



9 – 15 Dec, 2018

Christmas

‘For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’ Isaiah 9:6

Christmas

- † Christmas is the Incarnation of God, the birth of our Savior Jesus, which words cannot describe
- † The beginning of the salvation of humankind
- † The Lord will never leave us, Immanuel (*Isa 7: 13-14, Luk 1: 46-55*)
- † God, the Word, the Son, has become man (*Joh 1:1-18; 2Pet 1: 16-21*)
- † Justice coming to where injustice once reigned (*Luk 1: 67-79*)
- † Light shining in the dark (*Luk 1: 67-79*)
- † He chose to come as our Savior through Mary, and today, He chose the heart of each one as a place to come in and live with us (*Rev 3:20*)

(Mat 1:18-23; Luk 1: 26-38)

- † The angel Gabriel commanded Mary to give God’s Son the name Jesus, because He will save his people from their sins (*Luk 1:31*)
- † ‘Jesus,’ the Greek form of ‘Joshua,’ means ‘salvation’

Pope John Paul II described Simeon as ‘Open to the Lord’ (*Luk 2:25-35*)

- † Simeon was a just and devout man, filled with the Holy Spirit
- † Pope John Paul II described Simeon as ‘Open to the Lord’
- † His goal was to have a personal encounter with Christ (*Luk 2:26, 29*)
- † He was in the Temple not because he is a priest, but because of His love to the Lord

‘Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many’ Luk 2:34

- † The birth of Christ was joy for the wise men but a reason for fear to Herod (*Mat 2:1-12, 16-18*)
 - The wise men came all the way from Persia to worship Christ, while Herod planned to kill his own Savior and the Giver of Life

- † The opening of the Red Sea and the crossing and the rescue of the Israelites versus the drowning of Pharaoh and his soldiers

Christ's presence changes things radically

- † The 'old self' fell and the 'new creation' started with the Incarnation of Christ and the Redemption that He offered (*Rom 6:11*). Sin was defeated
- † The literal interpretation of the Law fell and life in the Spirit started
- † All the philosophies and paganism fell,
 - *'But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise*
 - *and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty'*
 - *and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are*
 - *that no flesh should glory in His presence (1 Cor 1: 27-29)*
- † A simple manger became a sacred place
- † Poor fishermen became apostles for Christ
- † The Cross changed from shame to glory
- † In brief, *'Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new' (2 Cor 5:17)*

The second coming of Christ

- † Saint Cyril of Jerusalem wrote that we preach not only one Coming of Christ but a second one too, far more glorious than the first
- † In His first Coming, He was wrapped with clothes in a manger. In His second, He will cover Himself with light

Bibliography

1. *NKJV, Know The Word Study Bible, Gain a greater understanding of the Bible book by book, verse by verse, or topic by topic* (copyright Thomas Nelson, 1982) Kindle Edition, 2016
2. *Pope Shenouda III. Contemplation on the Nativity of Our Lord* (Cairo, 1983)
3. *The Catechetical Lectures of St. Cyril of Jerusalem* (Kindle Edition)
4. <https://bible.org/seriespage/7-unity-through-mind-christ>

Legend

 Refers to mandatory readings

Verse to memorize

'And God showed His love for us by sending His only Son into the world, so that we might have life through Him' 1 John 4:9

During the coming week, let us pray expectantly

1. seeking the Lord's will to be done in Lebanon
2. for CrossTalk to find a locale
3. for David, Gisele, Habib and Karim
4. to become more of saints and less of sinners
5. to seek the Lord in every word I say, every act I do and every thought I think
6. to help in building His Kingdom by building His Church on earth
7. to deny ourselves, carry our cross and follow Him
8. to thank Him for creating us and each one around us, on His image and likeness, and choosing us to reveal His splendor
9. to all the sick
10. to all those in prison
11. to the unity of the Christians
12. to one another to be honest and not lack integrity
13. to put all that we have in the Lord's hands trusting His management
14. to all the Christians who are being persecuted, and to those who are persecuting them
15. to all families, that the Lord unites the parents together in His Name and stops all fights
16. to the situation in Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Iraq and the whole region

During this coming week, we will lift the Protestant Church in prayer

الصلاة الربانية
أبانا الذي في السموات
ليَتَقَسَّ اسْمُكَ
ليأت ملكوتك
لكن مشيئتك
كما في السماء
كذلك على الأرض
خُزِنَا كَمَا فَعَلْنَا الْيَوْمَ
وَاعْفُرْ لَنَا ذُنُوبَنَا
كَمَا تَعْفُرُ نَحْنُ أَيْضًا
لِلْمُذْنِبِينَ الْيَوْمَ
وَلَا تُدْخِلْنَا فِي تَجْرِبَةٍ
لَكِنَّ نَجِّنَا مِنَ الشَّرِّ
لَأَنَّ لَكَ الْمَلِكُ وَالْقُوَّةَ وَالْمَجْدَ
إِلَى الْأَبَدِ
أَمِينَ

قانون الايمان
نحن نؤمن بالله واحد
أب قادر على كل شيء
خالق السماء والأرض وكل ما يرى وما لا يرى
وبرب واحد يسوع المسيح، ابن الله الوحيد، المولود من الأب قبل كل الدهور
إله من إله، نور من نور، إله حق من إله حق
مولود غير مخلوق، ذو جوهر واحد مع الأب
هو الذي به كان كل شيء،
الذي من أجلنا نحن البشر ومن أجل خلاصنا نزل من السماء
وتجسد بالروح القدس من مريم العذراء وصار إنسانًا
وصُلب على عهد بيلاطس البنطي
وتألم وقبر وقام أيضًا في اليوم الثالث حسب الكتب
وصعد إلى السماء وهو جالس عن يمين الأب
وسياتي أيضًا بمجد ليدين الأحياء والأموات
الذي ليس ملكه نهاية
ونؤمن بالروح القدس، الرب المحيي
المنبثق من الأب والإبن
المسجود له والمُجَدُّ مع الأب والإبن
الذي تكلم بالأنبياء
ونعتقد بكنيسة واحدة، مقدسة، جامعة، رسولية
ونعترف بمعصية واحدة لمغفرة الخطايا
وننتظر قيامة الموتى وحياة الدهر الآتي
أمين