

Faith Bible Church

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas and the Love of God*

Hebrews 10:5-10 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me; ⁶ In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. ⁷ "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'" ⁸ After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will we have been sanctified (ἡγιασμένοι ἐσμέν, perfect periphrastic) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all (ἐφάπαξ).

Any Questions?

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Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas and the Love of God*



The Anticipation

- ✓ Christmas Eve in Heaven
- ✓ Angelic preparation & worship
- ✓ Anticipation since Gen. 3:15
- ✓ OT development of Messiah
- ✓ Fullness of time
 - Providence
 - Political
 - Religious
 - Jews
 - Morality
 - Saturation of Evil

God's Love for Mankind

- ✓ God *sent forth* His Son
- ✓ The Son's Willingness
- ✓ God's Unique Pure Love
 - Desire for good of the beloved
 - Desire to be with the beloved
 - Reciprocal love.
 - I will be their God.
 - They shall be My people

God's Perfect Provision

- ✓ Perfect Savior
- ✓ God-man
- ✓ Absolute righteousness
- ✓ Perfect Salvation
- ✓ I will be their God.
- ✓ They shall be My people
- ✓ Eternal Home

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

- Christmas Eve in Heaven. Gabriel had made preparations on earth, Luke 1:19-55. He informed Mary of the God's will concerning the incarnation, noted her obedient and worshipful response, and of the accomplishment of the Holy Spirit in creating the body to be inhabited by the second Person of the Trinity. The angels are taking it all in—from the announcements and angelic testimony to Joseph to the trip to Bethlehem and the birth of the baby.

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

- At this time, the angels were waiting in anticipation to worship God for this Grand Event.
 - ✓ **Hebrews 1:6** And when He again brings the first-born into the world, He says, "And let all the angels of God worship Him."

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says,

- The anticipation goes back as far as Genesis 3:15
 - ✓ The angels had been waiting since the protoevangelium in the Edenic prediction.

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

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Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

- ✓ This passage is called the *protoevangelium* (the “first gospel”) because it was the original proclamation of the promise of God’s plan for the whole world.
- ✓ It is the first glimpse in the Bible of the person and mission of the one who was going to be the central figure in the unfolding drama of the redemption of the world.

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- ✓ The “seed/offspring” mentioned in this verse became the root from which the tree of the OT promise of a Messiah grew. This is the “mother prophecy” that gave birth to all of the rest of the promises. It is the germ of promise which unfold the history of redemption throughout the OT.

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- ✓ The history of the human race begins with the sin of our first parents and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden.
- ✓ Right in the middle of the bleakness and dark tragedy of God's curse on the tempter, the woman, and the man, came the first rays of light and hope embodied as the gospel of the grace of our Lord.

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Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

- ✓ "Between you" refers to Satan who possessed the creature. Note how Satan has access to the supernatural realm—like the plan of God.
- ✓ Satan is a real person as indicated in the Hebrew second person singular masculine pronoun. He is not some vague principle.

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- ✓ The serpent of the temptation is the serpent of the final conflict; he is someone whom a future male descendent of the woman will strike with a crushing blow to his skull. As we can see, our text does contain figures of speech. The idea here is of victory not literal dirt or head or heel.

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Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

- ✓ The NT clearly identifies the serpent with Satan, Rom. 16:20; 2 Cor. 11:3, 14; Rev. 12:9.
- ✓ The crushing of Satan's head began with Jesus' death and resurrection, Heb. 2:14-18. Satan's final destruction will take place in the Lake of Fire, Revelation 20:10.

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- ✓ The bruising of the heel took place at Jesus's crucifixion—painful but, in the eternal sense, not fatal.
- ✓ This first protoevangelium emphasizes the humanity of the Messiah. He will not be angelic or *simply* divine. This lays the groundwork for the Messiah to be the God-man.

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Genesis 4:1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a manchild: the Lord (אֶת־יְהוָה)

- ✓ Eve has clearly understood from God's words in Genesis 3:15 that the serpent would be defeated by God-man. She thinks Cain is manchild Yahweh. She later realized her mistake; one can see it reflected in Abel which means "vanity." Right theology, wrong time and application.
- ✓ There is a long history in Judaism in trying to get around the plain text—as reflected by the italicized "with the help of." Same language in the next verse, "Again she bore his brother: Abel (אֶת־הַבֶּל)"

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Hebrews 10:7 "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'"

The roll of the book refers not only to the divine commands but the references to the many prophecies of the Messiah. Here is a list of prophecies as they unfold in the OT.

- ✓ See Luke 24:25-27.
- ✓ Messiah as Seed in the Edenic prediction of Gen. 3:15
- ✓ Messiah to dwell among the Shemites in Gen. 9:27
- ✓ Messiah as the Seed that will bless all nations, Gen. 12:1-3
- ✓ Messiah as Shiloh, Gen. 49:8-12;
- ✓ Messiah as Star, Num. 24:15-19
- ✓ Messiah as prophet like Moses, Deut. 18:15, 18

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Hebrews 10:6 In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. ⁷ "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'"

- ✓ Messiah as Job's Arbitrator (9:33), Witness (16:19-21), Redeemer (19:23-27), Mediator (33:23-28)
- ✓ Messiah as Anointed (1 Sam. 2:1-10), faithful Priest (2:35-36), David's house, throne, and kingdom, (2 Sam. 7; Psalm 89; 132).
- ✓ Messiah as Conqueror and Enthroned Ruler, Psalm 110, 2.
- ✓ Messiah as Rejected Stone, Psalm 118.
- ✓ Messiah as Betrayed, Psalm 69; 109.

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- ✓ Messiah as Dying and Resurrected, Psalm 22, 16.
- ✓ Messiah as Planner and Groom, Psalm 40, 45.
- ✓ Messiah as Triumphant King, Psa. 68; 72.
- ✓ Messiah as Teacher, Joel 2:23.
- ✓ Messiah as the Second David, Hos. 3:4-5.
- ✓ Messiah as the Raised House of David, Amos 9:11-15
- ✓ Messiah as the Breaker, Micah 2:12-13

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- ✓ Messiah as the Coming Ruler, Micah 5:1-4.
- ✓ Messiah as the Branch of the Lord, Isa. 4:2.
- ✓ Messiah as born of a virgin, Isa. 7:14.
- ✓ Messiah who is Almighty God, Isa. 9:6.
- ✓ Messiah's reign, Isa. 11:1-16.
- ✓ Messiah' universal triumphant, Isa. 24:21-25.
- ✓ Messiah as the Foundation Stone, Isa. 28:16.
- ✓ Messiah as Teacher, Isa. 30:19-26.

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- ✓ Messiah as the Servant of the Lord, Isa. 42:1-7.
- ✓ Messiah's mission to the world, Isa. 49:1-6.
- ✓ Messiah's Gethsemane, Isa. 50:4-9.
- ✓ Messiah's Sin-Bearing, Isa. 52:13-53:12.
- ✓ Messiah Unfailing grace promised to David, Isa. 55:3-5.
- ✓ Messiah as the Proclaimer of the Good News, Isa. 61:1-3.
- ✓ Messiah as Conqueror, Isa. 63:1-6

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- ✓ Messiah as “the Lord our Righteousness,” Jer. 23:5-6.
- ✓ Messiah as the Priestly King, Jer. 30:9, 21.
- ✓ Messiah’s unconditional promise, Jer. 33:14-16.
- ✓ Messiah as the Tender Sprig, Ezek. 17:22-24.
- ✓ Messiah as the Rightful King, Ezek. 21:25-27.
- ✓ Messiah as the Good Shepherd, Ezek. 34:23-31.
- ✓ Messiah as the Unifier of the Nation, Ezek. 37:15-28.
- ✓ Messiah as the Son of Man, Dan. 7:13-14.
- ✓ Messiah as the Coming Anointed Ruler, Dan. 9:24-27.

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- ✓ Messiah as the "Desire of the Nations" Hag. 2:6-9.
- ✓ Messiah as God's Signet Ring, Hag. 2:21-23.
- ✓ Messiah's work as High Priest, Zech. 3:8-10.
- ✓ Messiah as King-Priest Over the Nations, Zech. 6:9-15.
- ✓ Messiah as the Entering King, Zech. 9:9-10.
- ✓ Messiah's Four Titles, Zech. 10:4.

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- ✓ Messiah as the Rejected Good Shepherd, Zech. 11:4-14.
- ✓ Messiah as the Pierced One, Zech. 12:10.
- ✓ Messiah as the Smitten Companion, Zech. 13:7.
- ✓ Messiah as the "Messenger of the Covenant," Mal. 3:1.
- ✓ Messiah as the "Sun of Righteousness," Mal. 4:2.

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- ✓ Extra biblical confirmation of Jewish orientation to and occupation with the Messiah.
 - Sanh. 99a, "All the prophets prophesied not but of the days of the Messiah.
 - Sanh. 98b, "The world was not created but only for the Messiah

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world

“**When** He comes into the world,” is God’s Perfect Timing!

Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.

- ✓ The perfect time to draw those to Him who loved Him out of the vast darkness and ignorance of their Zeitgeist. For the most part, the earth was oblivious to this great event that took place in Bethlehem, all the while innumerable hosts of heaven were waiting to worship, praise, and glorify, the newborn Babe. The Dayspring on high came to visit man in darkness at the right time, Luke 1:78-79.

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world

“**When** He comes into the world,” is God’s Perfect Timing!

- ✓ Providence behind all history. *God sent forth His Son* at the perfect time. This was the *hour*. Christ was always in tune to the hour. Human history had been perfectly prepared for the Messiah. The Divine Mind is behind perfect providence. Christ’s arrival was at the perfect time. He was not a product of His age.

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Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, when He comes into the world

“**When** He comes into the world,” was all part of God’s Perfect Timing!

- ✓ The world was prepared politically. This includes two things: a common language for expression of new thoughts and concepts; and a common social system, laws, and government. The Koine Greek and the conquests of Alexander the Great was the perfect time. The laws and government made it possible, for example, for Paul to make his missionary journeys throughout Palestine, Spain, North Africa and South Germany—all under the Roman Empire.

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Hebrews 10:5 “Therefore, when He comes into the world,” is all part of God’s perfect timing (cf. Gal. 4:4).

- ✓ The world was prepared by divine providence in respect to religion. The religions of the world had elements of truth mingled with gross errors. Had the religions had no desire for God or truth, Christianity would not have taken root. There was noble talk from the Law written in the heart of all man. Consider Seneca (4 BC – 65 AD) on the Ultimate:

“God is near you, is with you. A sacred Spirit dwells within us, the Observer and Guardian of all our evil and all our good. There is no good man without God.”

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Hebrews 10:5 “Therefore, when He comes into the world,” is all part of God’s perfect timing (cf. Gal. 4:4).

- ✓ The world was prepared by divine providence in respect to morality. There was a desire to be good citizens and good men, yet total failure in the end, cf. Socrates, Plato, Marcus Aurelius, the Stoics, Seneca.

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- ✓ The world was prepared in that it was saturated with evil and needed the infusion of Absolute Good.
 - A word or two about the sovereignty, goodness, simplicity, aseity, Esse, morality, goodness, perfection, and love in God.
 - God is in control of history and puts people where they freely advance His plan.
 - Sovereignty and free will.
 - The nature and source of all evil.
 - As we will see in Job, practically everyone gets the book of Job wrong, wrong, wrong! It is not about God as the *Boss* of the Universe and using Job as a pawn. It is not about there is no true explanation of evil in Job. It is about God drawing Job to Himself.

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- ✓ The world was prepared by divine providence in respect to the Jews. They retained the feelings while they had lost the privileges of a free people; they longed for a better future. The scepter had departed from Judah and they longed for Shiloh to come. All of their religious convictions zeroed in on the Promised Messiah. Prophecy had completed its picture of the coming Deliverer: it was now narrowed down to a race, nation, tribe, birth, humiliations, death, and triumphant over the grave—it was all laid out. It had been 400 years since the last Jewish prophet had spoken. God had spoken by the prophets, now it is up to man to respond.

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas and the Love of God* – Unconditional Love!

Hebrews 10:5 Therefore, **when He comes** into the world, He says,

Galatians 4:4 *But when the fulness of the time came, **God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.***

- ✓ God “sent” Him—He was not created as we were. He was sent from God.
- ✓ His life testified to His heavenly origin.
 - His life evidenced this in every way. His life was unlike any other.
 - He kept the Law.
 - He never sinned.
 - No moral or spiritual weakness.
 - His life was absolute perfection—stainless steel.

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- ✓ His life testified to His heavenly origin.
 - Note the difference between Jesus and Paul who said “The good which I would I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Jesus was the solitary exception to such sentiments.
 - “Which of you convicts Me of sin?”
 - What did Pilate say?
 - He never confesses sin, never asks for pardon, or for reconciliation with the Father. His character was perfectly adjusted with love and righteousness. He has the power to invite any and all to come to Him for rest and complete fulfillment, Matt. 11:28-30.

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- ✓ His life testified to His heavenly origin.
 - Points to His virgin birth.
 - He was perfectly balanced. He was never carried away by emotions.
 - He was no *mere* man. He came with world-embracing power.
 - Twenty centuries have passed and still no one like Him. He is the Perfect Man—forever—and offers grace to all.
 - Only He delivers man from false views of the world and of life.
 - He divides the human race, and all ideals.
 - Only He offers Hope for the human nature.
 - Though possessing riches of heaven, for our sakes He become poor so we might become rich, 2 Cor. 8:9.
 - No wonder Thomas said, “My Lord and My God.”

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas* *and the Love of God – Unconditional Love!*

Hebrews 10:5 “Therefore, when He comes into the world,” speaks of God’s unique love.

- ✓ God’s motive is His Great Love, Rev. 21:1-4; Heb. 8:18. It is through the difficulties that He calls out for our love and intimacy, cf. Job.
- ✓ The beauty and blessedness of God’s unconditional love.
- ✓ Reciprocal love: He gives Himself to us; we are to give ourselves to Him.
- ✓ God gives Himself us and this gift is realized in our acceptance of Him.

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas* *and the Love of God – Unconditional Love!*

Hebrews 10:5 “Therefore, when He comes into the world,” speaks of God’s unique love.

- ✓ God is Pure Act and gives Himself to us. He is there and He is not silent.
- ✓ “I will be their God” speaks of God always being there with everlasting arms and an everlasting purpose.
- ✓ “I will be their God” speaks of the fact that no matter how weak we are or how great the darkness around us is, He is there as our strength and light.
- ✓ “I will be to their God” speaks of the only One who can fulfill your deepest needs, and give you peace in the midst of the circumstances of life, Matt. 11:28-30. Only with God can you have a fulfilled life. Only in God do we find rest for our souls. He is our Blessedness.

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- ✓ “I will be their God” is the unspeakable gift.
- ✓ “I will be their God” calls out for a responsive love, 2 Cor. 5:14; 1 John 4:10.
- ✓ “I will be their God” is only possible because of the kenosis of Christ, Philip. 2.
- ✓ “I will be their God” only becomes a reality through the will. The center point of taking Him is in the will. The will is the man. The center point of every human being is the will. There is no use of thinking you take God for your own if your will is not involved. Christ shows this in our text. True love of God never rests on Him until it has given up its will to the Beloved.
- ✓ He asks for nothing but ourselves: our hearts, souls, and minds.

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas* *and the Love of God* – Unconditional Love!

- ✓ “They shall be my people” demonstrates that not only does God give Himself to us, He takes us as His people.
- ✓ “They shall be my people” points to incomprehensible grace! Why would He want us as His people, given how fickle, evil, and sinful we are by nature?
- ✓ “They shall be my people” becomes much more than just “people” as God bestows quality and value on us so we actually become His precious ones, His bride, et al.

Christmas Special: *The Night Before Christmas and the Love of God—God's Perfect Provision*

Hebrews 10:6 In whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast taken no pleasure. ⁷ "Then I said, 'Behold, I have come (In the roll of the book it is written of Me) To do Thy will, O God.'"

God's love is expressed His perfect provisions.

- ✓ The body of Christ displaced all animals sacrifices.
- ✓ The perfect will of Christ, His perfect obedience, fully satisfied God the Father's absolute righteousness.

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Hebrews 10:8-9 After saying above, "Sacrifices and offerings and whole burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin Thou hast not desired, nor hast Thou taken pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law), ⁹ then He said, "Behold, I have come to do Thy will." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰ By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- ✓ Scripture makes it clear that there is but one sacrifice, but one truth, and but one covenant of redemption, all of which was accomplished by the coming of Christ into the world.

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- ✓ Because of this offering, this High Priest, and this sacrifice, we have boldness to enter into the holiness of the presence of God by the death of Jesus, who has consecrated a new and living way behind the veil. Through Christ we have full assurance, with sins forgiven, we come to God through what Christ accomplished by coming into the world.

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Hebrews 10:10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

- ✓ Consider the ramifications of volition, attitude to Jesus Christ in the First Christmas. Note how God draws positive volition out of the darkness to love Him. Consider Mary, Joseph, the magi, the Shepherds, Simeon, Anna, you and me. Consider those who were living darkness, in Evil: the religious crowds, the powerful, the inn-keeper (or housekeeper), the fallen angels?
- ✓ We still live in a world today that still has no room for Christ. No room for Truth as such. Is our Christmas Eve more reflective of Heaven's attitude or of kosmos diabolicus? Is Christmas Eve for us a hollow sham or a celebration of the Savior of the world.
- ✓ 'I will be their God and they will be my people' is the grand issue of life. That is why you exist and why He came into the world.