

The DEFENDER - December 2019



“... defending the faith once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 3)

A monthly publication of the
IN DEFENSE OF TRUTH radio broadcast.



FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK: Christmas Deliberations

This is the time of year when we celebrate the first advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Approximately 2000 years ago the incarnation of the Son of God occurred so that sinful man could be reconciled to our holy God. The world was lost in sin and spinning out of control. The Lord's people were under the thumb of the Roman Empire and the scriptures had been silent for nearly 400 years. Religious people were looking for the promised Messiah to come and release them from the bondage of Rome so that they could live in peace and prosperity. They searched the scriptures, reading the prophets as they scanned the horizon, watching for a white stallion carrying their knight in shining armor to appear. They didn't realize that being saved from Rome didn't matter if they weren't also saved from their sin. Human nature is more concerned with the realities of this life than the possibilities of the next. As a result, most people didn't recognize Him when He arrived (**John 1:10-11**).

Fast forward to today.

Once again, the world is wallowing in sin and spinning out of control. And God's people are following fables and drifting farther and farther away from the truth. Paul's description of people in Romans 1 has never been more evident than it is today. They worship and serve the creature more than the Creator. They don't glorify God; nor are they thankful. Compromises are being made within and without the church. Ecumenism has replaced evangelism as the stated goal of Christianity. The spirit of antichrist is in the air. God's true children are once again anticipating the appearance of their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But many within Churchianity, who are Christians in name only, are looking in the mirror for answers, rather than in the Bible. God's ways are not man's ways (**Isaiah 55:8-9**). But man doesn't care. In his quest for utopia he has cast aside God's standards. Sodom and Gomorrah pale in comparison to western civilization. God has called homosexuality an abomination (**Leviticus 18:22**), yet many in the church today condone it, while some actually practice it. The ancient Israelites were guilty of worshiping Molech, the god of the Ammorites, by casting their children into the fire (**Jeremiah 32:35**). Today, Americans (Christians included), have aborted over 60 million of their children on the altar of convenience.

Amidst all of this, God's judgment is long past due. Why He is so long-suffering, only He knows. Perhaps, as in Abraham's day, He is willing to save the land for the sake of the righteous. But I fear the number of righteous people in our land are dwindling. Maybe God will make America an example to the rest of the world that He will not tolerate sin forever. We've been given a reprieve with President Trump. But that respite won't last. In one year or five, the Deep State will regain power and the fall into the abyss will accelerate. Our only hope is in the Lord. Even so, come Lord Jesus (**Revelation 22:20**).

Rev. David Lewis

Bible Basics for Christians The “Untils” of Prophecy

By Robert Luthardt, Sr.

“Behold, the days come ... I will raise ... a King” (Jer. 23:5). “In His days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely ...” (vs. 6). When? When they, “NO more say, the Lord ... brought the children of Israel out ... of Egypt, but ... led ... Israel out of the North Country, and from all countries whither I had driven them ...” back to ‘their own Land’” (vs. 7-8). God had scattered His people to the four corners of the earth. In the 19th Century, He began to draw them back UNTIL in 1948, the Nation of Israel was reestablished (Is. 11:12).

Our personal assurance of God’s promises is greatly bolstered by fulfilled prophecies. The Word of God has, “... declared the end from the beginning, and from ancient times, THINGS NOT YET DONE, saying, my counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose ... I will bring it to pass ... I will do it” (Is. 46:10).

King David wrote of the Messiah’s coming reign from Jerusalem, “The Lord said to my Lord, sit Thou on my right hand UNTIL I make your enemies your footstool” (Ps. 110:1; Matt. 22:44; Acts 2:34). John the Apostle wrote, “... hold fast UNTIL I come ... he that overcometh and keepeth ... unto the end ... to him will I give power over the nations ...” (Rev. 2:25-26).

Peter and John healed a man lame from birth who sat daily at the Temple gate and all knew him. So, when he arose and went, “leaping and praising God,” the people ran to them. Peter told them, “... The God of our fathers, hath glorified His Son Jesus Christ ... the faith ... is by Him” and “He shall send Jesus Christ ... whom the heaven must receive UNTIL the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken...” (Acts 3:6-10, 16-21).

Jesus is coming back, and all the world will see Him (Matt. 24:30. Rev. 1:7) and “in the restoration,” Christ will take His throne; an event all creation awaits. For they, “... groaneth ... UNTIL now ... ourselves also ... groan within ... waiting for the ADOPTION, to wit, the redemption of our body” (Rom 8:19-24) which does NOT come UNTIL the “... times of the gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:20, 24).

When the 1967 Six Day War ended, Jerusalem was again controlled by an undivided, independent nation of Israel. This for the first time since its destruction by Roman conquerors. Did this end the times of the gentiles? Not yet. It awaits the return of that one “greater than Solomon” (Luke 11:31) when Christ physically appears at the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:9, 12) and He takes the Throne of David (Acts 2:29-30).

After Christ defeats His, Israel’s and the true church’s enemies, He begins His rule from David’s throne and ushers in the Kingdom of 1,000 years (Rev. 19:11-21, 20:1-6). This will be when, “... they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore (Is. 2:1-4).

In the yet to come, LATTER DAYS, and the “times of the gentiles” are concluded, Jerusalem will know no peace. In fact, Jerusalem will be a storm-center for all the world (Zech. 12:3). There can be no lasting peace UNTIL the return of the “Prince of Peace” when He vanquishes Satan’s attempt to destroy Israel and Jerusalem (Is. 9:6).

At Israel’s darkest hour, scripture predicts they will repent and cry out for their Deliverer – their Messiah. He will hear and come in majesty and power to “strike through kings” in the “day of His wrath” (Ps. 2:9, 110:4-5; Rev. 19:11-21). He then separates and judges all (Matt. 25:31-46) finally to rule His heritage and His Kingdom forever (Rev. 11:15-18).

The promised Deliverer shall come, “out of Zion,” being “David’s son,” and “...Israel will be saved” (Matt. 1:1; Rom. 11:25-26; Micah 5:2; Is. 9:6-7). From Haman to Hitler, from Egyptian Pharaohs to Assyrian Kings, from Pagan Romans to idol-worshiping crusaders and evil inquisitors, God has preserved the people and nation of Israel. He always curses their enemies and blesses their benefactors (Gen. 12:2-3). God declared, “Thus saith the Lord, who giveth the sun for a light by day and ... moon and stars for a light by night ... If this fixed order departs ... then shall the descendants of Israel cease from being a nation before me forever” (Jer. 31:35-36). “I will restore their fortunes and have mercy upon them” (Jer. 33:25-26).

Why? Is it because they have always been faithful to God’s commands? The Lord’s reply, “I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, ye sons of Jacob are not consumed” (Mal. 3:6). It is simply God’s will and pleasure (Dan. 4:35; Gal. 4:5; Ep. 1:5).

The Lord Jesus Christ prophesied of a soon coming destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans (Luke 19:40-44) and the scattering of Israel across the whole earth (21:20-24). Christ’s prophecy was fulfilled in A.D. 70 and Israel ceased to be a nation. Yet Jesus further prophesied of Jerusalem and its people, “... ye shall not see me henceforth UNTIL ye say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” (Matt. 23:37-39) and also, “... the Son of man shall sit upon His throne ... ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging ... Israel” (Matt. 19:28). Jesus told His disciples that the Father had fixed the time when Christ’s Kingdom would be established” (Acts 1:6-7),

Moses was directed to prophecy of Israel’s removal from their land and their scattering, “in the latter days” (not to be confused with exiles to Egypt, Assyria or Babylon) which today is called the diaspora into all countries for 1,900 years. Thankfully, God always keeps His Covenantal Promises (Deut. 4:26-31). God’s promises to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are not only inviolate for their blood descendants but for all Holy Spirit called and drawn believers having the unmerited GIFT of faith (John 6:44; Ep. 2:8-10, 16). All these, Jew or gentile, are the spiritual children of Abraham by faith NOT by works or by blood (John 1:13; Rom. 4:1-2, 13).

Though Israel has at times been dispossessed of their land as chastisement for prideful disobedience, God’s promises are irrevocable (Lev. 26:40-45). The dispersion in A.D. 70 was not so much “another exile” but rather a continuation and greater extension of judgment both in time (1,900 years) and extent in a world-wide scattering. This will only end with Israel’s repentance and Christ’s return. Then all will return gladly.

At Christ's first advent many were still in the lands of their former exile (John 7:35; Acts 2:5, 8). The full world-wide return even now is yet future (Is. 11:10-12; Deut. 30:3-5; Ez. 34:11-13, 39:22-29). When God regathers Israel home they shall dwell securely. God will bring judgment upon their enemies (Ez. 28:25-26). He will restore their fortunes and inspire the rebuilding of ruined cities. Vineyards shall be planted and gardens and they shall, "... no more be pulled up out of the land" (Amos 9:11-15). The Lord's people will be blessed beyond all their fathers had seen. They will no longer be bound to physical cleansing (circumcision) for the Lord will circumcise every heart (Deut. 30:5-6; Is. 35:1, 51:11, 54:7-8). Christ offers to all "LIBERTY" (Is. 61:1-3) far beyond anything man can perceive (Is. 64:4; 1 Cor. 2:9) even beyond the blessings of Christ's reign on earth (Is. 65:17, 20, 24-25) in our incorruptible, changed bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-52).

The promise of God to restore Israel as a nation to the land was to the blood descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. This fact is vitally important as it is one of the seven signs of Christ's return (John 14:1-3). The countdown began when Israel was reestablished in 1948, but more fully in 1967 when Jerusalem was liberated in the "SIX DAY WAR."

The next two signs are under development now – a forming One-World false religion and a reviving Roman Empire (Rev. 17 and 18) and the cry of both is "UNITY, UNITY." God's Word still commands SEPARATION (2 Cor. 6:14-18). True teachers are duty-bound to call out and expose all false teachings and practices. While we are not to judge (motives) we are warned by Jesus to inspect everyone's fruits (Matt. 7:20-21) "Out of the heart are the issues of life" (Prov. 4:23).

The fourth and still future sign of Christ's soon return will be the appearance of "THE MAN OF SIN" (the Antichrist). He comes first as seemingly godly and wonderful, but his PEACE is false and he destroys many (Dan. 8:23-25, 7:24-25; 2 Thes. 2:3-4, 9). Even the elect would be deceived by him if God did not prevent it (Luke 21:8; Matt. 24:24; 1 Peter 5:8). Christ shall defeat him when He brings down the World system of anti-God governance (Dan. 2:34-35).

The fifth sign is a rebuilt Temple where the Muslim shrines now sit. God will have to remove them (the coming Ezekiel War? – chapters 38 and 39). Indeed, this war is itself the sixth sign that Christ's return is, "at the doors" (Mark 13:28-29). The fierce Northern Enemy is miraculously destroyed by God's intervention (Ez. 39:1-7). The seventh and last sign is Satan's inspired assemblage of the world's armies to advance and attack to finally destroy Israel and its people. This brings Christ out of heaven with His saints and angels to vanquish Satan's war machine (Rev. 19:11-21) in the "WAR OF ARMAGEDDON" – the "true war to end all wars."

We heed the Lord's warning to "WATCH" (Matt. 25:13; Luke 12:37; Titus 2:13; Rev. 3:11, 16:15). We do so here at "In Defense of Truth" headquarters by honoring the memory of the Late Reverend Joseph Brown, the beloved African American preacher who always ended his daily radio broadcast with: "Keep looking up."

Chief Source:

Author:

Publisher:

Until: The Coming of Messiah and His Kingdom

Robert Lee Shank

Westcott Publishers, Missouri

A Love So Great

By Nancy Long

Luke 2:14 – *“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace good will toward men.”*

John 1:11 – *“He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.”*

1 John 4:9-10 – *“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”*

As we are quickly approaching Christmas 2019, my mind is being drawn to the remarkably amazing sacrifice that Jesus Christ made, by leaving the glories of heaven, to come and live with frail humanity, on this sin sick earth. More often than not when we think of the word “sacrifice”, thoughts are drawn toward Good Friday and Christ’s death on the cross but just try to imagine a **love** so great that Jesus would, not only willingly, but gladly leave a wonderful, incredible, beautiful, and peaceful place, to tabernacle with sinners such as us knowing that rejection and betrayal, as well as a cruel death lie before Him!! He willingly *“humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”* (Phil. 2:8). So great a love we **cannot** fathom!!

I think of the hymn writer, Emily E. S. Elliot, who penned the words to “Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne”. There are five verses to this song.

Thou didst leave Thy throne and Thy kingly crown
When Thou camest to earth for me;
But in Bethlehem’s home was there found no room
For Thy holy nativity.

Heaven’s arches rang when the angels sang,
Proclaiming Thy royal decree;
But of lowly birth didst Thou come to earth,
And in great humility.

The foxes found rest and the birds their nest
In the shade of the forest tree;
But Thy couch was the sod, O Thou Son of God,
In the deserts of Galilee.

Thou camest, O Lord, with the living Word
That should set Thy people free;
But with mocking scorn and with crown of thorn
They bore Thee to Calvary.

When the heav'ns shall ring and the angels sing
At Thy coming to victory,
Let Thy voice call me home, saying, "*Yet there is room –
There is room at My side for thee.*"

Chorus --

Oh, come to my heart, Lord Jesus, There is room in my heart for Thee!
My heart shall rejoice, Lord Jesus, When Thou comest and callest for me!

The first verse written here tells of Jesus leaving all the beauty and glory of His heavenly throne and kingly crown, and contrasts it with there being "**no room**" for the Son of God in Bethlehem.

The second verse is contrasting the heavenly arches and the angels singing, with the humility of Jesus' birth in a lowly, unpretentious stable.

In the third verse, we are reminded of the fact that the foxes have holes, and the birds have their nests. All creatures have their place, but the Son of man has "**nowhere**" to lay His head (Matt. 8:20).

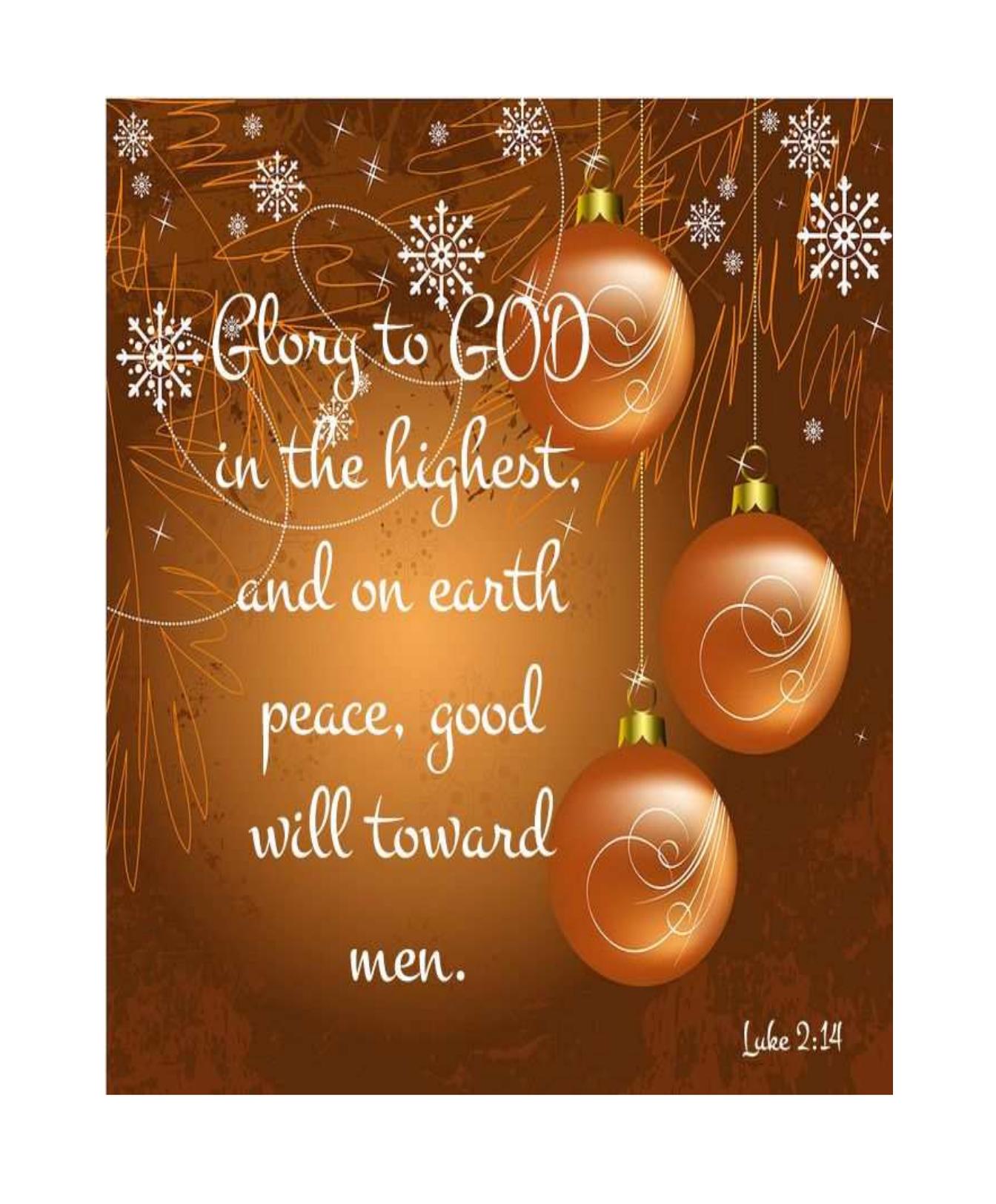
Continuing on to verse four – Jesus came to bring reconciliation between sinful man and a Holy God. This is the verse that connects the birth of the Baby Christ Child (Jesus) with His crucifixion!

Lastly, verse five completes the story of the life of our Savior. Death is swallowed up in victory (1 Cor. 15:54b)!! Heaven's angels will sing more when Jesus comes again!!

How can one ever fully grasp, or comprehend, with finite, limited, minds, a love so profound? a love so amazing? so astounding? so deep? May we be ever thankful, and give praise always, to Him who gives us that faith to believe (Eph. 2:8-9)!

This is the season when we celebrate, and rejoice in, the birth of God's Son, Jesus Christ. Here at "In Defense of Truth" we are not politically correct when it comes to this time of the year. As the world tries desperately to remove Christ from Christmas, with its popular "Happy Holiday" greeting, those of us who know, and love, the Lord Jesus Christ, will continue to, without apology, proclaim, "MERRY CHRISTMAS!"

Merry Christmas, my Defender friends! Merry Christmas!!



Glory to GOD
in the highest,
and on earth
peace, good
will toward
men.

Luke 2:14

Our mission through the broadcast of In Defense of Truth and the publication of The Defender newsletter is to earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints (Jude 3). Our vision today is just as strong as it was back in 1963 when Dr. John Dekker began this outreach. We pray that you will continue to stand with us as we hold true to God's holy Word.

The Defender is available, free of charge, on audio CD.
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WRITE TO US!

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Upcoming Events!

If you are in or around the Baltimore area, we'd love to have you join us for these upcoming events!

Adult & Children's Sunday School	10:15 AM
Sunday Morning Worship & Children's Church	11:00 AM
Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study	1:30 PM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study	7:00 PM
Friday Youth Group	7:00 PM
Christmas Eve Service	7:00 PM