



"Visions of Christmas"


Jn. 1:14

"The Vision of Glory."

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.

Review

We are down to the last month of a very challenging year. How do we finish strong? For the last few weeks we observed Isaiah's prayer for Israel and how it applies to us in focusing upon the spiritual needs of each of us, and for our country. If we seriously consider that prayer, and implement the principles in our lives, then we will experience spiritual revival in our hearts. To assist us in finishing strong, we must see the "*Visions of Christmas*" that will encourage our hearts during these challenging times.



Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

For the next few weeks we will focus upon "*Visions of Christmas.*" Lord willing, we will consider three different perspectives – the earthly perspective, the heavenly perspective, and the personal perspective. As we focus upon these perspectives, we should have a wonderful vision of Christmas.



This morning we begin with the earthly perspective, the...

"The Vision of Glory."

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.

- Our text begins with the earthly perspective of the true meaning of Christmas – the **INCARNATION** of Christ:



“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us” → Bethlehem and Jesus birth.

“...(and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.” → Beholding the glory of God in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

❖ *“The Vision of Glory”* begins with the Incarnation, viewed first in Bethlehem.

❖ Such a wondrous event began inconspicuously.



I. THE EARTHLY VISION WAS A LIMITED ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 2:8 And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord shone round about them**: and they were sore afraid.

10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.



❖ The earthly perspective of the “Vision of Glory” began on a quiet night in Judea.

A. The Interruption

❖ An interruption that changes our routine may be one that changes our lives!

2 Cor. 5:17 **Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is a new creature***: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.



"If we are not changed by grace, then we are not saved by grace." A.W. Tozer

<https://lifeisworship.com/2018/04/24/christianity-means-a-change-not-just-an-improvement/>

- ❖ A repentant sinner who comes to Christ is eternally changed, and such change will be seen in that person's life!
- ❖ The lowly shepherds who saw the glory of God would forever be changed!

B. The Impressiveness

Luke 2: 9 And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and **the glory of the Lord shone round about them**: and they were sore afraid.

❖ Why was the announcement of the greatest event in history limited to the shepherds?

C. The Identification

Jn. 1:29 The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**

❖ The greatest need in the world, “taking away the sin of the world” could only be accomplished by the “great God and our Savior Jesus Christ.” (Titus 2:13)

D. The Information


Luke 2:10 And the angel said unto them, **Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**

- ❖ The earthly perspective of visions of God's glory is the greatest news for mankind – "...for behold, I bring you **good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.**"
- ❖ The "good tidings of great joy" are available "to all people." – no exclusions!
- ❖ The earthly vision of His glory includes the ascertaining of God's love!

II. THE EARTHLY VISION IS THE LOVE ASCERTAINED

A. The Clarity – “In this was **manifested** the love of God toward us...”

1 Jn. 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.

- ❖ Of all of God's attributes, what greater could mankind see other than God's love!
 - ❖ Life is enjoyed most when lived for the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 

Jn. 10:10b "...I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

B. The Compassion

1 Jn. 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.

❖ God took the initiative in manifesting His love toward us, that we might have a relationship with Him.

1 Jn. 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.



❖ God redeemed mankind from sin's bondage by sending His Son to be the propitiation for our sins:

1 Jn. 2:2 And **he is the propitiation for our sins**; and not for ours only, **but also for *the sins of the whole world***.

2 Cor. 5:21 For **he hath made him *to be sin for us, who knew no sin***; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

❖ The epitome of Christmas is wrapped in what His love means for mankind!

2 Cor. 8:9 For ye know **the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich**.

C. The Confirmation

1 Jn. 4:11 Beloved, if God so loved us, **we ought also to love one another.**

- ❖ Christmastime is a wonderful opportunity to develop an earthly vision of Christ's glory.
- ❖ As we grasp an understanding of God's love for us, we should be motivated in love to one another.



- ❖ Christmas is an outstanding occasion to reach out to others, presenting a genuine representative Christ to all the world via gifts, cards, and deeds of concern for others.
- ❖ By God's grace, let's share "Visions of Christmas" with everyone!



Conclusion

Luke 2:16 And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

17 And **when they had seen it, they made known** abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

18 And all they that heard *it* wondered at those things which were **told them by the shepherds.**

20 And **the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.**

