

Devotion for Christmas

Psalm 98

**Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things;
His right hand and His holy arm have worked salvation for Him.**

The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations.

**He has remembered His love and His faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music.

Make music to the Lord with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing.

With trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn—shout for joy before the Lord, the King.

Let the sea resound and all that is in it, the world and all who live in it.

Let the rivers clap their hands, let the mountains sing together for joy.

Let them sing before the Lord, for He comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples with equity.

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen*

Isaiah 52:13-53:12

The Lord's Servant Makes Intercession for sinners

The servant has no beauty or majesty. How was Jesus like this?

For whose sins does the servant suffer and die?

What verse speaks of the servant's resurrection?

Luke 2:1-21

The birth of Jesus

What is the significance of Jesus' circumcision on the eighth day?

How was Jesus' birth in a stable connected with the servant prophecy?

What promise was Jesus birth at Bethlehem connected to? (2 Sam 7)

“Born a Servant”

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in accordance with two prophecies. The first was spoken by the prophet Nathan in 2 Samuel 7, in which the Lord promised King David a descendant through whom He would establish a kingdom that would never end. The second was spoken by the prophet Micah, it declared Bethlehem as the place in which David's greater son would be born. Jesus was born in the city of the king, but not in a palace but in a stable. Jesus was a king, but you wouldn't have known it from His place of birth and manner of life. He looked more like a servant than a king!

He was a king and a servant. He was the heir of David through whom God establishes His kingdom on earth. His establishes His kingdom through faith, entering the human heart through the word and reigning in believers lives through the Holy Spirit. He came into His kingdom through the suffering of death and the sacrifice of His cross by which as Isaiah said, “*He makes intercession for the transgressors.*” He is the eternal King promised through David. He is the servant who suffers for our salvation spoken of by Isaiah.

He enters into our hearts through the humility of faith. He reigns over our lives in ways that seem weak and even powerless, in the eyes of the world. He speaks through His word. He washes with water. He nourishes through a piece of bread and a sip of wine. What are these in comparison with the wealth, power and glory of the kingdoms of the earth? Kingdoms rise and kingdoms fall, but the Kingdom of the Lord continues to grow and spread in the world, as He reigns in the hearts of believers. His power is expressed in service. His love is expressed in forgiveness. His reigns in power in the midst of the weakness of our lives. Jesus: Our servant. Our Saviour. Our King!

Hymn: All My Heart Again Rejoices (Public Domain)

All my heart again rejoices, as I hear far and near, sweet angel voices.

“Christ is born!” their choirs are singing, until the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hear! The Conqueror has spoken: “Now the foe, sin and woe, death and hell are broken!”

God is man, man to deliver, and the Son now is one with our blood forever.

Should we fear our God’s displeasure, who to save, freely gave His most precious treasure?

To redeem us He has given, His own Son from the throne of His might in heaven.

See the Lamb, our sin once taking to the cross, suffering loss, full atonement making.

For our life His own He tenders, and His grace all our race fit for glory renders.

Softly from His lowly manger Jesus calls, one and all, “You are safe from danger.

Children, from the sins that grieve you, you are freed: All you need I will surely give you.”

Come, then, banish all your sadness! One and all, great and small, come with songs of gladness.

We shall live with Him forever, there on high in that joy which will vanish never.

Prayer for Christmas Day

“The Lord has made His salvation known and revealed His righteousness to the nations.” Almighty God, we thank you that you gave your only-begotten Son to share in our humanity that through His sinless life and sacrificial death, we would be set free from bondage to sin and have the condemnation of eternal death lifted from our heads. Bless us always to believe and bring us to that time when faith has passed into blessed sight. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, Forever and ever. Amen

The Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Benediction Titus 3:4-5

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour.”

Bible Knowledge Quiz

- 1) Who was the Roman emperor when Jesus was born?
- 2) Who was the Roman emperor when Jesus began His public ministry?
- 3) Who was the last king of Judah before Jesus was born?

Answers to last week’s quiz

- 1) Micah 5:2
- 2) Elijah. Luke 1:17
- 3) Isaiah 52:13-53:12