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THE PROMISE OF CHRISTMAS & WHY WE MUST NEVER STOP
SAYING MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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

[CHRISTMAS MUSIC]

Merry Christmas! Why we should use the greeting! And what is the promise of Christmas! Plus, the Brain Masseur will read the Christmas Story.

[TRUTH]

Why it is important that we use the traditional Christmas greeting!

A substantial part of my answer to this question rests upon the Christmas Story, and its Promise — The following is excerpted and adapted from the BIBLE account given in the Gospel of Luke.

“There was in the days of Herod, the king of Judaea, a certain priest named Zacharias, ... and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elisabeth.

They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless. And they had no child, because that Elisabeth was barren, and they both were now well stricken in years.

It came to pass, that while he executed the priest's office before God in the order of his course, according to the custom of the priest's office, [it was his turn] to burn incense when he went into the

temple of the Lord. And the whole multitude of the people were praying [outside while he was in the Temple] at the time of incense.

There appeared unto him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. And when Zacharias saw him, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him. But the angel said unto him, Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John. And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.

Many of the children of Israel shall he turn to the Lord their God. And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of [the prophet Elijah] to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

And Zacharias said unto the angel, Whereby shall I know this? for I am an old man, and my wife well stricken in years.

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings. And, behold, thou shalt be dumb, and not able to speak, until the day that these things shall be performed, because thou believest not my words, which shall be fulfilled in their season.

The people waited for Zacharias, and marvelled that he tarried so long in the temple.

And when he came out, he could not speak unto them: and they perceived that he had seen a vision in the temple: for he beckoned unto them, and remained speechless.

And it came to pass, that, as soon as the days of his [service in the Temple] were accomplished, he departed to his own house. And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.

¶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. The angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women.

When she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. The angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

The angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible.

Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

¶ Mary arose in those days, and went into the hill country with haste, into a city of Juda; and [she] entered into the house of Zacharias, and saluted Elisabeth.

And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb. And whence is this to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, the babe leaped in my womb for joy. And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord.

Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name. And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation. He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away. He [has given help to] his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy; as he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

And Mary abode with [Elizabath] about three months, and returned to her own house.

¶ Now Elisabeth's full time came that she should be delivered; and she brought forth a son. And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had shewed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her. And it came to pass, that on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child; and they called him Zacharias, after the name

of his father. And his mother answered and said, Not so; but he shall be called John.

They said unto her, There is none of thy kindred that is called by this name. And they made signs to his father, how he would have him called. And [Zacharias] asked for a writing table, and wrote, saying, His name is John. And they marvelled all.

And his mouth was opened immediately, and his tongue loosed, and he spake, and praised God. And fear came on all that dwelt round about them: and all these sayings were noised abroad throughout all the hill country of Judaea. And all they that heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, What manner of child shall this be! And the hand of the Lord was with him.

¶ And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for he hath visited and redeemed his people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David; as he spake by the mouth of his holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us; to perform the mercy promised to our fathers, and to remember his holy covenant; the oath which he sware to our father Abraham, that he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

And thou, child, shalt be called the prophet of the Highest: for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare his ways; to give knowledge of salvation unto his people by the remission of their sins, through the tender mercy of our God; whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his shewing unto Israel.

¶ It came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

¶ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. Suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, **Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.**

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. They came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

¶ And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called JESUS, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Father celebrated the birth of His Son into the world and declared His offer of peace on earth, good will toward man.

Hold on, I'll be right back!

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

Why it's important that we use this holiday greeting: Merry Christmas.

Some of you remember the days before Trump when it was becoming increasingly uncomfortable to say Merry Christmas in public. You also remember that many were publicly advising against it; store owners were instructing employees not to use the greeting; public servants were instructed not to say it! Schools began forbidding celebration of the Day our LORD was born. Some attempted to make it out to be racist to say it — in 1966, one racist activist invented a celebration to replace it, called Kwanza.¹ This

¹ 965.0.2-Kwanzaa - Wikipedia <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kwanzaa>

was purposely invented by Karenga after the Watts riots “as a non-Christian, specifically African-American, holiday.” [IBID] His hatred for whites was expressed when he explained why he created the holiday: “Karenga said his goal was to ‘give black people an alternative to the existing holiday of Christmas and give black people an opportunity to celebrate themselves and their history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society.’” [IBID]. Karenga was part of the Black Panthers, a racist terrorist group in the 60s, and he subscribed to the Marxist belief that “you must have a cultural revolution before the violent revolution.” [IBID.] This was the beginning of a cultural attack on Christmas — it began as an “anti-Christian” and specifically, an attack on American culture—assuming American culture is “white culture” and Christianity was a “white man’s religion.”

This is lie. And that brings me to the promise of Christmas.

God the FATHER announced His intention for sending His Son into the world: He declared His policy was “on earth peace, good will toward men.” In Matthew’s gospel, He explained why He chose the name, JESUS — it’s because He would save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21). By the way, “on earth peace, good will toward men” is the proper translation of the Greek text found in Luke’s Gospel. The idea that it should be translated “peace toward men of good will,” or “peace to those who have found favor with GOD” are fabrications intended to support a theological point of view. One is premised upon the idea that God’s grace is earned by good works—so, they change it from “good will toward men” to “men of good will.” The other is changed to support the idea that GOD did not send His Son to die for the sins of the whole world, but only for the sins of the “elect.”

So, GOD named His SON Jesus because He would “save His people from their sins” — who are HIS PEOPLE? The Bible makes it clear that Jesus died not for our sins only, but for the sins of the whole

world - 1John 2:1-2. That “whosoever shall call upon the name of the LORD shall be saved” (Romans 10:13). That ANY ONE WHO RECEIVES JESUS IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT AND MADE A CHILD OF GOD — John 1:13; 3:1-7.

But, back to my point!

Peace on EARTH! God sent His SON to remove the natural animus between the races — “Go ye therefore and teach ALL NATIONS” — that literally means all nationalities, every ethnicity — He said, “Go ye into all the world and preach the GOSPEL to EVERY CREATURE” — put it together and it’s clear Jesus was sent to SAVE every person created by GOD. Red and yellow, black and white, THEY ARE ALL PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT.

He was SENT to bring PEACE, not racial hatred. He was sent to remove the old hatred between Ishmael and Israel — to heal the bitter centuries old fued between the children of Ishmael (whether Shia, or Sunni) and their brothers from the same father Abraham, descended from Isaac. Jesus brings PEACE.

When a Jew confesses Jesus is LORD and receives their MESSIAH, and the Muslim confesses Jesus is LORD and receives the MESSIAH — the Jew and the Muslim become brothers in CHRIST and they are reconciled — so making peace.

Christ was sent to make peace between the descendants of Abraham by Isaac and Ishmael, with the rest of the nations also. Paul spoke to this in Ephesians: “In Christ,” he said, “you who were far off” - outside the seed of Abraham — those Gentiles who were not physical descendants of Abraham, were brought into the family by the BLOOD JESUS SHED on the CROSS. “For He is our PEACE, who hath made both one, and hath BROKEN DOWN THE MIDDLE WALL OF PARTITION BETWEEN US...” HE MAKES US ALL “ONE NEW MAN, SO MAKING PEACE” (EPHESIANS 2:13-17).

And now I'll tell you why we must never quit saying MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Jesus sent HIS SPIRIT into the world, the SPIRIT OF CHRIST, it's the true SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS, offering God's promise of peace on earth to all mankind. But there is another spirit, John called it the "spirit of antichrist," and Paul explained it is Satan, the "prince of the power of the air" the "spirit that works through the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:1-2). This is that spirit incites racial hatred, and division, this is the spirit that constantly agitates for war, that constantly works to divide us into competing camps and fight and war against one another. The SPIRIT of JESUS CHRIST calls upon us to LOVE ONE ANOTHER, and to speak PEACE to our neighbors. This is the spirit that hates it when we say "Merry Christmas." They REJECT Jesus as LORD, they rage with the HEATHEN and resent the RULE OF CHRIST in the world.

But HE IS THE RULER OF THE WORLD and one day EVERY KNEE WILL BOW and TONGUE CONFESS JESUS CHRIST IS LORD to the GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER.

You are commanded to confess Jesus is LORD and BELIEVE HE AROSE and CALL ON HIS NAME TO SAVE YOU — and you are given the freedom to make up your own mind about that. You can REJECT THE PEACE HE OFFERS you and go on finding reasons to hate one another and keep feeding your children to the hatred and waste of endless wars — or you can humble yourself now and join the KINGDOM OF GOD and be a child of PEACE by accepting JESUS as your LORD and SAVIOUR.

You have the choice now, but that has an expiration date — it's the date He returns to the EARTH — then you will be compelled to bow the knee and confess but it will not be to your salvation, it will be to your damnation. Receive His offer today; receive the GIFT of CHRISTMAS —

Friend, we must never stop saying MERRY CHRISTMAS — we must never submit to the spirit of antichrist — instead, we must boldly, and with the Joy of the LORD say to all men everywhere: MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Merry Christmas!

I have lit the lamps in the Church belfry arch and now you let me know if you see them.

Email me by going to our web site at branmassage.net. That's brainmassage.net. Find the CONTACT button and send me an email.

You can leave a message on our Listener Response Hotline: 805.314.2114.

God bless you. God bless America! I'll see you in Church.