

# Absolute Truth & Prophecy

Robert Palaszewski

NEWSLETTER

www.ATPMinistry.com

## ZEW'S NEWS REVIEW

December 19, 2010

Issue #323

### A SON IS GIVEN

**“For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given.”** (Isaiah 9:6)

*It seems like this is a time of year in which we always look for meaning. Even the pagan or half-believing world realizes that there is more to life than the materialism that has us in its grip. But just what is that deeper meaning. Here are some 'Christmas' thoughts, then; perhaps from a little different perspective.*

#### More Than A Baby

The story is quintessential romance, what with its poverty and powerlessness and vulnerability and the contrast provided when the Royal King of Heaven comes as a lowly child. **“And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.”** (Luke 2:7) And in just that verse you have all of that; with helplessness and rejection thrown in for good measure. Now, when I was a child, - [besides doing all that 'spaking' like a child stuff] – I often heard the Christmas story, and it was always about the 'Baby Jesus'. It was 'Baby Jesus this' and 'Baby Jesus that'. And somehow, as beautiful as that is, it misses the point of why Jesus came....and why He will [soon] come again. Don't get me wrong. I do not deny the importance of the 'HOW' of Christ's coming. Yes, He DID come as a Baby. Yes, He WAS born of a virgin – and it WAS / IS NECESSARY that that be so. In fact, His birth in that manner was a clear fulfillment of Isaiah 7:14. **“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”** But very often missed in all this is essence of the meaning of this divine act. God has sent His only Son. God has come in the flesh. This is all part of that cosmic – Great Rebellion of angels and men against the Most High God. This takes in the Christ's first coming as - well as His imminent return – as well as our choosing – and our destiny – and the operation of the spirit of antichrist and rebellion in the world – as well as the rise of said Antichrist himself. It is central to the divine drama. The Apostle John spells it out. **“Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”** (1John 4:1-3)

Here is the starting point of this chapter of this cosmic struggle; that Jesus Christ **“has come in the flesh”**, very God of very God; to redeem His own and call out a people to Himself. But who is this promised Messiah, this **“Son... given”**? Matthew ties it all in to the prophecies of the Old Testament for us. **““And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.’ So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: ‘Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,’ which is translated, “God with us.”** (Matthew 1:21-23) Luke 2:11 gives the birth announcement given to the shepherds by the angel hosts. **“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”**

So, He is Messiah, yes, but then who is this Messiah? A careful reading of the Scriptures tell us that this Jesus was both God and man. So how does that work; being first of all God – and then becoming man, your own creature as it were? Philipians

2:6-8 explains that this Jesus **“being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.”** In His humanity He faced – (and here’s the hard part for me to grasp) – every temptation. Think of the worst things we’ve done; think of the lowest vile human being you can think of – (adulterers, Hitler, child molesters, whatever) – He faced that. Yet He remained without sin; perfect, as it were, that he could serve as our High Priest. Here’s what the Scripture says. **“For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”** (Hebrews 4:15) Right in this passage we can see the operation of both the human and the divine. We find Christ’s take on all this in the Gospel of John, as He explains His relationship with the Father. **“I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is righteous, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.”** (John 5:30) **“For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.”** (John 6:38)

Thus we begin to see the humility and submission in which Jesus operates in His relationship with the Father. When the Apostle Philip asked Jesus, **“Lord, show us the Father”**, (John 14:8) Christ began to unfold to him – (and to us by extension) – a bit more of just what that relationship was. **“Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”** (John 14:9-11)

God the Father Himself confirms this. **“I will be to Him a Father, And He shall be to Me a Son.”** (Hebrews 1:5) Psalm 89:27 declares both His office and relationship with the Father. **“Also I will make him My firstborn, The highest of the kings of the earth.”** [And don’t be fooled by that term **“firstborn”**. In the original language it denotes not a place in the birth order – but a place of privilege to inherit all that belongs to the Father.] And this brings us back to the cosmic struggle between fallen angels and man, on the one hand, and God on the other. Jesus – The Christ – is God’s answer to rebellion. He was promised by the prophets, not only to bring peace – but also to bring victory and judgment. That’s an essential part of the Christmas story. Here’s Isaiah 61:1-3, a passage that was quoted by Jesus about Himself – (except for the last phrase) – as He taught in the synagogue. **“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,”** – [all that began at the first coming and will continue right through – but then Isaiah finished the verse] – **“and the day of vengeance of our God.”**

You see, even prophecies of Christ’s first coming are intertwined with those of His return and the struggle and ultimate victory of our God. The famous passage of Daniel 9:25-27 gave the exact timing of His first coming, down to the day, as a matter of fact. **“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks.”** (Daniel 9:25) And so it was, 483 years from that command - recorded in history – and Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. That is why there were many that were waiting for Messiah, looking for Him at the time that He appeared. But that passage in Daniel goes on to reference His death, the rebellion and judgment of the Antichrist. All that too, is tied up in the story of Christmas.

You see His ultimate victory is an essential part of the promise. The words of Isaiah, so often quoted at Christmas time, speak to the full scope of the significance of His coming. **“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. Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”** And that term, **“Everlasting Father”**, literally means ‘Father of

Eternity'. What a promise we have. This Jesus of ours is promising that He will be our Father forever, always caring for us, always counseling us, always guiding us

The writer of Hebrews gives us a picture of just who this Messiah is. He is much more than "Baby Jesus". He is Divinity Incarnate. **"God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power."** (Hebrews 1:1-3)

John opens his Gospel with this simple yet soaring declaration. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the word was God."** He's talking about Jesus there, as God's word that brought all of creation into being (See Genesis 1:3) His use of the term **"Word"** combined those thoughts with the vocabulary of Greek philosophy the principal of divine reason, or the mind of God. He goes on to write: **"He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made."** (John 1:1-3)

Paul gives us a beautiful passage in Colossians that carries it forward from there.. It is one of my favorites in all of Scripture. **"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross."** (Colossians 1:15-20) There you have it: From creation, through His sustaining power, to our reconciliation and His ultimate triumph. This, then is the God that we worship; the God-given Christ-sacrifice for our sin. Wrapped in these verses is the essence of the Nativity; the Power of God; the TRUTH. That is the 'Baby Jesus' of my childhood.

And John, in his gospel, gives us the purpose of His coming. It begins; with the haunting words of His rejection...by mankind – by His own Jewish people. It concludes with an implied invitation to receive Him, in the process becoming a child of God. **"He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."** (John 1:10-13) Just as He became *of man* – we must become **"of God"**. Christmas represents the beginning of God's part in the divine transaction. It was completed on the Cross. That transaction requires something of us. It requires repentance. It requires us to be **"born again"** or **"born from above"** of **"water and the Spirit"**. (John 3:3, 5) It requires a belief in the Son, Jesus, that is much more than an intellectual nod to His place. It requires surrender of our allegiance to self interest; replacing it with the total giving over of ourselves to the interests of the God of the Universe.

But to affect this transaction God gave ALL. He gave Himself. In this season we celebrate God's part in the deal. In the end however, - (the doctrine of predestination notwithstanding) – the choice is ours – (and God's). So choose we must! Choose wisely! **"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."** (John 3:16-18)

# SHORT TAKES

## THE MEANING OF WIKILEAKS

Just some thoughts on this. You'll have to get your news about it elsewhere. Julian Assange, the founder of Wikileaks has begun a firestorm that seems to be leading to chaos. In the summer of 2010, according to the Times of London, Wikileaks published the names and even GPS coordinates of Afghans who were working with the Americans. Of course, that opened up these informants to a virtual death sentence from the Taliban, who are also capable of reading. Assange's defense: Those cooperating with America were "acting in a criminal way". Yes, he would "deeply regret" any harm that may come to "innocents", but in the end it is worth the risk.<sup>1</sup> [*Of course it might be noted here that none of that risk was to him.*] His latest foray has included revelations that incriminated governments and statesman. Very much of it was not new – though some was. And it was all done, in the name of freedom. He was arrested in Britain on some sex charges in Sweden – very likely trumped up to some degree. There are not heroes in this story. The governments hurt by the leaks are very often in the wrong about specific events. Wikileaks is revealing a level of corruption that while suspected, can now be confirmed. Assange himself, is revealing state secrets and is in the mind of some US lawmakers, liable under the espionage act. Is this a matter of freedom of the press? Or is this an attempt at creating chaos? I believe it is the latter. Assange is supported by Left Wing money as he supports Left Wing / anti-war / anti-government causes. Though in many cases he is uncovering horrible actions on the part of the PTB.<sup>2</sup> No matter how this plays out – the whole affair is causing more distrust of the government – of the system. And that can only be good for the revolution. Don't fool yourself, chaos is what many have in mind. In fact, in the days following the onset of the latest revelations, a loosely based "hacktivist" organized itself called Anonymous. The group of young computer hackers launched cyber attacks against any enemy that engaged in censorship against Wikileaks. This included Visa, Paypal, Master Card, the Swedish government – (where sex crime charges have been filed against Assange) - and the Swiss bank Post Finance, among others. Anonymous' spokesman calling himself 'Coldblood' explained that the loosely organized group wished to be a "force for chaotic good."<sup>3 4</sup> The Left wants chaos for their revolution. But they in turn are being used by the PTB to create chaos for the purposes of the PTB. So Assange, seems both a perpetrator and a tool. And no matter how it's played, the New World Order advances.

## RECOGNITION

The momentum for the creation of a Palestinian State is growing. PA Chairman Mahmoud Abbas is waging a campaign with both national governments and the US to secure recognition a "unilaterally-declared" Palestine. And now its getting some traction. Brazil has already 'recognized' Palestine under the Palestinian Authority as a "new country". Argentina has announced its intentions to do the same. Uruguay has intentions of following next year. And Bolivia and Ecuador are expected to soon follow suit.<sup>5</sup> That's in a way ironic, because a recent poll documented how 58% of Israeli Arabs "don't want to be part of a Palestinian state."<sup>6</sup> Here's Isaiah regarding the establishment of a future Palestine: **"They shall call its nobles to the kingdom, But none shall be there, and all its princes shall be nothing."** (Isaiah 34:12)

## KOREAN THREATS

American intelligence has discovered that North Korea is fast developing nuclear torpedoes and mines. The mines "are technologically at a state of completion" and the torpedoes should be ready by 2012. The underwater weapons would make up for the North's high technology gap with the US.<sup>7</sup> It was just on November 23<sup>rd</sup> that North Korea used their artillery to shell a South Korean island, resulting in both military and civilian deaths. Earlier this year they sank a submarine ending the lives of 45 South Korean sailors. With South Korean and American forces about to take part in their joint, annual, live-fire training drills, the North chose to warn of an impending nuclear war...again. They said that such cooperation with the US could bring such a nuclear conflagration to the region.<sup>8</sup>

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Publication of Afghan informant details worth the risk: WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange, The Australian, July 29, 2010
  - <sup>2</sup> O'Brien: Why we should applaud Wikileaks, Mercury News, December 3, 2010
  - <sup>3</sup> Wikileaks, The Guardian (UK), December 10, 2010
  - <sup>4</sup> Army of hackers..., London Daily Mail, December 9, 2010
  - <sup>5</sup> Unilateral Declaration of a PA State..., Arutz Sheva, December 9, 2010
  - <sup>6</sup> Poll: Israel's Arabs..., YNet News, December 9, 2010
  - <sup>7</sup> US alarmed by report..., Washington Times, December 8, 2010
  - <sup>8</sup> NKorea Threatens SKorea With Nuclear War, Newsmax, December 13, 2010