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The Meaning and Majesty of the Messiah: Giving thanks for Christmas

A Commentary by Jason Curry



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Christmas is upon us once again. The Christmas plays at church, the egg nog at home, and laughter with family and family friends are evidence of a joyous season for both you and I as we pause to recognize and celebrate the miraculous birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus the Christ. The gospel narratives of the New Testament continue to proclaim that Jesus appeared in history so that our sins may be forgiven. Indeed, Jesus appeared so that we might have life and have it more abundantly (John 10:10). Jesus appeared so that we may be reconciled with God, and through this reconciliation, we now have an opportunity to inherit the keys to eternal life. Given the capitalistic thrust of our national and global economy, I suppose that the commercialization of the Christmas (e.g., the gifts, the toys and the sales of various department stores) will continue to be prominent during this sacred season for Christians. However, the birth of the Messiah, the Christ or the Anointed One who is

still known as Jesus, will always take precedent over the economic and political agendas of men and women throughout our world.

I continue to remain fascinated by the meaning of Jesus' birth throughout history. When Jesus was born, Luke says that "there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased (Luke 2:13-14).'" When Jesus appeared a vision of John, the creatures in the book of Revelation said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come (Revelation 4:8)." The significance of Jesus' birth not only concerns human beings, it also concerns the host of God's creation in heaven above. Jesus' birth happened within human history, approximately two-thousand years ago; however, the meaning of Jesus' birth is so great, inspiring, awe-some and influential that goes beyond human history and concerns people, places and events that are yet to come.

Yes, the bible confirms that the birth and presence of Jesus will be celebrated now, in the future for all of eternity. Christmas reminds us that we are inheritors of a great spiritual legacy that cannot be limited to people of a particular race, class, gender or region of the world. Christmas reminds us that we are beneficiaries of a great spiritual tradition that has inspired Christians in the past and will continue to inspire Christians in the future. We give thanks for the greatness and majesty of the Messiah who was born two-thousand years ago for our redemption. We give thanks in December because Jesus is still the reason for the season.