

CHRISTMAS 2020
THE COMING KING!
ISAIAH 9:6-7

Please turn in your Bibles this morning, as we celebrate Christmas, to Isaiah chapter 9.

Now, here we are, as hard as it is to believe, it is Christmas. And maybe I am sentimental, but I do love Christmas.

And there are many reasons why I love Christmas.

I love Christmas because it is a time to gather together with family and friends.

I love Christmas because it brings back memories of when I was a kid and just the fun of opening gifts and eating. Did I mention eating? We are Italian, and we do love to eat. You know what I am talking about, that Christmas meal of Lasagna!

And don't forget the Christmas cookies, they were awesome. Give me some Christmas cookies and a glass of milk and I am in heaven!

I do realize that there are those that hate this time of year and they have their reasons for hating this time of year.

They hate Christmas because the stores are packed with people and you just can't get around to get what you want, and try to find a parking place that is close to the store, forget about it!

They hate Christmas because if they hear just one more Christmas song, their head is going to explode!

They hate Christmas because everywhere they go, the people they meet, keep telling them, "Merry Christmas!"

They just want to get this day over with. And yes, they may get the day off, but it doesn't offset all the inconveniences that come their way as this day gets closer and closer.

Now let me also say this. Those are not the only reasons I love Christmas. You see, ever since I came to know Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior Christmas means even more to me and it should to you.

Make no mistake about it, Jesus is the reason for the season. His birth marks history. His birth, death and resurrection has not only brought to me, brought to you the forgiveness of your sins, but the sting of death has been removed as we will spend eternity with Him!

But think about how busy we can be that many times we lose sight of what this day is all about. And it is more than just his birth, death and resurrection, and I will explain that in a minute.

Yes, that is part of it, but there is so much more, and the Scriptures will show us what the goal of Christmas really is.

But we can be busy and we can become frustrated as we try to get everything together to celebrate this day, and before long, we are so busy we can forget about what this day is all about, or we can become angry at all that we have to do, and even not care about it any longer.

Let me share this with you and you will see what I mean. We are told,

If the following story were not true, it would surely be unbelievable. It is true, however, as you yourself will agree when you have read it.

There was once a great king. His love for his people knew no limits. Although the kingdom was very large, the king knew every person by name. Everything the people of the kingdom had was a gift freely given by the loving king.

So, to show their love and appreciation to the king for all he had done for them, the people decided to have a great celebration to honor his birthday. Everyone agreed it was a marvelous idea. Preparations for the celebration were very elaborate. No expense was spared by the people. They adorned their homes with lights, decorations, and expensive ornaments. There were parties, dinners, and celebrations throughout the kingdom.

All the people brought gifts for their friends and family. Many of the gifts which the people gave each other were quite expensive, involving considerable indebtedness. In fact, the people spent more on the birthday celebration than they spent at any other time of the year.

Many who were not citizens of the kingdom, and who did not even know the king, joined in the celebration. Their celebration of the king's birth was marked by excessive drinking. Since they did not know the king, they invented a good-natured, fat fellow in a red suit. He laughed a lot, but never said anything. But that didn't matter because they were too busy celebrating to listen anyhow.

The great day of celebrating his birth finally arrived, and some of his people did come bringing gifts and thanking him for his goodness to them. But to his dismay, most of the citizens never came to his house at all on the day of celebration. And the gifts brought to the king by those few who came were very meager when compared with the gifts they had given themselves.

For the most part the people said they had been so busy with all the celebrations and personal plans that they had forgotten about the king. Several said they had thought of him, but really could not work it into their schedules or budgets to come see him or bring a gift. A few were known to be quite put out when it was suggested that going to the king's house or remembering him with a gift was important.

Those people who did come to his house and who brought their loving gifts were welcomed and blessed by the king. But when they had gone and he was alone again, the king fell to thinking of the vast numbers of his people who had forgotten and forsaken him.

How could they have forgotten? Had he not loved them all? How could so many of his beloved people who had found the time and money for shopping and feasting and partying and decorating and all sorts of celebrations - how could they possibly be so thoughtless, so ungrateful or selfish? Did they not know that he, too, had feelings? Was not the purpose of the birthday celebration originally planned to honor him?

When the king was alone, pondering these questions, he felt the tears well up in his eyes. And in his loneliness, he wept.

One thought brought some hope and consolation. Even though they had forgotten him, he had not forgotten them.

- A Treasury of Bible Illustrations

My prayer as we go through this study is that if we have become overwhelmed with the busyness of this day that we would step back and rejoice in this day and praise the One who has loved us so much that He was willing to not only be born into this world, God became flesh and dwelt among us, but also die on the cross of Calvary for our sins!

And now, let me share with you what I believe the goal for Christmas is, what Christ has done and is coming to do.

Keep your finger in Isaiah chapter 9 and turn to Luke chapter 1 and we are going to pick up our reading starting in verse 26 as the angel Gabriel is going to announce to Mary that she will bring forth the Messiah.

This is what Luke tells us of that event, **“Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And having come in, the angel said to her, ‘Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!’ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.’”**

And yes, here again we see the birth of the Messiah, God Incarnate, but that is not the ultimate goal.

Yes, Jesus was born to die for our sins, the Lamb of God who has come to take away the sins of the world. But the ultimate goal of Jesus is to rule and reign!

We don’t think much about that today and in many churches you don’t even hear about Jesus coming back as the Lion from the Tribe of Judah to put down the wickedness of man and to set up His Kingdom on this earth and to rule and reign for 1,000 years, but it is going to happen.

We are going to see that in Isaiah chapter 9 this morning in a study I have called – ***THE COMING KING!***

And I have broken this study down into two main points and they are:

THE LAMB OF GOD

THE LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

So with the remainder of our time this morning, let's turn to Isaiah chapter 9 and begin reading in verse 6 and let's see what the Lord has for us this Christmas as we look at – ***THE COMING KING!***

ISAIAH 9

VERSE 6a

In this part of Isaiah 9:6 we see the first coming of Jesus spoken of. It is what we are told in Isaiah 7:14, **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”**

Here is the problem. Sin entered this world through Adam and now the entire human race has been affected by sin, this world has been affected by sin.

And the Bible tells us that our sin has separated us from God. That is a huge problem for man because man can't reconcile himself to God by anything that he does.

You see, God requires us to be perfect, without any sin and all of us fall short of that, far short of perfection.

In knowing that, if we are already guilty before God, then how can good works, the keeping of the Law, being good, take away that guilt? It can't and that is the problem! Man cannot save himself from sin, not even close.

That was the cry of Job in Job 9:32-33 as he spoke of God and the problem that there is no mediator between man and God, no one who can bridge that gap that sin has made between us and God.

And Job said, **“For He is not a man, as I am, That I may answer Him, And that we should go to court together. Nor is there any mediator between us, Who may lay his hand on us both.”**

So man could not rectify this problem of sin and there is only One who could and that is Jesus.

Remember what Jesus said in John 3:16-17, **“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”**

The problem for man is that he is already condemned before God, so God did not send the Son into the world to condemn us, but to save us from our sin. To pay in full the penalty for our sin! That is what Immanuel means, ***GOD WITH US!***

And Job’s cry was answered by God.

You see, Job’s thoughts were this. How can he go into heaven, to go before God, to God’s court, and plead his case?

He is a man and there is no one that can bridge that gap, no mediator.

A sad state for Job, and yet for us, we have wonderful news. You see, we are told by Paul in I Timothy 2:5, **“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”**

Did you see that? There is only one Mediator between man and God and that is Jesus. He is the bridgebuilder that has restored our fellowship with God the Father.

That is what I Peter 3:18 tells us, **“For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”**

There is only one sacrifice for our sins and that sacrifice was made when God became flesh and dwelt among us and then died on the cross of Calvary paying in full our penalty for sin.

And Paul makes that clear what Jesus has done for us as he tells us in Hebrews 7:25, **“Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.”**

You see, there is no one else that can bridge that gap, no priest, no man, not even Mary, only Jesus Christ who, being God, made Himself flesh to die for our sins in order to bring us to God.

It had to be a perfect sacrifice for our sins and that is why we could not atone for our own sins because we have plenty of sin in our lives and only one who is without sin could make the sacrifice for sin.

Again, Peter tells us in I Peter 1:18-21, **“knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you who through Him believe in God, who raised Him from the dead and gave Him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.”**

Notice that you can't buy your way into heaven, God does not accept that.

Nor can you work your way into heaven, following the traditions of your fathers you might say, God does not accept that either.

Then how are we saved?

By the shed blood of Christ, the precious blood of Christ who had no acquired sin in His life and no sin He was born with. Thus, He was the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

And our hope is in God, not me or any man who can try to save me, only God can and as we come to Him, as we ask Him to forgive us of our sins, He will cast our sins as far as the east is from the west to be remembered no more!

Now let me speak about this mediator, what it was about.

A mediator is there to end a dispute.

What dispute did we have that we needed a mediator? I have spoken about this but let me make sure you understand this.

This was and is the dispute between God and man. It is a dispute that tells us that man has sinned, and his sin has separated him from God and justice demands death.

But here comes our Mediator, Jesus Christ and says to the Father, ***“There is no more debt due, I have paid it in full!”***

And guess what?

The case is closed; we are set free in Christ! What a wonderful God we serve!

And remember I said that the only righteousness that God will accept is perfection. That we have to be perfect to have a relationship with God and apart from that, our sins have separated us from God, and we can't rectify that problem on our own.

And here is the wonderful news that Paul gives to us in II Corinthians 5:21, **“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”**

The Amplified Bible puts this verse like this, **“For our sake He made Christ [virtually] to be sin Who knew no sin, so that in and through Him we might become [endued with, viewed as being in, and examples of] the righteousness of God [what we ought to be, approved and acceptable and in right relationship with Him, by His goodness].”**

The Living Bible tells us, **“For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God’s goodness into us!”**

What more can you say? God who was sinless became sin for us. The sins of the world were placed on Him so that we could obtain the righteousness of God by faith in Christ. God became sin so we could become sinless and tragically, many reject this free gift of God, eternal life by grace through faith in Jesus!

Now let me be clear on this. Jesus did not become a sinner on the cross for us, but He paid in full the penalty for our sins, He endured the wrath of God upon His own life that was for us so that we could be spared that judgment and live with God eternally! Our sins were placed upon Him!

Thus, our sins are not counted against us and thus, we should share with others the love that God has shown us! What a wonderful gift that God has given to us!

It truly is an amazing grace; it truly is a sweet sound in our ears because we know that God loved us so much that He saved a wretch like you and me! Praise the Lord for that!

This is the whole truth of justification stated simply: ***Our sins were on Jesus, and His righteousness is on us.***

And ***“As Christ was not made sin by any sin inherent in him, so neither are we made righteous by any righteousness inherent in us, but by the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.”*** (Poole)

Listen to these words from Paul in Romans 6:23 where he said, “**For the wages of sin is death, but the [free] gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**” Amen to that!

So, in the first coming of Jesus Christ we see that Jesus is – ***THE LAMB OF GOD WHO HAS COME TO TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD!***

But there is much more to it than just that, as important as that is, and we will see that as we read on here in Isaiah chapter 9

VERSES 6b-7

As you can see, this portion of Isaiah chapter 9 focuses on the second coming of Jesus or that Jesus is coming back as – ***THE LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH!***

Obviously, these things were not accomplished when Jesus came the first time and let me share what we see here so you can clearly see that.

First of all, we are told about the Messiah, “**And the government will be upon His shoulder.**”

Make no mistake about it, when Jesus comes back in His second coming, He is going to be in control, He is going to set-up His Kingdom on this earth and He will rule and reign from Jerusalem!

Take a good look at what is going on in this nation and in this world, we have seen and are seeing the craziness of politics and government and I believe it is only going to get worse.

And yes, all governments are a necessary evil, they are very frustrating, but our hope is not in human government, but a government where Jesus rules and reigns!

Here in Isaiah chapter 9 we see a glimpse into the future when Jesus Christ will rule and reign over this entire world!

Listen to what one writer had to say. He wrote,

In that day, the government of the whole world will rest on His shoulders. But until that time, His kingdom is in an invisible form (cf. Luke 17:20-21). The Messiah's rule is over those who trust Him and obey Him as Lord. It's currently an invisible kingdom, but will one day become visible and universal as His rule extends even over those who do not acknowledge His lordship in their hearts.

First, this kingdom is free from confusion, because Christ is a "Wonderful Counselor." The King James Version separates "Wonderful" and "Counselor" with a comma, but the words seem to go better together and appear that way in most modern versions.

Every now and then, a politician comes on the scene who possesses, according to some, messiah-like qualities. Whether it's a reference to speaking ability, charisma, or wisdom, it's certainly a compliment. However, when you compare the greatest social or political leader with Jesus Christ, you'll find there's no comparison at all.

During His incarnation, Christ demonstrated His wisdom as a counselor. . . .

As God incarnate, Christ is the source of all truth. Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life" (John 14:6). No politician can match that! It is He to whom we must ultimately turn and trust His loving rule of our lives.

Many of our politicians turn everywhere else for counsel. They go to one another; they listen to special interests; they have their own psychologists, psychiatrists, analysts, philosophers, spiritual advisors, gurus, astrologers, and other human counselors. But the King of kings keeps His own counsel. After all, "Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has informed Him?" (Isaiah 40:13).

The Messiah is the Wonderful Counselor because He is God, the source of truth. When He rules the earth, there will be no uncertainty in his administration. He is the ultimate and only true answer to political confusion. . . .

Second, the Messiah's kingdom is singularly free from chaos because He is the Mighty God. He is the One who in creation brought order out of chaos.

Scripture says, "God is not a God of confusion but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Chaos is antithetical to who He is. He is a God of order. Christ the King is orderly, and He brings order to the troubled lives of all who surrender to Him. In other words, He not only tells His subjects what to do as a Wonderful Counselor, but since He is the Mighty God, He can also energize them to do it.

Legislation can go only so far; it stops short of providing the power and the will to obey. Because of the sinful nature, people will always strain against law and order (Romans 7:8). Add human fallibility to the inability to make people obey from the heart, and you can see the severe limitations of political and legislative solutions.

But when Jesus Christ comes to rule this earth, He'll display His divine power by bringing order to the chaos. Those who do not submit to His leadership from the heart, He'll subjugate with a rod of iron (cf. Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27; 12:5; 19:15). Those who humble themselves from the heart, bowing to Him as Lord and Savior, will find the power of the Mighty God unleashed in their lives to help them obey.

Because Christ is God, He can forgive sin, defeat Satan, liberate people from the power of evil, redeem them, answer their prayers, restore their broken souls, and reign as Lord - "Mighty God" - over their newly ordered lives. That's a politician this world has never seen.

In comparison to human governments, the Messiah's kingdom is uncomplicated because He is the "Eternal Father." The phrase literally means, "Father of Eternity."

That is a clear reference to the biblical truth that Christ is Creator of heaven and earth. In Hebrews 1:10-12 God the Father says to Christ the Son, "You, Lord, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the works of Your hands; they will perish, but You remain; and they all will become old like a garment, and like a mantle You will roll them up; like a garment they will also be changed. But You are the same, and Your years will not come to an end."

Nothing is too complex for the Creator and Sustainer of everything. Infinity and all its intricacies are nothing to Him who is the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Human life is getting more and more complex. Technology has so improved communication and transportation that commerce, culture, and religion have become global in nature. And rather than organizing and making sense of it all, governments of the world seem to exist primarily to make things more complicated. We build bureaucracies to deal with the complexities of life - and consequently life only grows more perplexing.

Messiah's government, however, is simple and uncomplicated. He is the sole ruler - no bloated bureaucracy - and He knows the end from the beginning because He is the Father of Eternity.

- <https://bit.ly/31QWHC8>

It is what we are told in Zechariah 14:9, "**And the Lord shall be King over all the earth. In that day it shall be – 'The Lord is one,' And His name one.**"

We long for that day.

And keep in mind that the Lord is setting up His Kingdom on this earth and the sheep will enter into the Kingdom and the goats, those who have rejected Jesus during the Tribulation Period will be kept out, they will be cast out to Hades until the Great White Throne Judgment, which takes place after the Millennial reign of Christ.

Of this day Jeremiah 33:14-16 tells us, **“Behold, the days are coming,’ says the LORD, ‘that I will perform that good thing which I have promised to the house of Israel and to the house of Judah: In those days and at that time I will cause to grow up to David a Branch of righteousness; he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Jerusalem will dwell safely. And this is the name by which she will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.’”**

That day is getting closer.

Now, as exciting as that is, let me say this. Even in these crazy days God is in control.

I know, there are times you look at the events going on in this nation and in the world and you may wonder if God is still in control. Make no mistake about it, He is in control and everything is falling into place just as He has told us.

You see, the Lord has warned us of the things that are coming and some of the things we see happening even now. So we should not be surprised but it should spur us on to share our faith knowing that the time is short, the Lord’s return is getting closer.

And yes, the first time He came as the Lamb of God to take away the sins of the world and we are living in a period of time that we call grace. The grace of God extended to sinful man but that day is coming to a close and Jesus is coming back as the Lion from the tribe of Judah to execute His judgment upon a Christ rejecting world and then He will set up His Kingdom to rule and reign from!

Now, instead of being overwhelmed by what we see, we need to let God be God and follow Him. Let me show you what I mean. We are told,

I have always been intrigued by a phrase in this famous Christmas verse, “And the government will be on his shoulders.” It means something like this: “The weight of the world will be on his shoulders.” *This is a profound truth, especially for those of us who feel like we’re bearing the full weight of the world on our own shoulders.*

Tim Hudson tells a story about George McCauslin, who some years ago served as director of a YMCA in western Pennsylvania, near Pittsburgh. It was a difficult situation because the YMCA was losing money, membership and staff. McCauslin worked 85 hours a week trying to solve the problem. He found himself getting little sleep at night. He took little time off. And even when he was away from the job, he was worrying and fretting about the problems of the YMCA. He visited a therapist who warned him he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

Somehow he needed to let go and let God take charge of his problems. But how do you do something like that?

The breakthrough came one day when he took a notebook and ventured into a forest not far from where he lived. As he walked through the cool woods, he could feel his muscles starting to relax. Sitting down under a tree, he sighed and felt at ease for the first time in months. He took out his notebook and decided to let go of the burdens of his life. He wrote God a letter that simply said, “Dear God, Today I hereby resign as general manager of the universe. Love, George.” Looking back on that moment, he reflected with a twinkle in his eye, “And wonder of wonders, God accepted my resignation.”

I think many of us need to do what he did. *We need to resign as general manager of the universe.*

Are you worn out from trying to solve every problem, help your children, take care of your parents, get your coworkers shaped up, and in general trying to fix your siblings and parents and roommates and friends and neighbors? Are you exhausted from trying to repair all the broken people and the messed-up situations all around you? No wonder you're tired all the time.

- <https://bit.ly/3oLoBcC>

I spoke about this as we opened up our study this morning, how we can be so overwhelmed, not only this time of year, but throughout the year. All that is going on, all the pressure at work, at home, here and there and the weight of the world is upon our shoulders and we are about to break! We just can't do it any longer.

Again, God never asked us to place the weight of the world upon our shoulders. He knew we could never handle it.

Let me share this with you from Revelation 5:1-7 where John tells us, **“And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.’ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.”**

Prior to the start of the seven-year Tribulation Period John is in heaven and he is before the throne of God. And God the Father has this scroll in his right hand, the hand of authority, the hand of power!

And I believe that this scroll is the title deed to the earth that was given to Satan when Adam sinned.

And this angel says, **“... ‘Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?’”**

And then John hears these heartbreaking words, **“And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.”**

When you look back in world history there were many who attempted to rule the world, to usurp that position.

From Satan to Nebuchadnezzar, to Darius, to Attila the Hun, to Genghis Khan, to Lenin, to Stalin, to Hitler, to Mussolini, and you can go all the way into the near future to the Antichrist.

All of them were **WILLING**, but none were **WORTHY!**

And if you think about it, not even Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Moses, David, not even Peter Paul or Mary (not the ones that sang “Puff the magic dragon”), were worthy to take the scroll and loose the seals!

You see, there was no celestial being, no terrestrial being or subterranean being who was qualified to take the scroll.

Thus, man or any other created being was completely impotent in this matter. No one was able to step forward because they did not have the power or authority to do so!

And when John hears this, we are told what happened. He said, **“So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or look at it.”**

Because of the complete inability of someone to take this scroll, John begins to weep convulsively. It is the cry of total helplessness and despair. It is a person who sees only complete failure and doom.

But why? What is so important about this scroll? Why would a man who is before the throne of God, standing before Father God, weep and wail over this predicament? He should be shouting for joy! What is wrong?

Like I have said, the earth today is in the hands of the usurper, Satan.

Paul, in II Corinthians 4:4 tells us he is **“the god of this age.”**

In John 12:31 Jesus called him **“the ruler of this world.”**

And Satan holds claim to the earth by reason of Adam's sin. That is the problem!

But our God is not going to leave us or this world in that condition. He loves us too much.

In Romans, Paul tells us in chapter 8 beginning in verse 19, **“For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.”** Romans 8:19-23.

God is one day going to restore what sin has distorted!

But as John looks on, he saw that no one who was worthy to take the scroll from the Father and thus, in his mind, the title deed to the earth would remain in the Devils hands forever! The earth would not be restored to its pre-fall state!

You see, there is a Jewish law that is being applied here. It is the law of the forfeiture of property. If you as a Jew lost your property by forfeit, like Adam did, it would remain with the new owner for a period of six years. In the seventh year you would have the right to purchase your property back as long as you could fulfill the requirements that were written on the scroll that was sealed.

Pastor Chuck puts it like this,

Now, if in the seventh year no one was able to redeem the property, then it would remain with the new family and the ownership would be permanently changed. But you never totally lost ownership until this redemption period was over and you or the kinsman redeemer were unable to fulfill the requirements of redemption.

On the other hand, if you could redeem it, you would call for the elders of the city to meet with you before the city gates. You would bring out the scroll that had all the requirements upon it and you would break the seal. You open the scroll and show your ability to pay the price, proving that you had the right to redeem it.

You could actually purchase the property back for yourself in that year of redemption. Likewise, if you were sold into slave hood, you would remain a slave for six years, but the seventh year you would be set free.

This was the Jewish law of redemption - being set free. This law is significant because man was sold into slavery of sin about 6,000 years ago. The right of redemption will soon be up. Satan has possessed this place for about 6,000 years, and we're about to enter the seventh thousand-year era very soon. This will be the millennial reign of Christ as God redeems that which He purchased through the blood of Jesus Christ.

What the World is Coming to, Pastor Chuck Smith, pp. 49-50

Now to be a kinsman redeemer you would have to meet 3 conditions to fulfill this duty. You must be a near relative of the one who had lost the inheritance. You must be willing to act as a redeemer. And you must be able to pay the price of redemption.

And as John is weeping convulsively, we see one of the elders bring comfort to John by telling him of our Kinsmen Redeemer, Jesus Christ who is coming forth to take the scroll and loose its seals! He meets the requirements and is able to redeem not only us, but this world!

I know that things look out of control. I know that your life may be very difficult right now. But do not weep, the lion from the tribe of Judah is preparing to step up and take the scroll and loose the seals and bring judgment upon a Christ rejecting world and then He will set up His Kingdom upon this earth to rule and reign in righteousness!

And listen again to what Isaiah tells us about His Kingdom. **“Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”** Isaiah 9:7.

No need to weep, the Lord is coming back and when He sets up His Kingdom, it will never end. And the Lord will do this, not man!

So, I hope I have encouraged you as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – ***THE LAMB OF GOD WHO HAS COME TO TAKE AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD!***

And I hope you have also seen the real goal of Christmas, that Jesus Christ is going to rule and reign as He will return as ***THE LION FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH!***

May you have a blessed Christmas and don't be overwhelmed in what you still have to do or what next week is going to be like or this or that. Be overwhelmed that God loves us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to pay in full the penalty for our sins and He is coming again to put down wickedness and to rule and reign on this earth in righteousness!

And I will close with this, from Luke chapter 2 as we are told, **“Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.’ And 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, goodwill toward men!’ So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us.’ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.”** Luke 2:8-20.

Do not be afraid. If you know Jesus, then rest in Him, cast your cares upon Him because He cares for you.

If you don't know Jesus, then you are not here by accident. God has for you the greatest gift ever given, eternal life with Him as you repent of your sins and ask Jesus to be Lord and Savior of your life! And the end result of coming to Christ is praise!

If you want to reign with Him, then you must bow the knee to Him now as King of your life!

May you and your family have a blessed Christmas and remember again why we are here, to worship and praise the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Christ!