**R882 (84) Rumination for December 19, 2021**

The **T**heme: **The Man** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com/)

The **T**ext: *Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe.*

 *And Pilate saith unto them,* ***Behold the man****!* Jn. 19:5

The **T**hots:

1. **Behold the man! Jn. 19:5**
2. To the Triune God, Adam was the man who became like god. Ct. Gen 3:22a

***Behold, the man*** *is become as one of Us, to know good and evil:*

 For his safety, he was driven out of the Garden of Eden…

 *lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.* Gen 3:22b, 23

1. To Pilate, Jesus was a Man and no god – a*nd Pilate saith unto them,* ***Behold the man****!* Jn. 19:5, 6
2. But Jesus was God Who became Man:
	1. *God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.* II Cor. 5:19
	2. He was God Who became Man. Phil. 2:6-8

 *Who, being in the form of God… was made in the likeness of men:*

*And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death.*

* 1. He was the Branch who was Man – ***Behold******the man*** *whose name is The BRANCH* Zech. 6:12

**But more – the Lord is…**

1. **a man of war –** *The LORD is a man of war: the LORD is His name.* **Exo. 15:3**

The Lord became a Man and He is at War with…

1. His Enemy who is the **S**eed of the **S**erpent. Gen. 3:15

 *I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed;*

1. His Enemy who is **S**atan, the Devil – *The enemy that sowed them is the devil...* Mt. 13:39
2. His Enemy who is the **S**inful World. Jas. 4:4

*Know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God*

*whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.*

1. His Enemy who is **S**elf – *The flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh*: Gal. 5:17
2. His last Enemy who is Death – *The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.* I Cor. 15:26

 And He will **S**ecure Victory over all:

* 1. *O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?*

 *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.* Rom. 7:24, 25

* 1. *Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? ...*

 *But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.* I Cor. 15:54-57

1. **A Man of Sorrows –** *He is…a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief.* **Isa. 53:3**

To **W**in the above **W**ar, He became Man and was the *Man of sorrows* bearing the penalty for Man.

1. Man was the **C**ause of all the sorrows. Cf. Gen. 3:16, 17

*Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception;*

 *in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children;*

*Unto Adam He said... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life*

1. Jesus **C**ame to be the Man bearing Man’s Sorrows.
2. *He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief:* Isa. 53:3
3. *Behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow, which is done unto me.*  Lam. 1:12
4. *Then saith He unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death.* Matt. 26:38
5. Jesus is now **C**rowned with Glory having suffered Man’s penalty of death. Heb. 2:9

*We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death,*

 *crowned with glory and honour; that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

1. **The Man of Glory Mt. 25:31**
	1. Jesus is now **C**rowned in **G**lory and Honour. Heb. 2:9
	2. Soon He shall **C**ome with **G**reat **G**lory. Mt. 24:30

 *They shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.*

* 1. Then shall He **C**ontinue on the throne of His glory. Mt. 25:31

 *When the Son of man shall come in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him,*

 *then shall He sit upon the throne of His glory:*

Jesus was our Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with **G**rief on earth;

But now He is our Man in Heaven, crowned with **G**lory on His throne.

As we Remember Him thus, let us …

*Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne*:

Hark! How the heav’nly anthem drowns All music but its own!

Awake, my soul, and sing Of Him who died for thee,

 And hail Him as thy matchless King Thru all eternity. Matthew Bridges

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK. R. 882**

1. Less than a week more, the world will celebrate Christmas. It will be exceptional, if all over in shopping malls and super-super stores, scenes of His nativity are displayed with the infant Jesus, as a Babe or an Infant cradled in a manger or cuddled in His mother’s arms. Oh, this would probably be true in years past. But not likely now! Why? REFLECT!

Today, the scene has changed. Scenes of Jesus’ Nativity in dioramas and decorations would have disappeared to be replaced by Santa Claus seated in a sledge pulled by his fleet of reindeer. Manger scenes have given place to snowy white landscapes with snowflakes falling from the sky.

It is also possible that in many church gatherings, the Nativity scene so commonly depicted in previous years would also have almost disappeared as well.

Is it strange therefore that long after the celebration of Christmas is over, the imaged etched in the memory of many a child is that of Santa Claus and none of the Child Jesus that has given the season its name?

Tragically many so-called Christian parents have contributed to this state of affairs.

They fall in with the traditions of Claus-mas giving and fail to teach their children the reason for the season that Jesus Christ was born to give his life to save us from our sins…

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

(Lk. 2:11)

He was the *Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief…he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted…he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed*. (Isa. 53:3-5)

Usurping the original image of this innocent scene of the mother and the Christ-child is the more captivating scene of Santa Claus and his reindeer bringing gifts. This picture is impregnated in the minds of innocent children who will grow up associating Christmas with Santa Claus and the many reinforcements of his image.

Unfortunately, this also happens to be the presented picture in many churches today.

The Christ of Christmas has been replaced by the Claus of Christmas!

Do you know the significance of CHRISTmas as you celebrate the occasion today?

Or is it going to be X-mas or “Claus-mas”?

How would you and your Children remember Christmas? **REFLECT**.

1. Jesus was the Man to fulfil God’s Plans. (See Rumination above).

From before the foundation of the world He was already foreordained to carry out this Mission to save Man – (I Pet. 1:18-20, HCSB)

*For you know that you were redeemed from your empty way of life inherited from the fathers, not with perishable things like silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was chosen before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the times for you.*

Do you know Him as this very personal Saviour this Christmas season? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:**

*How do your* ***C****hildren* ***C****elebrate “\_****‘MAS****“, with a* ***C****ross (****X****)-,* ***C****lause- or* ***C****HRIST-?*