

The Wills of Christmas

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.

Those Scripture readings and sacred carols come from a few chapters in a detailed book about God's love for fallen humanity. Indeed, they reveal God's plan to remedy the curse of sin that began in the garden with Adam and Eve. God has promised a Messiah, a Savior, a Redeemer, and He is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ. The Christmas story is not so much a story as it is a documentary, providing the pertinent details of the birth of God's Son, beginning with His miraculous conception by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is an account of God's plan of rescue and redemption; it tells all who will choose to listen how on that first Christmas morning, Light once again entered a world filled with darkness, as God's glory was revealed to all who would seek it.

The candles on the altar, the Advent wreath and the ones we will soon hold in our hands all serve to remind us that God's glory and light is still with us today, dispelling the darkness of the world and illuminating our path as we journey from earthly life to eternal life. The Christ Child reminds us that God is forever faithful, and the promise He made to Abraham that all nations will be blessed through his descendants was now visible for the world to see. The promise of God to His people in Deuteronomy 31:8 that said I will never leave you nor forsake you, was made visible thousands of years later in the earthly presence of Jesus Christ.

My prayer tonight is that the candles we will hold will remind us of the closing words of Matthews gospel where we find the parting words of Jesus to His followers as His earthly body temporarily left this world behind. He said behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. Though His earthly body was taken up to heaven, His Spirit remains here on earth. Make no mistake, those heavenly promises are one and the same. They are not just for the early Israelites and the eleven disciples, they are for all people of all times who will choose to follow the God of the Scriptures. The key word there is will. It implies certainty, much like the wills that were revealed to Mary by the angel Gabriel in Luke chapter 1.

You **will** conceive in your womb – Jesus was just as human as you and I are, but without any of the sin.

You **will** name Him Jesus. In Hebrew the name is Yeshua and it means the “Lord of Salvation” – salvation comes from none other. The Greek word for Lord is Christos, it means the anointed one, and in Hebrew it is Messiah, the one who saves. Both describe the saving nature and mission of Jesus Christ.

He **will** be great- Jesus is the greatest person in human history in too many ways to count.

He **will** be called the Son of the Most High- or the Son of the Most High God-in effect the angel was saying Jesus would be equal to Almighty God.

The Lord God **will** give to him the throne of His ancestor David and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. That reminder is there because we Gentiles tend to forget the kingdom of heaven that we yearn for will be a kingdom ruled by a Jewish king named Jesus. When Jesus returns the hatred for the nation of Israel will finally end.

And of His kingdom there **will** be no end. The kingdom of God is eternal.

The HS **will** come upon you- Mary conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The power of the most- high **will** overshadow you. Mary is not Jesus.

The child to be born **will** be holy, which means without sin.

He **will** be called the Son of God

And the one we need to remember the most in our times of greatest fear and need- nothing **will** be impossible with God. The Christmas story doesn't end at Christmas. There are just a few more chapters to go, and they are not very long. The end of the book is near, and it is there we find out how Jesus **will** return. Let us prepare our hearts to receive Him. Amen