**R935 (44a, 620) Rumination for Dec. 25, 2022**

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

The **T**ext: *And this shall be* ***a sign unto you****;*

 *Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.* Lk. 2:12

The **T**hots:

**This Repeated Rumination was posted in 2005 when Christmas Day also fell on the Lord’s Day!**

**C**hristmas Day, purportedly to **C**elebrate the Lord’s Birth, **C**oincides with the **C**ommemoration of His Death

this Lord’s Day. As we **R**ememberHimWho died to **R**edeem us from our sins in the **B**reaking of the **B**read

and Drinking of the Cup, let us **R**emind ourselves too of His **B**irth this special day, even as we **R**emember Him

in His Death. Yes, let us fall down and **R**evere Him as His **M**ajesty the King, as did the **M**agi.

*…They saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.* Matt. 2:11, NKJV

Thus, today’s **R**umination seeks to connect the **R**eminder of His birth to the **R**emembrance of His death

 and **R**esurrection leading to our **R**everence of Him.

1. ***This shall be* a** **Sign unto you**
2. **A Sign was given unto the Dynasty (*House*) of David – Isa. 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.*

1. **A Sign was given to the Simple Shepherds: Lk. 2:12**

*And this shall be* ***a sign*** *unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger*

1. **A Sign was given to the Magi – a Star led them to the Child and they Rejoiced. Mt. 2:2.9, 10**

 *We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him.*

*Lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over*

*where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.*

1. **Two Signs are Delivered Unto Us to Commemorate His Death. I Cor. 11:23, 26**

 *For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered* ***unto you****…*

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till He come.*

1. ***Ye shall find the babe*****wrapped in Swaddling clothes…**
2. As a **B**abe, the Lord was wrapped in swaddling clothes. Lk. 2:12

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

1. At His **B**urial, the Lord was wrapped in linen clothes. Lk. 23:52, 53; Jn. 20:6, 7

 *This man went unto Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus, and he took it down, and* ***wrapped it in linen****.*

*Then cometh Simon Peter…and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie, and the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but* ***wrapped*** *together in a place by itself.*

The Lord was **B**orn **wrapped in swaddling clothes**…

But was later **B**uried in His death **wrapped in linen clothes!**

1. ***…Lying in a Manger***
2. At His **B**irth, the Lord **L**ay in a Manger.

 *Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.* Lk. 2:12

1. At His **B**urial, Joseph **L**aid Him in a Sepulchre.

*And he bought fine linen, and took Him down, and wrapped Him in the linen, and laid Him in a sepulchre.*

1. Today, **B**elievers rejoice for the Sepulchre is Empty – The **L**ord **L**ives!

*He is not here: for He is risen, as He said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.* Matt. 28:6

* 1. He is no more in the **T**omb – let us **R**ejoice.

 *And they departed quickly from the sepulchre with fear and great joy.* Matt. 26:8

* 1. He has **T**riumphed over death and the grave – He is **R**isen! I Cor. 15:55

 *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*

* 1. And He is present at our **T**able now – let us **R**emember and **R**evere Him this special day. I Cor. 11:24f

 *Take, eat: this is My body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of Me.*

 *This cup is the new testament in My blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me.*

*Who is He in yonder stall, at whose feet the shepherds fall?*

*Who is He on yonder tree dies in grief and agony?*

*Who is He Who from the grave comes to succour, help and save?*

*Who is He Who comes from His throne rules through all the worlds alone?*

***‘Tis the Lord! O wondrous story! ‘Tis the Lord, the King of Glory!***

***At His feet we humbly fall – crown Him! Crown Him, Lord of all.***

 B. R. Hanby

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 935**

1. It is ironical that the two most important events (apart from the Resurrection of Jesus) in Christianity are not dated in Scripture. Various attempts have been made and by various modes to pinpoint the year, month and date of the Birth of Jesus and His Death.

Consequently various mythical legends and church traditions have arisen to be associated with these two most important events in the life of Jesus.

For instance, Christmas is commonly associated with the birth of Jesus and dated 25th December when there is not even an iota of truth in it. Also our Julian/Gregorian calendar is divided into two major epochs **BC** to stand for **B**efore **C**hrist and **AD** to stand for **A**nno **D**omini (in the year of our Lord) or as some would even claim it to mean “**A**fter the **D**eath” of Jesus. His birth and coming into this world would then separate these two divisions of time in our calendar!

Today scholars estimate the date of birth of Jesus as between 6 and 4 BC and His crucifixion and death to occur between AD30 and AD36. Thus, we cannot be sure when these two events actually took place and scripture does not date them too except to state clearly and categorically that these two evens **did** occur, as…

**Luke 2:10-12 (NKJV)**
*10 Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. 11* ***For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.*** *12 And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."*

**1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)**
*3 For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received:* ***that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures…***

What then should our attitude be towards these scripturally-attested to and historical events?

**Matthew 2:11 (NKJV)**
*11 And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.*

Whatever day we choose, let us remember that Jesus was born to die in order to save us from our sins; and He rose again from the dead to live in us to be Lord over our lives to lead us on until He comes again to take us back to be with Him in Heaven to be with Him forevermore.

Let this Christmas-cum-Lord’s Day be a special day for us to remember that He was born to die that we might live for Him on this earth and with Him in Heaven eventually and eternally. **REFLECT**.

1. Christmas Day is **NOT** the Birthday of the Lord Jesus. CHRIST has been X-ed (Crossed out) in its celebration and in its place a Sinner was named a “*Saint*” to play the role of “*Santa* Clause” to take the place of the CHRIST. While we remember that there was one day when Jesus was born to die for our salvation, let us not be drawn into the celebration of Santa Claus with Christ completely crossed out of our mind. Let us be sure that our children not be caught up with celebrating Christmas without the CHRIST!

This is the responsibility of Christian parents towards their children. Do your children and grandchildren understand the whole concept and celebration of Christmas? **REFLECT.**

**Points to Ponder: *Are your Children more familiar with the CHRIST of Christmas or with the CLAUS of Santa? Or with the Tree on which Christ died or the Tree on which are hung Candles and Candies?***

My wife and I take this opportunity to wish all…

***A BLESSED CHRISTMAS and***

***A BOUNTIFUL NEW YEAR***