVER AND EVER, AND THE RIGHTEOUS SCEPTER IS THE SCEPTER OF HIS KINGDOM. ⁹ "YOU HAVE LOVED RIGHTEOUSNESS AND HATED LAWLESSNESS; THEREFORE GOD, YOUR GOD, HAS ANOINTED YOU WITH THE OIL OF GLADNESS ABOVE YOUR COMPANIONS." ¹⁰ And, "YOU, LORD, IN THE BEGINNING LAID THE FOUNDATION OF THE EARTH, AND THE HEAVENS ARE THE WORKS OF YOUR HANDS; ¹¹ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN;***

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AND THEY ALL WILL BECOME OLD LIKE A GARMENT, ¹² AND LIKE A MANTLE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END." Hebrews 1:8-12 NASB

- **Your throne O God...Jesus is God...**
- **His is a scepter of righteousness.**
- **The Father anointed Him.**

⁹ You have loved righteousness [You have delighted in integrity, virtue, and uprightness in purpose, thought, and action] and You have hated lawlessness (injustice and iniquity). Therefore God, [even] Your God (Godhead), has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy and gladness above and beyond Your companions. Hebrews 1:9 AMPC

- **See Psalm 45:7**
- **He made the heavens and the earth. (v10)**
- **We only see the earth after the fall and after the flood.**
- **There is a 'virginal beauty' to His creation that we have never seen or known.**
- **Maybe this is why the earth 'groans' (Romans 8) waiting for the true newness to be unveiled.**

¹¹ THEY WILL PERISH, BUT YOU REMAIN; AND THEY ALL WILL WEAR OUT LIKE A GARMENT, ¹² AND LIKE A ROBE YOU WILL ROLL THEM UP; LIKE A GARMENT THEY WILL ALSO BE CHANGED. BUT YOU ARE THE SAME, AND YOUR YEARS WILL NOT COME TO AN END. Hebrews 1:11-12 NASB

- **Jesus is the King of kings and the King of Christmas!**
- **As you read the Christmas story this year, look for the ministry of angels... (there are 19 mentions of angels' activity in the first two chapters of Matthew and Luke.**
 - **Angelic ministry is to be welcomed and desired...BUT...**
 - **Angels are here to help us, to minister to us, and protect us.**
 - **Their purpose is to bless us and assist us in seeing our destiny in God fulfilled.**
 - **They worship the Son of God, and they minister to the sons and daughters of God.**
 - **They are here to help us hear and rightly respond to the proceeding Word of God.**

But He answered and said, "It is written: 'MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.'" Matthew 4:4 NASB

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Have an angelically blessed Christmas season!