



Can You Find Peace at Christmas? [Isaiah 9:6]

I. The Prophets Declarations [Hebrews 1:1-2]

"God does not simply use people as the instruments of his speaking but puts his word in their hearts and minds for them to transmit to the people. God speaks 'in and through' the prophets."

- Bernhard Weiss

II. The Apostle's Affirmation [2 Peter 1:16-21]

"The majority of the apostles died martyrs' deaths on the basis of their belief that the resurrection took place just as predicted, and that they saw Jesus alive again. If it were not true, then they were either duped, or else they fabricated the resurrection as a means to shore up the movement. But would they pay the ultimate price for a lie they had manufactured in order to have a job? Not so. Paul speaks of the absurdity of this in the following way: "And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty. Yes, and we are found false witnesses of God, because we have testified of God that He raised up Christ "(1 Corinthians 15:14-15). - Jim Eliff

III. The Father's Proclamation [Galatians 4:3-6]

"The Bible is full of God's promises to provide for us spiritually and materially, to never forsake us, to give us peace in times of difficult circumstances, to cause all circumstances to work together for our good, and finally to bring us safely home to glory. Not one of those promises is dependent upon our performance. They are all dependent on the grace of God given to us through Jesus Christ."

- Jerry Bridges, Pursuit of Holiness

■ **Isaiah 9:6** For to us a child is born, **to us a son is given;**
■ and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name
■ shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
■ Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

■ **Hebrews 1:1-2** Long ago, at many times and in many ways,
■ God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, [Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17]
■ ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, [Hebrews
■ 9:24-26, 2:3; Matthew 14:33] whom he appointed the heir of
■ all things, [Psalm 2:7-8; Matthew 28:18] through whom also he
■ created the world. [John 1:1-5]

■ 10 Messianic Prophecies

■ Numbers 24:17 — The Christmas Star [Balaam's Oracle]
■ Isaiah 11:1 — The Branch from Jesse [Bears Fruit]
■ Isaiah 7:14 — The Virgin Birth
■ Isaiah 9:6,7 - The Coming Messiah
■ Micah 5:2 — The Messiah will come from Bethlehem
■ Isaiah 53:3 — The Messiah's Lowly Estate [Man of Sorrows]
■ Hosea 11:1 — An Egyptian connection
■ Malachi 3:1 — Christ comes to the temple
■ Psalm 2 — Kings will bow to God's son
■ Luke 1:67-70 — Zechariah's Prophecy

■ **2 Peter 1:16-21** For we did not follow cleverly devised myths
■ [I Timothy 1:3-4] when we made known to you the power
■ [I Corinthians 2:4] and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we
■ were eyewitnesses of his majesty. [Matthew 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-13,
■ Luke 9:28-36; John 1:14] ¹⁷ For when he received honor and glory
■ from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the
■ Majestic Glory, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well
■ pleased," [Matthew 3:13-17] ¹⁸ we ourselves heard this very voice
■ borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.
■ ¹⁹ And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, [I Peter
■ 1:10-12] to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp
■ shining in a dark place, [Psalm 119:105] until the day dawns and
■ the morning star [Malachi 4:2] rises in your hearts, [2 Corinthians 4:6]
■ ²⁰ knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes
■ from someone's own interpretation. [II Timothy 3:16] ²¹ For no
■ prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke
■ from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
■ [Luke 1:70; Acts 1:15-16; 3:17-21]

■ **Galatians 4:3-6** In the same way we also, when we were
■ children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the
■ world. ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, [I Timothy
■ 2:5-6; Mark 1:15] God sent forth his Son, born of woman,
■ [Philippians 2:5-7] born under the law, [Luke 2:21-22,27] ⁵ to
■ redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive
■ [Galatians 3:13] adoption as sons. [Galatians 3:26; Romans 8:15]
■ ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into
■ our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave,
■ but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. [Romans 5:5b;
■ 2 Corinthians 3:17-18]

Study Questions/Prayer

- [1] Read Hebrews 1:1-2. How do the prophets' declarations in the Old Testament, as mentioned in these verses point to the coming of Jesus Christ?
- [2] Read 2 Peter 1:16-21. What significance do the apostles' affirmations, particularly in 2 Peter 1:21, have on the credibility of the resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- [3] Read Galatians 4:3-6. How do the promises of God, as described in the verses, provide peace and assurance to believers in times of difficult circumstances?
- [4] Pray asking God to bring you [and those around you] peace during this season as you reflect on the prophets' declarations, the apostle's affirmations, and the fathers proclamation.