



Hebrews 1:1-2 | "The Message of Christmas"

I. GOD SPOKE LONG AGO. (v. 1)

A. GOD HAS SPOKEN:

1. By GENERAL REVELATION.

- a. Creation itself speaks to us of the existence of Creator. We know there is a God by all that exists.
 - 1) Cf. **Romans 1:20** - *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:"*
- b. We know some of the Creator's DIVINE ATTRIBUTES by observing Creation.

1) The Creator is OMNIPOTENT (All-Powerful).

- a) There is a vast amount of energy to keep our Universe functioning, thus the Creator must be more powerful than all the energy in the Universe.
 - i. Our Sun and other stars are bright because they radiate energy, both visible and invisible. Some of this energy radiating from the sun is needed, directly and indirectly, to power all life forms on earth.
- b) Also, since the scientists have discovered that our Universe had a beginning, the Creator must have the power to create all matter out of nothing.

2) The Creator is OMNISCIENT (All-Knowing; All-Intelligent).

- a) Our ATMOSPHERE is designed perfectly to sustain life.
 - i. If the earth had a thinner atmosphere, our planet would be hit with incoming rocks and



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harmful radiation.¹ If the earth had a thicker atmosphere, our planet would be boiling hot.

- ii. Earth has the right mixture of nitrogen and oxygen in its atmosphere, and it filters the sun’s radiation so that only that which is useful to life is let in.
 - a. The sunlight reaches the plants that feed us.
 - b. We have the right amount of air and warmth.
 - iii. Our atmosphere is made up of different gases, yet it is transparent so we can see the stars.
- b) The PLACEMENT OF OUR PLANET in the Solar System is placed perfectly for life.
- i. We are close enough to the sun to provide liquid water that is necessary for life, yet if we were a little farther away, all the water would become ice!
- c) There are NATURAL LAWS that govern our universe, thus this being must have the knowledge of all these laws to put them into place.
- i. Gravity; Laws of Thermodynamics; Physics; Chemistry; Mathematics; etc...
- d) The COMPLEX LIFE SYSTEMS speak of an Intelligent Designer.
- i. The ANT must not have that big of a brain, yet look at what it does.
 - ii. The design of the FLY!
 - iii. The HUMAN BODY speaks of incredible design!

¹ <http://www.icr.org/protection-of-God/>



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- a. The human eye; digestive system; human reproduction; immune system; etc...
- iv. **KEY:** There are vast amounts of information in the DNA molecule.
- a. **Q** = Where does information come from?... A Mind!

3) The Creator is OMNIPRESENT (Everywhere).

- a) Since the Universe had a beginning, He must be OUTSIDE of our Universe.
- b) However, to set and govern the Natural Laws within the Universe, He must also be present WITHIN the Universe.

4) The Creator is SELF-EXISTENT, SELF-SUFFICIENT, IMMATERIAL, INFINITE, ALL-WISE, and CREATIVE.

5) The Creator is MORAL.

- a) There is a universal moral Law in humanity.
 - i. We naturally know that it is wrong to rape, murder, steal, lie, etc...
- b) Moral Law must originate with a Moral Law Giver.

6) The Creator is a PERSONAL BEING.

- a) Something cannot be made to be greater than its maker.
 - i. A man cannot make something smarter than himself, only lesser.



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- b) Since we humans are personal beings, the One Who made us must be a Personal Being.
 - c. General Revelation is LIMITED:
 - 1) It does NOT tell us:
 - a) How to please God.
 - b) Whether or not He is a God of love, or if His love would extend to me.
 - c) Why there's suffering in the world.
 - 2) Therefore, God had to give SPECIAL REVELATION!
- 2. By SPECIAL REVELATION.**
- a. God has revealed Himself throughout the history of man that we might know Who He is and what He desires.

B. GOD HAS SPOKEN IN VARIOUS PORTIONS:

- 1. "at sundry times" - Gr. "in diverse portions; various times"**
- a. God did not give His whole revelation at one time, but gave it over a span of 1,600 years.
 - 1) God gave DIFFERENT PORTIONS:
 - a) In regard to the LENGTH OF THE TEXT WRITTEN.
 - i. He gave a little *portion* to Obediah (1 chapter), and gave a larger *portion* to Isaiah (66 chapters), etc.
 - b) In regard to the LENGTH OF THE PROPHET'S MINISTRY.
 - i. Some prophesied for a short time period.



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- a. Haggai gave his prophecies all in a one-month time period.
- b. Others prophesied throughout their lifetime (Moses, Daniel, etc.)

C. GOD HAS SPOKEN BY VARIOUS METHODS:

1. "in divers manners" - Gr. "in many ways; various ways"

- a. God spoke by MANY DIFFERENT MEANS:
 - 1) Direct speech.
 - a) Adam (**Gen. 3:9-13**); Noah (**Gen. 6:13**); etc.
 - 2) Theophanies (*Pre-Incarnate Appearance of Christ*).
 - a) The Angel ("Messenger") of the LORD, the 2nd Person of the Godhead, would appear to people.
 - i. Abraham (**Gen. 18:1-2**); Moses (**Exodus 3:2**)
 - 3) Visions and Dreams.
 - a) Joseph; Daniel; etc..
 - 4) Urim & Thummim.
 - a) God would speak through the High Priest the will of the Lord.
 - 5) Similitudes.
 - a) Hosea (**Hosea 12:10**).
 - 6) Various other ways.

D. GOD HAS SPOKEN LONG AGO:

1. "in time past" - Gr. "long ago"



- a. At the time of writing for the Book of Hebrews, the O.T. was closed about 450 years previously.
- b. Before that first Christmas, God hadn't spoken in over 400 years!

E. GOD HAS SPOKEN TO THE JEWISH PEOPLE:

- 1. **"unto the fathers"** - not just the Patriarchs, but refers to all the Jews that received the Old Testament revelation (cf. [John 6:56](#); [7:22](#)).

F. GOD HAS SPOKEN THROUGH THE JEWISH PROPHETS:

- 1. **"by the prophets"**
 - a. God spoke through Jewish prophets, which had written God's direct revelation in the Old Testament Scriptures.
 - 1) Cf. [2 Timothy 3:16](#); [Matthew 4:4](#); [2 Peter 1:20-21](#)
 - 2) Cf. [Matthew 22:31](#) - Jesus told the Sadducees, "Have you not read that which was spoken to you by God?"
- 2. **The Old Testament message was ANTICIPATORY, always pointing ahead to the coming Messiah.**
 - a. **There were PROPHECIES of the coming Messiah:**
 - 1) **The GENEALOGY of the Messiah:**
 - a) The SEED OF THE WOMAN - [Genesis 3:15](#)
 - b) From THE LINE OF SHEM - [Genesis 9:26](#)
 - c) The SEED OF ABRAHAM - [Genesis 12:1-2, 7](#); [22:18](#); [Matthew 1:1](#)
 - d) The SEED OF ISAAC, not Ishmael - [Genesis 17:18-21](#); [21:12](#); [26:1-4](#)



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- e) From THE LINE OF JACOB, Not Esau - [Genesis 28:10-14](#); [Numbers 24:17-19](#)
- f) From THE TRIBE OF JUDAH - [Genesis 49:10](#); [Matthew 1:2](#)
- g) From THE FAMILY OF JESSE - [Isaiah 11:1-5, 10](#); [Romans 15:12](#)
- h) From THE HOUSE OF DAVID - [2 Samuel 7:12-13](#); [Psalm 89:20-29, 35-36](#); [132:11](#); [Matthew 1:1](#)
- i) From THE LINE OF SOLOMON, David’s Son - [1 Chronicles 22:9-10](#); [28:4-5](#); [Matthew 1:6](#)

2) The CIRCUMSTANCES of Messiah’s Birth:

- a) He will be BORN IN BETHLEHEM - [Micah 5:2](#); [Matthew 2:1-11](#); [Luke 2:1-14](#)
 - i. Cf. [Micah 5:2](#) - "
- b) He will be BORN OF A VIRGIN - [Isaiah 7:14](#); [Matthew 1:22-23](#)

3) The TIMING of Messiah’s Coming:

- a) Must Come BEFORE THE TRIBE OF JUDAH LOSES THEIR TRIBAL STAFF - [Genesis 49:10](#); [Luke 21:20-24](#)
 - i. Cf. [Genesis 49:10](#) - "
 - a. *Shiloh* is an ancient idiom for the Messiah.
 - b. In the minds of the Jews, the “*scepter*” (“*tribal staff; tribal identity*”) was the right to apply and enforce the Mosaic Law upon the people, including



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the right to administer capital punishment.²

- c. Thus, according to this prophecy, the *scepter* would not depart from Judah until the Messiah would come!³
- d. **NOTE:** Even during the 70-year Babylonian Captivity, the Twelve Tribes retained their *tribal identities*, including Judah (**Ezra 1:5, 8**). However, in A.D. 7, Herod Archelaus (one of the sons of Herod the Great) was dethroned and banished by Caesar Augustus to Vienna, a city of Gaul, and he was replaced by a Roman procurator named Caponius. The legal power of the Sanhedrin was immediately restricted, and the Jews ability to adjudicate capital punishment was lost.⁴ (This is why the Jews couldn’t execute Jesus themselves, but had to get Pilate and the Roman Government to enforce the capital punishment).
 - i. Rabbi Rachmon has been quoted as saying, “When the members of the Sanhedrim found themselves deprived of their right over life and death, a general consternation took possession of them; they covered their heads with ashes and their bodies with sackcloth, exclaiming: ‘Woe unto us, for the scepter has departed from

² The Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin 24. <https://www.halakhah.com/pdf/nezikin/Sanhedrin.pdf>

³ The Messiah had to have come before 70 A.D. because that was when the Jews were scattered and the Temple was destroyed, thus they could not enforce the Mosaic Law.

⁴ There were times the Roman Government would overlook it when the Jews would execute someone (like Stephen in Acts 7), but it was illegal.



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Judah, and the Messiah has not come!⁵

- e. **KEY:** In A.D. 7, while the Jews were weeping in the streets because they thought God’s Word was not fulfilled, there was in an 8-year old boy in Nazareth, who was the son of Jewish carpenter, named Jesus of Nazareth! The Messiah did show up before the scepter was taken away, they just didn’t know it yet!

- b) Must Come WHILE THE 2ND TEMPLE IS STILL STANDING - Daniel 9:25-26; Zechariah 11:12-13; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 27:3-10
 - i. Thus, before 70 A.D.!!!

- c) Must Be REVEALED TO THE NATION OF ISRAEL ON APRIL 6, 32 A.D - Daniel 9:24-27; Nehemiah 2:5-8; Luke 19:28-44; Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:24-26

- b. The revelation of God was PROGRESSIVE! He revealed it over a period of time, and there was always more to come because the message of the O.T. was incomplete.
 - 1) One of the great tragedies of the modern Jew is the fact that they haven’t recognized their Messiah. They’re still looking back to the O.T. which would now be 2,500 years since God has spoken!
 - 2) They’re immersing themselves in the Law and trying to find God and find righteousness through that, recognizing that the Law and the prophets were pointing to the

⁵ Joseph Lemann. Jesus Before the Sanhedrim (quoting Raymond Martini, *Pugio Fidei*, 872; Leipsic edition).

Raymond Martini (1220-1285) was a 13-century friar and theologian, who wrote his chief work *Pugio Fidei* (“*The Dagger of Faith*” - 1270) after he was commissioned in 1250 A.D. to study the oriental languages in regards to the Jews.



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Messiah, yet the tragedy is that they missed Him when He came!

- a) Cf. **John 5:39-40** - Jesus told the Jews in His day, *"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life."*

II. GOD HAS SPOKEN. (v. 2)

A. GOD HAS FINISHED SPEAKING.

1. **"in the last days"** - Gr. *"in the last of these days"*

- a. **Q** = What days?... The days in which God has been speaking!
 - 1) This was a common rabbinic term for the Messianic days. The prophets often spoke of the Messianic Age as "in the last days".

B. GOD HAS SPOKEN IN HIS SON, JESUS CHRIST.

1. **God has spoken BY His Son.**

- a. Jesus is THE MESSENGER of God.
- b. God has spoken THROUGH His Son.
 - 1) Whenever Jesus spoke, it was the very words of god Himself.
 - a) Cf. **1 John 1:1-3** - The apostle John wrote in his 1st epistle, *"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and*



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truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ."

- b) This includes the red-letters in our Bibles.

2. God has spoken **IN** His Son.

- a. "by His Son" - Gr. *en huio* - "in Son"
 - 1) The author is conveying the idea that, not only did God give us His message BY His Son, but He has spoken to us IN His Son, in as much as His Son is the very Message!
 - 2) **KEY:** Jesus, Himself, is the very Message from God!
 - a) We don't just look at what Jesus has said, but at Who He is! It is WHO JESUS IS that is really the message from God to the world!
 - 3) **NOTE:** That first Christmas in Bethlehem, God was speaking to the world! This Baby would not only bring a message, but would grow up and be the very message itself!
- b. **KEY:** All that God wants to say to humanity, He said in the Person of Jesus Christ!

3. Jesus Christ is God's **FINAL MESSAGE** to the World.

- a. "spoken" - past tense, thus FINAL
 - 1) The progressive revelation (v. 1) reached its CLIMAX in the coming of Jesus Christ. HE IS THE FINAL MESSAGE OF GOD.
 - a) Cf. John 1:1, 14, 18
 - b) Cf. John 14:7-11 - Jesus said, "If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so



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long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."

- b. **KEY:** The Person and Work of Jesus Christ is the Final Message of God to the World.
- 1) His life, His death, His resurrection, His ascension, His coming again, and all those things are God's message to the world!
 - 2) The words spoken by the prophets about God was accurate, but it was only part of the story. The full story would be told in His Son.
 - a) Cf. **Deuteronomy 18:15** - Moses spoke of the Messiah, when he wrote, "*The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to Him.*"
 - b) Cf. **Matthew 17:5; Mark 9:7; Luke 9:35** - At the Transfiguration of Jesus, Peter, James, and John, saw Moses and Elijah (Law & Prophets) talking with Him, then they heard from heaven, "*This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased: hear ye Him.*" When they looked up, they "*saw no man, save Jesus only.*"
 - c) Cf. **John 1:1, 14, 18** - The *Word* became flesh
 - i. **KEY:** In Hebrew thought "the word of God" was His active self-expression, that revelation of Himself to humanity through which a person not only receives truth about God, but meets God face to face.⁶

⁶ Richards, Lawrence O. *New Testament Life and Times*, p. 212
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c. There is **NO OTHER** message.

- 1) This means that Christianity is EXCLUSIVE.
 - a) All other religious leaders, or religious systems, are not God's message.
 - i. Some think erroneously that we are Christians because we are in the West, but if you were from the East, you would be a Buddhist. If you were from the Middle East, you would be Muslim.
 - b) **KEY:** If God has spoken through His Son, then any message that contradicts HIS message is not from God.

d. There is **NO FURTHER** message.

- 1) There is no longer any direct revelation from God, for His final revelation came in His Son, Jesus Christ.
- 2) **NOTE:** The Apostles were given the direct revelation of God through Jesus Christ, which is recorded in the New Testament writings.
 - a) Cf. **John 14:26; 16:12-13; 17:20**
 - i. "...*He shall teach you all things...*"
 - a. **Q** = Who was Jesus talking to?... His Apostles (**v. 31**)
 - b. **Q** = Did the Holy Spirit teach them ALL things?...
 - i. It was *after* the Holy Spirit was given.
 - ii. Must have been *before* the last apostle died.



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- iii. John died at the end of the 1st century.
 - b) Cf. **Ephesians 2:20; 3:1-7; 1 John 4:5-6**
 - i. There can be no addition to this foundation.
 - a. The teaching of the apostles and prophets is our foundation.
 - b. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would teach them all things.
 - ii. In the last of the days in which God spoke, He spoke in Jesus Christ.
 - c) Cf. **Revelation 1:1-3; 22:18-19**
 - i. Jesus spoke when He gave the apostle John “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - ii. When John, the last apostle, died at the end of the 1st century, the canon of Scriptures was complete.
 - a. The apostle John was the last living apostle, thus after the book of Revelation was written, there would be no more Scriptures written. The Book was closed at that point.
 - iii. Thus, the revelation of God is complete, and there is no new revelation.
 - d) Cf. **2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21**
 - i. **KEY:** The Old and New Testaments are the inspired Word of God, and they are God’s Final Revelation of Jesus Christ!
- 3) **KEY:** The New Testament writings are the EXPLANATION of Jesus Christ and the APPLICATION of His principles to our lives.



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- a) **NOTE:** If the revelation of God is complete and there is no new revelation, then anything claiming to be revelation of God after the 1st century is in error.
 - i. The doctrines added by the Roman Catholic Church, which was established about 200 years later. (3rd century)
 - ii. Islam (7th century)
 - iii. Mormonism (19th century)
 - iv. Jehovah's Witnesses (19th century)
- b) **KEY:** Anyone claiming to know God, or represent God, or serve God, who at the same time rejects the apostolic revelation of the Son of God in the pages of the New Testament is deceived and a deceiver.
 - i. Anyone who would embrace the idea that there is a messenger, or a message, beyond Christ Himself, is in deception.

4. **KEY: The "Message of Christmas" TODAY is that message that God has spoken to us in His Son, Jesus Christ.**

- a. Christmas is about the proclamation of Who that Baby was Who was lying in a manger and why He came into the world.
- b. **Q** = What is God's message this Christmas? What is God's final message to this world? What is God's message to YOU today?...

C. **GOD'S FINAL MESSAGE TO THE WORLD:**

1. "I love you"

- a. Cf. **John 3:16; Romans 5:6-8**
 - 1) God's love is UNIVERSAL.



- a) His love is not just for the Jewish nation, but for the whole world!
 - b) He is saying, "I love all nations! I love all people!"
- b. Cf. **1 John 4:9** - *"In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him."*

2. "God is light"

- a. Cf. **1 John 1:5** - *"This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."*

3. "God is approachable."

- a. To the Jew, thinking of God as a Father was somewhat foreign.
 - 1) The Jews couldn't approach God whenever they wanted to. They always had to bring a sacrifice.
 - a) The veil in the Tabernacle and Temple showed that they couldn't approach God. It was a reminder that they were separated from Him.
 - 2) Jesus has shown us that man can now approach God, and that He is approachable as a Father. The veil has been torn, and now we can come boldly.
 - 3) He shows us that God is personal and wants meaningful fellowship with you.

4. "I am your only way of salvation."

- a. Cf. **John 14:6** - Jesus said, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."*
 - 1) In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus prayed 3 times to the Father, *"O my Father, if this cup may not pass away*



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from me, except I drink it, thy will be done." (Matthew 26:42)

- 2) **KEY:** The fact that Jesus went to the cross and shed His blood, is God telling us that there is no other way to be saved! We have to come through Jesus Christ.

5. "I am gracious."

- a. The person and work of Jesus demonstrate that God is GRACIOUS toward you.
- 1) Cf. **John 1:17-18** - *"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ. No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him."*

6. "I want to forgive you and cleanse you from your sin."

- a. Cf. **Mark 2** - Jesus proved that He had the power to forgive sins by healing the paralytic.
- b. On the cross, Jesus prayed, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do..." (Luke 23:34)*
- c. Cf. **Romans 3:23-26** - *"to declare"*

7. "I am **FOR** you, not against you. I will take care of you. I want to Bless you."

- a. Cf. **Romans 8:31-32** - *"What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"*
- b. Jesus has given us the message that God is a blessing God. He wants to bless His people.



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8. "I am not condemning you, but I am interceding for you."

- a. Cf. **Romans 8:33-34** - *"Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."*

9. "I am coming again and will make every wrong thing right in the end."

- a. Cf. **Revelation 22:20** - *"He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus."*

10. "Love God supremely."

- a. Cf. **Matthew 22:37-40** - *"Jesus said unto him, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."*

11. "Love one another"

- a. Cf. **John 13:34** - *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another."*
- b. Cf. **John 15:12** - *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."*
- c. Cf. **Galatians 6:2** - *"Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*
- d. Cf. **Ephesians 5:2** - *"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."*



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- e. Cf. [1 Thessalonians 4:9](#) - *"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another."*
- f. Cf. [1 John 3:11](#) - *"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another."*
- g. Cf. [1 John 4:21](#) - *"And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."*

D. CHRISTMAS was the BEGINNING of God's Final Message to the Word.

III. BENEDICTION:

A. This Christmas week:

- 1. May you reflect on what God has said to you in and through Jesus Christ.**
- 2. As you think about that little Baby lying in a manger, celebrating His birth, may the Holy Spirit speak to your heart these glorious realities.**
- 3. May His message flow out of your heart to your family and friends during this holiday.**
- 4. May your Christmas be filled with joy and peace as the Spirit of God ministers to your heart and brings these things to your remembrance.**
- 5. God spoke long ago unto the fathers by the prophets, and has spoken to you today by His Son, Jesus Christ. Receive God's message today. Listen closely to the love of the Spirit.**
 - a. Cf. [2 Corinthians 13:14](#) - *"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all. Amen."*