

**Yankee Steve's Column**  
**for the Week of December 24, 2009**

**What is Christmas?**

One verse explains it. The apostle Paul says,

*In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law that we might receive the adoption of sons.* [Galatians 4:4-5]

**Christmas is timing.**

We read that “In the fullness of time God sent forth His Son...”

God is never early and never late. Just when the time was ripe He sent Jesus into the world. This brings to mind the Exodus from Egypt. Abraham was told that his descendents would not leave Egypt until the sin of the Amorites had brought that nation to a moral standstill. This is awe-inspiring, is it not? Pharaoh did what God wanted and according to His schedule.

A famed skeptic from another era was fully converted when he discovered that history had prepared the way for the coming of Jesus. The proud scholar knelt humbly before Jesus when he realized that this could not have been an accident. There had been planning. The evidence was incontrovertible. Blessed are all those who recognize that God has a time schedule.

**Christmas is the virgin birth.**

The one sent forth was “made of a woman...” The virgin wondered, "I know not a man" so how can I conceive in my womb the promised Messiah? She may have not read Isaiah the prophet who said, “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and he shall be called Immanuel or God with us.” [Isaiah 7:14] Christmas is the incarnation when God became bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh, when the Almighty was contracted to a span. This is that Rock about which Daniel the prophet spoke that was “cut out of the mountain without hands” or without the aid of a man [Daniel 2:34]. That is the same rock that now fills the whole earth [v. 35].

Blessed are all those who know that Christmas is the incarnation. And blessed are all those who know why the incarnation has taken place.

**Christmas is redemption.**

The Jewish Talmud is wrong. No one can fulfill the law of God. Therefore one was sent forth to redeem those who are “under the law” under its heavy burden, its crushing load, its dreadful dismissive curse.

There it is in a nut shell. Christianity cannot be only one thing; at the same time it is one thing only. It is redemption. The one who is a slave to the law, who must fulfill its every demand or be cursed [Deuteronomy 27:26, Jeremiah 11:3] can be redeemed. The price has been paid. Every year is a year of Jubilee for the rescued.

But what is the price of redemption? The price paid is the blood of Christ. He redeems those who were cursed by the law being made a curse for them. As it is written, "Cursed is every one that hangs on a tree" - who hangs on a cross. [Gal. 3:10-13]

Lately Congress has destroyed our faith in government. This should not have surprised us. Instead, let us trust in the Lord who is always on time who redeems those who are under the law, who know that they dare not take refuge in the law, but must rely solely on the grace of God.

Merry Christmas!

Ever yours,

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