**R883 (96) Rumination for Dec. 26, 2021 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: ***Unto Us* and *Unto You*** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: *For* ***unto us*** *a child is born,* ***unto us*** *a son is given:* Isa. 9:6

 *For* ***unto you*** *is born this day…a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.* Lk. 2:11

The **T**hots: Yesterday was Christmas Day. It is not too late to remind ourselves of what it should be.

 It was a message…

1. ***Unto Us* – i.e., Unto Israel. Isa. 9:6**
2. ***Unto Us*** a ***Son*** is given. **Isa. 9:6b; 7:14**
* God’s **I**nvitation to Ahaz: *Ask thee a sign of the LORD thy God…*  7:11
* Ahaz’s **I**mmodesty (?): *I will not ask, neither will I tempt the LORD.*  7:12
* Isaiah’s **I**nsistence: *Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?*

 *Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign.*  7:13, 14

1. Historically, the Virgin’s **S**on would be God’s **M**aterial **S**ign to Ahaz: 7:11-13

 *The Lord …shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a* ***son****.*

* 1. A virgin (later married) to **C**onceive and bear a son, whose name would be “Immanuel” = *God with us.*
	2. He would be raised at a time of **C**alamity to eat *butter and honey* – 7:15 cf. 7:21-25

 In the coming **A**ssyrian **A**ggression, there would be an **A**bundance of *butter and honey* to eat because …

* + - A cow and two sheep **A**live (with animals dying and without their young to nourish) would be sufficient to produce an **A**bundance of milk to feed **A**ll left behind; 7:21, 22
		- The soldier-*flies* from Egypt and the soldier-*bees* from **A**ssyria would **A**ttack the land; 7:18, 19
		- The **F**ields and the hills would be **F**amished – instead of vines, *briers and thorns*; 7:23, 24
		- The **v**alleys would be devasta**ted**, and **C**ultiva**ted** lands trampled by wild **C**attle and sheep. 7:25

* 1. However, while the **C**hild was still young, the attack against Ahaz would be broken 7:16

 Historically fulfilled in 732B.C. when Tiglath-Pileser III destroyed Damascus –

 All because God would still be among His people in spite of their rebellion:

 ***Emanuel, God with us! –*** The **S**ign of the **S**on given to Ahaz!

1. Prophetically, the **S**ign was fulfilled in **M**ary’s **S**on. Mt. 1:22, 23
	1. Mary was the **I**mmaculate virgin. Matt. 1:18-20
	2. Jesus was born to go through a time of **I**nexorable calamity. Lk. 2:34, NIV

 *This Child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign.*

* 1. However, Jesus was ***Immanuel***, *God with us*. He would be His people’s Saviour. Mt. 1:21
1. Eschatologically, the final fulfilment will be in the **M**illennial Kingdom. Isa. 9:6, 7, NIV

 *The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.* *For* ***unto us*** *a Child is born****, unto us*** *a Son is given:*

* 1. *The* *government will be on his shoulders…the increase of his government and peace there will be no end*
	2. *He* *will reign on David's throne and over His kingdom, establishing*

 *and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.*

* 1. He *will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*
1. ***Unto Us*** a ***Child*** is born. **Isa. 9:6a**
2. Before his **F**ulfilled time, He would be a Child **A**ppointed but without **A**uthority as yet. Gal. 4:1

 *That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all;*

 *But is under tutors and governors until the time appointed of the father*

1. But in the **F**ulness of time, the promised Child would be the Son born of a woman. Gal. 4:4

 *But when the fulness of the time was come…*

* 1. *God sent forth His Son, made of a woman* – He would be God’s **R**egal **S**on.
	2. *To redeem them that were under the law*– He would be the **R**edeemer from **S**in
	3. *That we might receive the adoption of sons –* For us to receive the full **R**ights of **S**ons. Gal. 4:4, NIV
1. ***Unto You* – i.e. Unto All Jews and Gentiles (unto all of Us!) Lk. 2:10, 11**

 *For* ***unto you*** *is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.* 2:11

* + 1. The Proclama**tion**: *Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people*.
		2. The Confirma**tion**: *And this shall be a sign unto you;*

 *Ye shall find the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.*

* + 1. The Jubila**tion**: *And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God,*

 *and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.*

Con: As we **R**emember Him this Special Lord’s Day, let us **R**ejoice that He was born for our **R**edemption.

*Silent night, holy night Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;*

 *Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*  [Josef Mohr](http://www.cyberhymnal.org/bio/m/o/h/mohr_j.htm)

**Reflections for the Week R. 883**

* + - 1. Christmas is that time of the year when the commercial world exploits it to its hilt. There is nothing they would not use, if it is to their advantage. For the others, it is a time of merry-making and taking the family out for a great holiday.

However, in some countries today, the religious authorities rule that Christmas is somewhat associated with Christianity and rule that the celebration of Christmas is therefore illegal. Brunei is one instance. Below is a note taken from Wikipedia:

**Where in the World Is Christmas officially banned?**

*The public celebration of Christmas has been banned in the tiny oil-rich Islamic state of Brunei since 2015, with anyone found violating the law facing up to five years in jail or a fine of US $20,000, or both.*

[*https://www.google.com/search?q=brunei+christmas+ban&rlz=1C1CHBF\_enMY876MY876&oq=brunei+and+Christmas&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0i22i30l3j0i390.21505j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Where%20in%20the,20%2C000%2C%20or%20both*](https://www.google.com/search?q=brunei+christmas+ban&rlz=1C1CHBF_enMY876MY876&oq=brunei+and+Christmas&aqs=chrome.2.69i57j0i22i30l3j0i390.21505j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8#:~:text=Where%20in%20the,20%2C000%2C%20or%20both).

Today the Celebration of Christmas is almost Completely Commercialised in many Countries and all Connections with the Birth of the Baby Jesus would be obliterated to give it a secular air to the whole Celebration. Yesterday was no exception!

In place of the nativity scene which was a common sight in many window-displays in years past, we now have pure-white landscapes of snow flakes and Santa Claus riding on a sledge pulled by his team of reindeer to bring toys and gifts to innocent children who drink in this joyful scene very merrily taken up with the folklore of Santa Claus rather than then the true joy of CHRISTmas that His birth brought into this world –Luke 2:11-14 (NKJV)

*For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*

*And this will be the sign to you:*

*You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger.”*

*And suddenly there was with the angel*

*a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:*

*“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”*

*Joy to the world; the Lord is come; Let earth receive her king:*

*Let every heart prepare Him room, And Heaven and nature sing,*

*And Heaven and nature sing, And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns; Let men their songs employ;*

*While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains*

*Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,*

 *Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.* Isaac Watts

How did you bring back the true meaning of Christmas as you celebrated it with your family members yesterday? What did you do and say to your children to ensure that they knew the true meaning and significance of the biblical Christmas? Or did you? **REFLECT**

**2**. Some Christians associate Christmas with a pagan origin and would have nothing to do with it – not even holding a Christmas service in church. How did you look at Christmas from the Christian point of view? **REFLECT**

**Points To Ponder:** *X-mas, Claus-mas, Christmas or CHRIST-mas, it is what you make it to be!*