

Pat Robertson's Christmas Sermon: O Come All Ye Faithful; All the Rest Go to Hell!

William A. Cook

"... an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, be not afraid to take Mary as your wife, for what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.'" (Matthew 1:20)

Now, my faithful, it behooves us to consider what lessons we might learn from the story of Jesus' birth, especially during these glorious days when we celebrate his first coming. Let us begin with the angel's counsel to Joseph as recorded in Matthew's gospel, the first of three dreams that provide the substance of this blessed event followed by four other visits by angels who appear, it seems, without the aid of dreams (Matt. 1:20; 2:1,2; 2:10; 2:16; Luke 1:26; 2:8; 2:25).

Joseph is told in no uncertain terms that he is to obey the Lord and take Mary as his wife regardless of her condition. He is later told that he must "Rise. Take the child and his Mother and escape to Egypt." Indeed, even the wise men obey the command of the Lord when they are told not to return to Herod. This is the first lesson of the Christmas story! Obey, obey the Lord thy God, for His word comes to you in dreams recorded by men as the word of God and interpreted for you by the ministers of God. That means we do not listen to the nay sayers who claim, as the infidel Thomas Paine did at the founding of this nation, that Matthew not only was not present at these events and, therefore, what he recorded is hearsay at best, but that God's word comes filtered through Joseph's dreams and we have no confirmation from Joseph that he ever had a visit by an angel of the Lord. Who must you listen to, men like Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson to whom we pay homage as our "Founding Fathers," or ministers of the gospel who tell you what God has said in His own words through dreams? Will you obey agnostics or true believers? Obedience means exactly that, do as you are told regardless of the apparent discrepancies that would seem to contradict reality.

Now, all ye faithful, why must you obey? Why must you not question the will of the Lord? Let's turn again to the Christmas story. Consider all the events as God planned them, events that build to a certain, predetermined consequence, the Second Coming! For the first time in recorded history, a woman conceives without the aid of a man's seed, an event that boggles the credibility of our human experience. And that is exactly why God chose to intervene in that manner; He had to make the unbelievable, believable! If the event is not miraculous, how can it predict future events that are equally un-believable? The logic here is beyond dispute once you consider it from God's perspective.

Note how He follows that first hint at the coming of the Lord by having angels appear in dreams or on high before Joseph, shepherds in the field, wise men, and later Simeon (Luke 2:25), all events that cannot be proven since we do not know who

the shepherds or the wise men were, and we're not certain about Simeon. And that is just the point. God wants us to believe and listen to His ministers on earth because incredible events need to be interpreted by learned men.

Consider how carefully God arranged these events. Not only did He impregnate the woman who would bear His Son, he manipulated historical events by having the wise men, who were following His star in the east, go to Herod for directions. It's not clear from the story why the star that was guiding them, provided by God Himself, was inadequate to the task, but it is of paramount importance that it failed because God needed to have Herod aware that a potential threat to his throne was about to be born. Here is a perfect example of how God guides and directs the affairs of men to make prophecies happen! Herod, upset that the wise men did not return to his court (an event God caused, you'll remember, by sending His angel in a dream to them), lashes out by sending his army to slaughter the innocents. But God intervened once again by having His angel appear in a dream to Joseph urging him to flee to Egypt thus saving Jesus so that he could be sacrificed later. Now all of this was necessary because God had predicted these events in the first volume of His story, the Old Testament, and His credibility would have been tarnished had they not come true. That, my friends, is the second lesson to be learned from this Christmas story: God intervenes in the affairs of humans, including political and historical events, to ensure His predetermined plans are carried out by His minions, the weak mortals that serve Him here on earth.

Now, my dear faithful, we know the true import of the Christmas story, our third lesson this morning of Christ's birth, a lesson of such significance that no one must forget it and all must bless God for it –Do I hear an Hallelujah! Our third lesson is this, we are witness to God's fulfillment of His prophecy in the Book of Revelation: "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the 'hold of every foul spirit,' and a 'cage of every unclean and hateful bird.' For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her 'fornication' and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are made rich through the 'abundance of her delicacies'"(Rev. 18:2,3). Yes, my friends, we are witness to God's promise of Armageddon!

I know this, as you must know it as children of God, because I talked with God some months ago, and I reported it to you then, when He told me that your President, George W. Bush, would be re-elected by a landslide, and four million votes, my friends, is a landslide! Say Amen! I need not tell you that this President has done more to ensure the fulfillment of God's word than any other living man. Indeed, he boldly proclaims that he is doing God's work, fulfilling His mission to bring about the final days. That, Faithful in the Lord, is God's intervention in the affairs of men! He placed this man in the President's seat that His word might be made whole, that the rapture might come, and the prophecy fulfilled. Hallelujah! Say it with me, Hallelujah!

How can there be doubts when we have witnessed the creation of the state of Israel in 1947 on land they used to live on 1900 years ago? Is this not the work of

God's intervention? Has he not arranged for the United States to provide for Israel to ensure its continued existence? Did He not awaken the minds of evangelical Christians to see the virtue of supporting Israel instead of condemning it, if the prophecy is to be fulfilled that Israel must exist if the Second Coming is to happen? Are we not doing God's work for Him by helping to sustain the state of Israel thus ensuring the blessed salvation of 144,000 Jews the day of the rapture while the remainder, unfortunately, are sent to Hell?

Now there will be the doubters, those who claim God's prophecy has as much credibility as "believing in the stories of the patriarchs, the Exodus, the conquest of Canaan, and even the saga of the glorious monarchy of David and Solomon (which are (nothing more than) ...the creative expressions of a powerful religious reform movement that flourished in the late Iron Age ... that they reflect the ideology and the world view of the writers ... that the most famous stories of the Bible did not happen as the Bible records them" (*The Bible Unearthed* 23).

But don't believe them! Remember the first lesson of the Christmas story, obey. Obedience to God's word as determined by the ministers of the Lord guarantees certainty. That after all is what you want is it not? Certainty that you will be saved; certainty that you will be whisked into heaven during the rapture; certainty that you will be with the Lamb of God for all eternity. How much better these certainties than those provided by archeologists, eschatologists, and historians who claim their truth on the basis of carbon dating, translation of ancient languages, and historical documented evidence. Why listen to them when you can hear the word of God from ministers like me who talk directly to God? Why listen to them when you can listen to the words of God recorded over 2500 years ago by a people who wanted to isolate themselves from all other people because their God demanded that they not contaminate their blood with that of infidels. Their's was an angry God, a jealous God, a God of vengeance and destruction, a God who demanded absolute obedience to His will. But that was before our God, the Son of God, whose birth we celebrate this very day, came upon the earth to save all humankind! Say it again, my friends, Hallelujah!

Once again, the nay sayers will cry out, "How can Jesus, who came to save all humankind, come with His fiery sword and all the angels of heaven to destroy His own creation?" That paradox, my brethren, is nothing more than the inscrutability of God. Who are we to presume to know His divine will? Can we assume that Jesus changed the nature of God from that malevolent, violent God called YAWH, to one of a pacifist nature? I don't think so. After all, how can one command obedience if fear is not used to motivate it? How can His will be accomplished, His final battle against the forces of evil, if Jesus' words are used: "Honor the Lord thy God with thy whole heart and soul and mind, and thy neighbor as thyself?" No, my friends, we know that God will use force; He made Herod murder all those children because He had future plans, not just the reentry of Jesus from Egypt to Nazareth, but the need to reestablish the state of Israel in 1947 so that you could be present when He opens the heavens to bring forth the Apocalypse.

Certainly you now understand the lessons of this Christmas day. We must do our duty to bring back Christ. We must start by using His name every day in our schools, in our public places, and most importantly, at Christmas. This, after all, is a Christian nation and must not be ruled by secularists and Jews. Don't believe those who tell you it's the merchants who want to remove Christ from Christmas because we are the friends of the merchants. They support us just as we support them. How else could we meet in such glorious surroundings? How could we garb ourselves in such splendor? How could we afford the satellites that beam our programs to nations around the world? How could we gain such power if we did not cooperate with the men who run our country? God not only allows this covenant between His church and the corporations, He encourages and makes it happen. It's part of His master plan to ensure that Christianity rules the world.

Remember this Christmas; it is the last Christmas before the rapture! Say Hallelujah! Remember the words of Revelation, "Babylon is fallen and is become the habitation of devils" and it has; we destroyed it and we now occupy it! It has become the "hold of every foul spirit," and "the cage of every unclean and hateful bird"; we have spread the foul spirits of depleted uranium on every speck of sand in Iraq and filled the air with those hateful birds, the whirring helicopters that are spread like locusts over all the land. "For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are made rich through the abundance of her delicacies." Have we not drunk the wine (say oil!) of Babylon these many decades and suffered the wrath of her people and those of her neighbors because we and all the kings of the earth and all the merchants used her black wealth and made ourselves rich at her expense?

Have we not fulfilled the prophecy of the Lord? Say Amen! Thank the Lord this day for His lessons; fall on your knees and obey the Lord, for I will tell you what He has to say if His word is to be fulfilled, and you are to receive everlasting life as His faithful. Then may you smile the blissful smile of the blessed, as the rest of humankind goes to Hell! Hallelujah!

© Copyright William A. Cook. All rights reserved.