

November 29, 2015

TIME OF REFLECTION

"There were dozens of people who walked through the Holy Land claiming to be the Messiah, curing the sick, exorcising demons, challenging Rome, gathering followers. In a way, there's nothing unique about what Jesus did. In fact, many of these so-called false Messiahs we know by name."

~Reza Aslan, Religion scholar, author of *Zealot*

"In the christian view, the ultimate evidence for the existence of God is Jesus Christ. If there is a God, we characters in his play have to hope that he put some information about himself in the play. But Christians believe he did more than give us information. He wrote himself into the play as the main character in history, when Jesus was born in a manger and rose from the dead."

"If I don't believe that there is a God who will eventually put all things right, I will take up the sword and will be sucked into the endless vortex of retaliation."

~Timothy Keller, Pastor, theologian, writer

"Enemy-occupied territory---that is what this world is. Christianity is the story of how the rightful king has landed, you might say landed in disguise, and is calling us to take part in a great campaign of sabotage."

~C.S. Lewis, Chair of Renaissance Literature at Cambridge

"Christmas means the nullification of human boasting and the confirmation of the promises of God!

~John Piper, Pastor, theologian, writer

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “A King from.... Bethlehem?” – *Chris Audino*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Micah 5 (NASB)*

- ¹ “Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops;
They have laid siege against us;
With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.
- ² “But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel.
His goings forth are from long ago,
From the days of eternity.”
- ³ Therefore He will give them up until the time
When she who is in labor has borne a child.
Then the remainder of His brethren
Will return to the sons of Israel.
- ⁴ And He will arise and shepherd His flock
In the strength of the LORD,
In the majesty of the name of the LORD His God.
And they will remain,
Because at that time He will be great
To the ends of the earth.
- ⁵ This One will be our peace.
When the Assyrian invades our land,
When he tramples on our citadels,
Then we will raise against him
Seven shepherds and eight leaders of men.
- ⁶ They will shepherd the land of Assyria with the sword,
The land of Nimrod at its entrances;
And He will deliver us from the Assyrian
When he attacks our land
And when he tramples our territory.
- ⁷ Then the remnant of Jacob
Will be among many peoples
Like dew from the LORD,
Like showers on vegetation
Which do not wait for man
Or delay for the sons of men.
- ⁸ The remnant of Jacob
Will be among the nations,
Among many peoples
Like a lion among the beasts of the forest,
Like a young lion among flocks of sheep,
Which, if he passes through,
Tramples down and tears,
And there is none to rescue.
- ⁹ Your hand will be lifted up against your adversaries,
And all your enemies will be cut off.
- ¹⁰ “It will be in that day,” declares the LORD,
“That I will cut off your horses from among you
And destroy your chariots.
- ¹¹ “I will also cut off the cities of your land
And tear down all your fortifications.
- ¹² “I will cut off sorceries from your hand,
And you will have fortune-tellers no more.
- ¹³ “I will cut off your carved images
And your sacred pillars from among you,
So that you will no longer bow down
To the work of your hands.
- ¹⁴ “I will root out your Asherim from among you
And destroy your cities.
- ¹⁵ “And I will execute vengeance in anger and wrath
On the nations which have not obeyed.”