



"The Del-Haven Vision"

"Without vision, the people perish" (Proverbs 29:18)

Newsletter of Camp Del-Haven

Turning Kids from Crime to Christ

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"Known to God from eternity are all His works." Acts 15:18

"But you, Bethlehem, Ephrathah. Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2

These two texts of scripture convey a similar understanding. Both refer to the eternal purpose of Almighty God. The verse from Acts 15 tells us that all of God's works are ordered from eternity, and the particular prophetic statement from Micah tells us specifically that the birth of our Lord as well as all of His goings forth are literally from the days of eternity.

Bethlehem is called, Ephrathah, which means in Hebrew "to be fruitful". Historically, the seemingly insignificant Bethlehem includes its being the burial place of Rachel, the beloved of Jacob (Gen. 35:19), as well as, the birthplace of Jesse, the father of David (1Sam. 17:12). Another interesting fact is seen earlier from Ruth 1:1 in that Ruth's father-in-law was from Bethlehem. Ruth the Moabitess, you may recall, became the wife of Boaz and the mother of Obed who was the father of Jesse, whom we just mentioned. These notable figures are found to be in the genetic line of the earthly parents of Jesus. Nevertheless, and most obvious, the real fruitfulness of Bethlehem is mainly seen in that it is the birthplace of the Lord Jesus, the Christ.

Bethlehem, the name, means "house of bread". How fitting it is, therefore, that He who was to become for us the Bread of Life should be born there. This was indeed the eternal purpose and plan of God. This also substantiates very solidly the fact that Jesus is truly the eternal Son of God. Praise His Name!

His "goings forth from of old, from everlasting" point to His going forth in the way of saving grace and in the way of the Father's everlasting love for all those whom He draws to Jesus for Him to be their Savior (Jn.6:44). Pr.8:23 has the one who is divine wisdom personified declaring, "I have been established from everlasting, from the beginning, before there was ever an earth." And, then He says from vs.31, "and my delight was with the sons of men." O the unfathomable magnitude of the eternal truth that Christ our God was born in Bethlehem because He asked the heavenly Father for us -- applied His righteousness to our account for us -- from all eternity. Indeed, He intended to become for us our everlasting Surety. And, no sin or evil or devil or any sort of darkness could possibly ever prevent Him from accomplishing this wonderful goal. He, the elect and precious of God is the very head of all the elect from among mankind. He came into the world to become unto us all the heavenly blessings and promises of His grace so as to save our very souls.

"His name shall endure forever; His name shall continue as long as the sun, and men shall be blessed in Him. All nations shall call Him blessed." Ps.72:17

For Christ's glory only!
A. Carpenter

Merry Christmas

First of all, dear ones, all of us from here at Del-Haven hope and pray that you all have a wonderful Christmas. Whatever the world has made of this time of year, or even though there is much historical error that has for centuries been imposed on this time of year as being when our Savior was born, let's make sure that we do not let all of this deter us from humbly meditating upon, and greatly rejoicing in, the fact of our Lord's incarnation. The apostle Paul did not mention a specific date. He was inspired to say only this, "*But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His son, born of a woman, born under the law...that we might receive the adoption as Sons.*" Indeed, this truth makes for a merry Christmas every day of the year -- does it not? Let the world continue to cavil and debate all the religious issues around Christmas all they want...they still cannot take from us the truth that because the Christ, the eternal Son of God, was born, we, too, can be called sons and heirs of God through Him. So, therefore, have a very Merry Christmas worshipping Him in Spirit and in Truth!

Prayer Requests

We have had a truly blessed 2005 in ministering the gospel of the glory of Jesus Christ to children. We are so thankful to the Lord for all of you and all of your prayers and faithful support. We love you and do pray for the Lord's continual meeting of your needs as well.

Please try to especially remember in prayer the children at this time of year where their circumstances can be a real source of discouragement. Prayer is a huge part of evangelism. The Lord has ordained it to be that way.

By the way, thanks for praying with us for Kimberly. The Lord is bearing a real testimony for His glory where she is concerned. Praise the Name of Jesus!