

## PURSUIING A PLACE FOR HIM THIS CHRISTMAS

### **I Chronicles 28:9; Luke 2:25-38**

“Christmas day is the day that holds all time together.” **Alexander Smith**

“Once in our world a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world.” **C.S. Lewis**

“Our God is the God of the unexpected. Few things could be more unexpected than the king of Heaven being born in a stable.” **Bill Crowder**

“I think that the purpose and cause of the incarnation was that God might illuminate the world buy His wisdom and excite it to the love of Himself.” **Peter Abelard**

“The Son of God became the son of man in order that the son of man might become the sons of God.” **John Blanchard**

“When compassion for the common man was born on Christmas Day, with it was born new hope among the multitudes.” **Frank Laubach**

- He has come for us.
  - Know the God of your father, and serve Him with a loyal heart and a willing mind, for the Lord searches all hearts and understands all the intent of the thoughts. If you seek Him, He will be found by you...**1 Chronicles 28:9 NKJV**
  - He has come for us...not after us.
  - His motive is to search and understand (**1 Chronicles 28:9**) not ‘search and destroy.’
  - He has come for our rescue not our ruin.
  - He has come for redemption not revenge.
  - He has come to bring revelation not retaliation.
- He has come, so that we can find Him.
  - We know all our ‘stuff’, all our ways; darkness and light are the same to Him, nothing is hidden from Him.
  - Our greatest successes, our darkest secrets, our biggest victory, our deepest shame, our finest hour, our most vile imagination, and all our attempts to promote our best and hide our worst...
  - He sees it all and He knows it all and loves us still. Amazing!

<sup>21</sup> And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. <sup>22</sup> And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY *firstborn* MALE THAT

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OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”),<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”<sup>25</sup> And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.<sup>26</sup> And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,<sup>28</sup> then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,<sup>29</sup> “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to Your word;<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation,<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,<sup>32</sup> A Light of revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”<sup>33</sup> And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.<sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—<sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage,<sup>37</sup> and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.<sup>38</sup> At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. **Luke 2:21-38**

### **NASB**

- He has come for us...so we may find Him.
- ...“and a sound will pierce even your own soul – to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” **Luke 2:35**
- ...“and thus the secret thoughts of many will be laid bare.” **New English Bible**
- ...“that the reasoning in many hearts may be revealed.” **Weymouth NT**
- ...“That the deliberations of many hearts would be uncovered.” **Wuest NT**
- He searches all hearts and understands all our intentions...and if you seek Him, you will find Him.
  - He has pursued you so you can find Him today...for the first time, for you to return to Him, or for Him to empower you to know Him deeper and richer.
  - Christmas is about His gift to us...when we ‘find’ Jesus, we have simply to give Him room.