

## **The Promise of Christmas**

### **Promised Revelation**

Numbers 24:17

**2020:** Many of the promises of Christmas will not be fulfilled this year like in years past due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We aren't traveling like we used to, we aren't gathering like we used to, we aren't partying like we used to, & it seems that the promise of Christmas for this year has been broken. Few things in this life are more painful than a broken promise, esp at Christmas

### **But I want us to focus on a different promise...A Better One...from God!**

*"For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit."* **2 Peter 1:21**

**Main Idea:** God Promises to Reveal Himself to Those Who Truly Seek Him

*"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near, a star shall come out of Jacob, & a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab & break down all the sons of Sheth."* **Numbers 24:17**

### **Two Parts of the Promise of Christmas from Numbers 24:17**

#### **I. Hope for the Future: Be Looking**

*"But the LORD your God would not listen to Balaam; instead the LORD your God turned the curse into a blessing for you, because the LORD your God loved you."* **Deuteronomy 23:5**

*"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near, a star shall come out of Jacob..."* **Numbers 24:17a**

*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose & have come to worship him.'" **Matthew 2:1-2***

#### **II. Strength for Today, Be Encouraged**

*"...and a scepter shall rise out of Israel, it shall crush the forehead of Moab & break down all the sons of Sheth."* **Numbers 24:17b**

**Immediate Fulfillment:** With God's protection, Joshua & Israel will conquer Canaan & inhabit the land of Moab and Sheth.

**Ultimate Fulfillment:** *"And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, & they fell down & worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold & frankincense & myrrh."* **Matthew 2:9b-11**

*"But you, O LORD, are a shield about me, my glory & the lifter of my head."*

**Psalms 3:3**

*"And when the king saw Queen Esther standing in the court, she won favor in his sight, & he held out to Esther the golden scepter that was in his hand."*

**Esther 5:2b**

*"But of the Son he says, 'Your throne, O God, is forever & ever, the scepter of uprightness is the scepter of your kingdom.'" **Hebrews 1:8***

*"You will seek me & find me when you seek me with all your heart."* **Jer 29:13**

**What are you looking for this Christmas season?** If it's anything other than Jesus, you will probably be deeply disappointed, but if Jesus is enough for you, then there is hope for the future as well as strength for today! Why?

### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

Thomas Obadiah Chisholm

#### **Verse Three:**

*Pardon for sin & a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer & to guide;  
**Strength for today & bright hope for tomorrow,**  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside.*

#### **Chorus:**

*Great is thy Faithfulness, Great is thy Faithfulness.  
Morning by morning, New mercies I see.  
All I have needed, thy hand hath provided.  
Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord unto me.*

**The Promise of Christmas – Promised Revelation:** I can't promise you health, happiness, prosperity or gifts...but I can promise you that God will reveal Himself to you as you Seek Him this Christmas! Both His Star & His Scepter signify that He has always, and will always, keep his promises.

*"For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

**Romans 10:13**

### **Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:**

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Huges & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)

