



12/15/2024 Bible Study Notes

### The Ultimate Gift - What Offering Can You Bring?

I have asked a particular question several times over the past few weeks. It may seem like I'm nitpicking, finding or pointing out of minor faults in a fussy or pedantic way. Oh, but you may ask, what is pedantic or better, what is a pedant?

Well, it's a person who is excessively concerned with minor details and rules or with displaying academic learning. Now, if you agree with that, don't raise your hand, at least not hastily. Give me a chance to further clarify why I am so intense about this.

We should never become so familiar with the Scriptures that we stop growing, stop asking questions, stop inquiring of the Lord to ensure we have received the full picture, complete understanding.

When I've asked the question that I've posed for weeks now, I did so in light of particular circumstances. While pondering and seeking to know what to share today, it dawned on me that the holiday we're about to celebrate falls within the parameters which I have set forth. Although it is not one of the Feasts of the Lord, it applies.

Remember, this is about seeing Him accurately so that we may see ourselves as He sees us and then act accordingly.

### Isaiah 7 (Berean Standard Bible)

#### *War against Jerusalem*

**1**Now it came about in the days of Ahaz, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to [wage] war against it, but could not conquer it. **2**When it was reported to the house of David, saying, "The Arameans have camped in Ephraim," his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.

**3**Then the LORD said to Isaiah, "Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son Shear-jashub, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller's field, **4**and say to him, 'Take care and be calm, have no fear and do not be fainthearted because of these two stubs of smoldering firebrands, on account of the fierce anger of Rezin and Aram and the son of Remaliah. **5**Because Aram, [with] Ephraim and the son of Remaliah, has planned evil against you, saying, **6**"Let us go up against Judah and terrorize it, and make for ourselves a breach in its walls and set up the son of Tabeel as king in the midst of it," **7**thus says the Lord GOD: "It shall not stand nor shall it come to pass. **8**"For the head of Aram is Damascus and the head of Damascus is Rezin (now within another 65 years Ephraim will be shattered, [so that it is] no longer a people), **9**and the

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head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If you will not believe, you surely shall not last."'"

### **The Child Immanuel**

**10**Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, **11**"Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; make [it] deep as Sheol or high as heaven." **12**But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" **13**Then he said, "Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well?

**14**"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. **15**"He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows [enough] to refuse evil and choose good. **16**"For before the boy will know [enough] to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.

### **Isaiah 9 (BSB)**

#### ***Birth and Reign of the Prince of Peace***

**1**But there will be no [more] gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make [it] glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles.

**2**The people who walk in darkness Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.

**3**You shall multiply the nation, You shall increase their gladness; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

**4**For You shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian.

**5**For every boot of the booted warrior in the [battle] tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire.

**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 From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

The Scriptures we read were written hundreds of years before the occasion for which we are about to celebrate. Isaiah set the stage for what was to come. He prophesied in the midst of Israel and Judah's rebellion. God had to speak concerning the occasion for the next Scriptures we'll read to make the case.

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I told you how that when Judah was in captivity in Babylon, Isaiah foretold it when he prophesied to Hezekiah. **2 Kings 20:18 and Isaiah 39:7**

In Isaiah 39, written around 700 BC, King Hezekiah of Judah was told that his people and his sons would go into captivity in Babylon.

The prophet Isaiah, who stated "**some of your sons who will come from you, whom you will father, will be taken away; and they will become officials in the palace of the king of Babylon**"

This brings us to Daniel

- **Daniel 2**

**Daniel interpreted a dream about a stone striking an image and becoming a mountain to mean that God's kingdom would be established.**

- **Daniel 9**

**The angel Gabriel told Daniel that the Messiah would arrive a certain number of years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.**

- **Daniel 12**

**Daniel prophesied that Jesus would return to establish the Kingdom of God, which would eventually consume all other kingdoms.**

- **Language used by Jesus**

**Jesus used language from Daniel 7:28-29 to identify himself as the Son of Man.**

**Jeremiah 23:5**

**5 “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.**

**Matthew 1:18-25 (BSB)**

**17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.**

***Conception and Birth of Jesus***

**18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. 20 But when he had**

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considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21**"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22**Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: **23**"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." **24**And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took [Mary] as his wife, **25**but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

**Luke 2:1-20 (BSB)*****Jesus' Birth Foretold***

**26**Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27**to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28**And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord [is] with you." **29**But she was very perplexed at [this] statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. **30**The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. **31**"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **32**"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; **33**and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." **34**Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35**The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. **36**"And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. **37**"For nothing will be impossible with God." **38**And Mary said, "Behold, the bondslave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

***Mary Visits Elizabeth***

**39**Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, **40**and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. **41**When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42**And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed [are] you among women, and blessed [is] the fruit of your womb! **43**"And how has it [happened] to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? **44**"For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. **45**"And blessed [is] she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

**Galatians 4:4 (BSB)**

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4But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, 5so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. 6Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.