

Brain Massage: Show No. 704 Remember Pearl Harbor / Did God Abuse Mary? What Is Christmas All About?

Jerry Scheidbach



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1 Segment.01 Hello. I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor of the Lighthouse Baptist Church in
2 Santa Maria, CA—and your brain masseur—get ready for your brain massage.

3 As we prepare for Christmas, we pause December 7 to remember Pearl Harbor. One of
4 our few remaining heroes of WWII passed — George Herbert Walker Bush, or Bush
5 Senior as we often called him — went on to his reward last week, and is laid to rest in his
6 home state of Texas where he resided for the last 70 of his 94 years, with his wife of 73
7 years. I mention him in connection with Pearl Harbor for the obvious reason that he flew
8 for the Navy in WWII, he was a torpedo bomber pilot, and because when Becky, Zach,
9 and I were in Hawaii in 1991, G. H. W. Bush was President, and he was speaking at the
10 Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor — also, as a side note — a year earlier, in 1990, Dr.
11 Jerry Falwell Sr., invited then President Bush to give the commencement address when I
12 graduated with my Masters degree from Liberty University.

13 On September 2, 1944, Bush's squadron was conducting a bombing raid on a Japanese
14 installation on the Island of Chi Chi Jima in the Pacific when they were counterattacked
15 by heavy anti-aircraft fire. Bush's plane took a hit, his engine aflame, Bush delivered his
16 torpedoes and turned the plane back toward his Carrier, the San Jacinto, where he had to
17 bail out over the water. He floated on a raft for something like four hours when a
18 submarine crew found him and fished him from the sea. He received the Distinguished
19 Flying Cross for his bravery. He continued flying bombing missions for the US —he flew
20 58 combat missions in all.

21 Fitting he should be laid to rest the day before that conflict started.

22 I understand we are losing 372 Veterans per day and of the 16 million Americans who
23 served in WWII only 620,000 were still alive in 2016. It was an estimated 558,000 in 2017.

24 And it's another one less today! Among the many unique features of his legacy is that he
25 is one of only two US Presidents who had a son that also became President. John Adams
26 was the second US President and later, his son, John Quincy Adams also became
27 President.

28 Pearl Harbor Day commemorates the Great War, and the great generation who fought it.
29 Walking about Pearl Harbor today, it's hard to imagine the ravages wrought upon it by
30 the savage attack on that infamous day. We pause to reflect on the horrors of war, the sad
31 necessity of war, and the survival of our nation and securing of or our freedoms through
32 war.

33 Pearl Harbor Day is this year marked by the passing of another of many great heroes who
34 fought to defend our liberties. We salute George H. W. Bush, and say, *fare thee well*.

35 My friends, it's time for your brain massage.

36 [TRUTH]

37 Christmas — well, we can say Merry Christmas again, without stirring up too much
38 controversy, the libs only wince a little now; but the aggressive retort *happy holiday* has
39 softened into a more pleasant counter, and you will notice that no Christian is angrily
40 protesting against those infidels who insist on saying Happy Holiday instead of Merry
41 Christmas because those who are of the spirit of Merry Christmas believe in liberty and
42 allow others the freedom to say Happy Holiday if that's what they prefer.

43 I tell you what; I much prefer a society shaped by Christian values rather than godless
44 secularist values.

45 Godless secularism is mean, and tyrannical. They want to control what you say and even
46 what you think. But the early Christian influences of this country created an open society,
47 with freedom of the conscience, and while vigorous debate was encouraged, at the bottom
48 line, as the old saying went, I don't agree with what you are saying but I'll die to protect
49 your right to say it! Remember that one? Our children are not taught that any more.

50 It's interesting how, and I've watched this develop over my lifetime, it's interesting how
51 the godless secularist used the freedoms we happily afforded to them to gain influence
52 and power in our society that today they use to take away our freedoms. Isn't that ironic?
53 We created this free society allowing for men to choose what they believe — yeah, it's a
54 Baptist thing, by the way, this idea that faith is free from the control of men or creeds, and
55 the godless then turned around used that freedom to quash the freedom of their believing
56 neighbors.

57 The spirit of Christmas is a bit freer these days — but it's still under assault in some
58 quarters.

59 Here is a Professor that says Mary did not give consent to be the mother of God's Son.¹
60 Eric Sprankle is associate professor of Clinical Psychology and Sexuality Studies at
61 Minnesota State. He tweeted that "the virgin birth story is about an all-knowing, all-
62 powerful deity impregnating a human teen. There is no definition of consent that would
63 include this scenario. Happy Holidays."

64 Someone who had at least a modicum of Bible knowledge on this subject called him out
65 and explained that in fact, according to the Bible, Mary did consent to the plan, Sprankle
66 responded by saying God's plan was "an unethical abuse of power at best and grossly
67 predatory at worst."²

68 When confronted with the biblical text, Luke 1:26-38, where after the angel announced
69 the plan, Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy
70 word," Sprankle fired back: "The biblical god regularly punished disobedience. The power
71 difference (deity vs mortal) and the potential for violence for saying 'no' negates her 'yes.'

¹ https://www.theblaze.com/news/professor-says-virgin-mary-didnt-gi...99&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=theblaze

² Ibid.

72 To put someone in this position is an unethical abuse of power at best and grossly
73 predatory at worst."³

74 Later, Sprankle, who apparently was rankled by the naysayer, sarcastically added, "I'd
75 never force you to be in a relationship with me, but I will destroy you and everyone you
76 love if you aren't."

77 Well, now, there is a true God hating liberal for you! When I use that expression, you can
78 remember this anecdote as defining what I mean — I don't believe all liberals are God
79 hating, but this liberal clearly is a God hating liberal.

80 Furthermore, I allow for his inalienable right to choose to be a God hating liberal — by
81 the way, though more rare, there are God hating conservatives too, although but I can't
82 think of one — but Mr. Sprankle should not be coerced into refraining from expressing
83 such views. No one, did you notice, no one called for him to be forced out of his
84 professorship, no Christians are gathering at the campus where he professes, shaking
85 their fists, demanding his resignation, or, whatever. That's because we believe in free
86 speech, and freedom of the conscience — but that does not mean we meekly acquiesce to
87 such nonsense or let it go unanswered. So, let's take a look at this latest assault on
88 Christians and on Christmas.

89 According to this Professor who teaches at the University of Minnesota, God abused His
90 power when He declared to Mary His intention to use her as the "woman's seed" by which
91 He would send His own Son into the world. Let's look at his case.

92 First, let's be clear on his point of view regarding what happened in the nativity story. It
93 become clear in his last tweet, where he sarcastically, and with a tone of malice in that
94 sarcasm, not friendly sarcasm of the kind employed so often by the Brain Masseur, but
95 maliciously Sprankle jabs, well, I think Sprankle would call this his haymaker blow, so
96 we'll call it his right cross — "I'd never force you to be in a relationship with me, but I will
97 destroy you and everyone you love if you aren't."

98 Obviously, this lays open what he meant when he pointed out the power disparity in the
99 relationship between God and Mary. God is all powerful, and Mary is a weak teen aged
100 girl, in his view, insinuating but not stating that she was not of age, insinuating she was a
101 minor, but clearly unequal in power in this relationship.

102 So he points to the inequality in power in the relationship between Mary and God.

103 Next, he points to what he considers is the belligerent character of the one with the power
104 in this relationship. Not only does GOD have a great disparity of power over young and
105 tender Mary, but God is menacing in his power: he explained that "the biblical god
106 regularly punished disobedience." And points out that the fact that the biblical god is all-
107 powerful, and inclined toward violence against those who disobey Him, actually negates
108 her compliance. In other words, the assumption is that Mary was aware that GOD was all
109 powerful, and mean, and inclined to destroy all who disobey Him, and that's why she

³ Ibid.

110 consented — and we must agree in that circumstance any reasonable person would
111 consider her consent negated — right?

112 He concluded that to put someone in this position is "an unethical abuse of power at best
113 and grossly predatory at worst."

114 So, in summary, Sprankle's view of the nativity of Christ is that God was in effect saying
115 "I'd never force you to be in a relationship with me, but I will destroy you and everyone
116 you love if you aren't."

117 Not only does Sprankle mischaracterize Mary, the fact is she was married to Joseph at this
118 time, and God sent His angel to her before they "came together" — notice that later the
119 angel instructs Joseph not to put her away privily but to take "Mary thy wife" not take her
120 as your wife — if they were not yet married, there would be no putting her away — they
121 were already married — so Mary was of, well, marrying age, and so considered fully
122 matured — but he also grossly mischaracterizes God.

123 If the "biblical god," as he put it, was someone who would have destroyed Mary and
124 everyone she loved if she had refused to submit to God's expressed will for her life, one
125 wonders why Sprankle is not destroyed for speaking such blasphemy against Him. God's
126 mercy, longsuffering, and patience with us is one of the most remarkable things about our
127 Creator. Most of the Psalms are taken up with the complaint that God appears to allow
128 the wicked too much latitude to do their wickedness. Indeed, Jesus' testimony concerning
129 God is that He brings His sun up for the wicked as well as the righteous, and the rain falls
130 graciously upon the fields of both the wicked and the righteous, and in fact, this
131 observation is supposed to encourage us to be likewise gracious.

132 Anyone who will take the time to read through Scripture and pay attention will conclude
133 that God is extraordinarily gracious and merciful. People disobey God all the time who
134 are not destroyed forthwith.

135 And look at the story of Christ's nativity. The angel never declares any threat, or even a
136 mild warning to Mary about disobedience.

137 There are times when God declares a warning of severe punishment for disobedience to
138 His will and in every circumstance it is a general thing having to do with a nation, and not
139 an individual.

140 Furthermore, even in those cases, He is longsuffering, according to the Bible, "not willing
141 that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." The God of the Bible takes
142 no pleasure in the death, or destruction, of the wicked (Ezekiel 18:32; 33:11). He never
143 afflicts willingly nor grieves the children of men (Lamentations 3:33). According to the
144 testimony of the prophet Jeremiah, God declares Jer. 9:24 But let him that glorieth glory
145 in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I am the LORD which exercise
146 lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these things I delight,
147 saith the LORD." Of course, Sprankle does not take his information about God from a
148 first source, he gets it second hand; he buys into the rumors perpetrated by God's enemies
149 about Him — clearly, Sprankle does not know Him. I, on the other hand, do!

150 There is no question that the power disparity between God and Mary is remarkable —
151 but that power was there to protect and bless. Mary was being invited to participate in
152 that act of GOD whereby salvation was brought into the world on behalf of all mankind.
153 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever
154 believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

155 This was no abuse of POWER — on the contrary, it was God humbling Himself to
156 become man, that He might redeem mankind from the curse of death brought on by sin.

157 Okay, a bit more to say on this, but I'm up against my break. Hold on, I'll be right back.

158 Segment.02 Hello. Welcome back! I'm Dr. Jerry Scheidbach, pastor at the Lighthouse,
159 your brain masseur, and Paul Revere's lantern lighter, lighting the lamps in the church
160 belfry arch, signaling the enemy is on the march, an enemy that would steal from us our
161 liberty.

162 Professor Sprankle teaches at the University of Minnesota. He decided this Christmas
163 season would be a good time to point out that, in his opinion, God abused His power
164 when he impregnated a young teenager named Mary with His child. I detailed his
165 argument in the first segment and cannot take time to go over all of that again —
166 essentially, his argument is that because of the disparity of power between God and Mary,
167 and the, in his mind, well known character of the biblical god to punish disobedience,
168 Mary's consent was in fact coerced and God abused His power in the relationship.

169 In the last segment I showed that not only did Sprankle misrepresent Mary as a helpless
170 young teenager, insinuating she was basically a child, when in fact she was a full grown
171 adult of marrying age; and it should be brought out that she was fully capable of
172 ascertaining the implications of the Angel's message, and she was an adult, and that she
173 could have refused her cooperation. Many before her have rebelled against God's will and,
174 by the way, lived to tell about it. If God wiped out everyone who rebelled against Him, all
175 mankind would have been obliterated long ago — Okay, but the greatest offense is
176 Sprankle's gross misrepresentation of God: he essentially represents God as a deceiver and
177 a bully who would never force Mary to have His child, but, if she refused, He would have
178 destroyed her and everyone she loved — and I'm taking this from his own words.

179 First, God does not actually command Mary to do this. The Angel declares the intention
180 of God, the prophecy, that this is what God was doing in her life, but she is nowhere
181 actually commanded to do anything.

182 God does not ask her permission, either. He is GOD, after all, we are the creatures of His
183 creation; He can do with any of us as He pleases. But it should be noted that God gave
184 special notice to Mary's faith, "Blessed is she that believed" and when Mary became
185 pregnant in this miraculous manner, she declared, "He [GOD] hath regarded the low
186 estate of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me
187 blessed" (Luke 1:42-45).

188 The angel did not threaten Mary, or warn her against disobedience. And, besides, as I
189 pointed out in the first segment, people disobey God all the time and they are not

190 destroyed — indeed, as Jesus said, God "makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the
191 good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matthew 5:45).

192 Sprankle accused God of being abusive in the use of His power — but the fact is in every
193 case where God brings judgment down upon men it is in order to stop his abuses —
194 consider Genesis 6 when God saw that every imagination of the heart of men was only
195 evil continually, and it resulted in the earth being overspread with violence — Genesis 6,
196 that's when it repented God that He made man and set about to destroy him from off the
197 earth, and yet, even then, He had mercy and saved mankind by preserving Noah and his
198 family. It's always the same. When He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, consider how
199 desperately evil the men of that city had become — and consider that he destroyed even
200 his own people when they began killing their babies in the fires of Moloch — Selah!
201 Means think about it!

202 At the bottom line, Sprankle will get his spanking in due time. But God is merciful, and
203 reaches out to him, drawing him to Christ — He said He would draw all men to Him —
204 and desires that all men are saved and come to the knowledge of the truth — so we will
205 pray for Sprankle that he will wake up and see how terribly wrong he is about God and
206 about Mary.

207 So far from a case of the abuse of Power — the nativity is a story of the gracious use of
208 POWER to save mankind by surrendering Himself, His Own SON, to the power of
209 darkness, not to abuse, but to be abused, not to use but to be used.

210 Coming as man, He suffered the abuse of man's wickedness upon His holy Person on the
211 Cross!

212 Well, I trust you are preparing for a blessed Christmas— for any who have questions
213 about what the Bible says to the questions of Christmas, I have a series of message
214 available to you that clarify the subject. You can go to our YouTUBE page and you'll find
215 the messages there. Search for Lighthouse Baptist Church, Scheidbach, youtube and you'll
216 see a link to our page. In the message I address the question of December 25th, and using
217 the word Christmas, I also address the issue of using a Christmas Tree and so forth. I
218 think you will find it helpful as you celebrate the glorious truth that GOD sent CHRIST
219 — the Messiah, the KING, into the world.

220 So, let me conclude today by explaining why some have such an animas against
221 Christmas.

222 First, the reason many evangelical Christians object to it, and then why the world hates it.

223 Some object to the word *Christmas*. Many assume it is a Catholic word and that it has to
224 do with the celebration of the mass on Christmas day. We object to the Catholic
225 celebration of the mass because it is a recapitulation of the crucifixion and the Bible says
226 Christ died ONCE FOR ALL — He is not crucified, or offered, over and over again in any
227 ceremony. Many think the suffix, *mas*, is for the word Mass. But right away you should be
228 able to see that it's not Christmass — It's Christmas. The Latin word *mass* is constructed
229 from the suffix *mas* because that suffix means *sent*. The word *Mass* is a proper noun
230 created to identify that celebration in the Catholic Church in which Christ is offered, but

231 the fact is Preachers from the early days of the church were using an expression, Christ
232 mas before the Catholics formalized their Mass into what it is today. So, first off, the word
233 *Christmas* means *Christ sent*. We use it for the day Christ was SENT into the world to
234 save sinners.

235 Then there is the objection many raise against the date, December 25th. I was taught that
236 Jesus was born in April, near Passover. After I looked at that, I realized it was wrong, and
237 then for many years I subscribed to the theory that He was most likely born in October.
238 But when I took the time to really study it out, I concluded it is more likely He was born
239 around the end of December. It's too technical to go into here, view the message I
240 mentioned earlier; but if you will take the time to study out the strong evidence we have
241 to substantiate a late July birth for John the Baptist, since the Bible tells us Jesus was born
242 six months later, all that is left is to count six months from July to the birth of Christ and
243 you land in December.

244 As for Christmas trees and so forth, Jeremiah 10 describes a practice of the heathen
245 cutting down a tree in the forest, making it stand upright, and decorating it, and it sounds
246 very much like a Christmas tree to me. And yet, in the passage, the point being made is
247 that we ought not to be afraid of such decorations, there is no power in them to do good,
248 or to do evil. I therefore conclude that the problem was investing some magical power, or
249 spirituality to the tree — used as Martin Luther intended, as a decoration, it is a harmless
250 vanity — at least that is what the Bible says.

251 So those are essentially the reasons some Christians object to the holiday. As for the
252 children of disobedience — they object to the notion that CHRIST has come in the flesh
253 into the world. This is the spirit of antichrist (I John 4:3; II John 7). The spirit of antichrist
254 is Satan — Ephesians 2:1-2 the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in
255 the children of disobedience.

256 The reason this spirit denies that Jesus is the Christ come in the flesh is that at the time
257 Christ appeared, Satan could boast all the kingdoms of the world were under his power
258 (Luke 4:5) but by the time Jesus rose from the grave, Jesus declared all power in heaven
259 and in earth was transferred to Him and Satan refuses to acknowledge Jesus as LORD and
260 yield the kingdoms of the world to Him.

261 It's an argument over who is LORD — and so, God sent HIS SON JESUS CHRIST (means
262 Messiah, which identifies the promised KING to rule all nations) commanding all men
263 everywhere to repent and confess JESUS CHRIST IS LORD.

264 Satan hates the truth that CHRIST has come in the flesh — so his devils teach all sorts of
265 heresies, false doctrines, to deceive Christians and non-Christians alike that Christ has
266 NOT COME.

267 Christians are deceived into believing Christ will come one day, but HE DOES NOT
268 RULE TODAY, He has not COME today and is not the RULER of all NATIONS today.

269 He deceived unbelievers by convincing them Christ has no claim to rule the earth ever
270 and that the belief that HE IS THE LORD and the KING OF ALL KINGDOMS is a threat
271 to the rule of man on the earth.

- 272 So, as my beloved Dove would say, there you have it!
- 273 I have lit the lamps in the Church belfry arch and now you let me know if you see them.
- 274 It's LIGHTS ON if you see the LIGHTS ARE ON and you will ride like Revere and spread
- 275 the warning, (essentially, it means you agree with what I'm saying) or you say LIGHTS
- 276 OFF -- which means you reject what I'm saying and disagree strongly with me. So, what
- 277 will it be today, lights on, or lights off?
- 278 Email me by going to our web site at brainmassage.net. That's brainmassage.net. Find the
- 279 CONTACT button and send me an email.
- 280 You can leave a message on our Lights On hotline: 805.314.2114.
- 281 God bless you. God bless America! I'll see you in Church.