

GOODNEWS LETTER
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**A SAVIOR
(And His Work)**

**"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel," Isaiah 7:14.
"Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name, Immanuel, Matthew 1:23.**

So there we have it, prophecy that became reality! That's called fulfillment.

And, what we have to understand about messages of prophetic writings, is that they are a declaration from God! Without God speaking, man will always be in the dark; for, the Bible presents truth which cannot be known by natural means.

Thus, what would man do without the Word of God, the written word or, **"...the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us;"** as recorded in John 1:14?

Isaiah's prophecy and Matthew's recorded fulfillment, will not arrive to where man lives until he sits back and ponders just how great the Person of Jesus is - what Jesus did on his behalf. However, after much thought about eternity, every honest man falls down and confesses, ***"Forgive me Lord, for I have sinned."***

The Bible states that man sins because of the "Fallen" creation he was born in (under). Thus, being of a dead (dying) world, we don't read God's declarative words as we ought. Further, after reading them, we either forget what was said or consciously ignore what is written. We are fine, we think!

But, God is a patient and loving Father, always extending His salvation to man. Through missionaries and churches proclaiming God's prophetic fulfillment of the Savior's birth, there is hope; and, to the believing ones, hope!

And, when man trusts Jesus and is saved, the Bible declares that we no longer should read God's word with a thought of something to do. We learn early that day-keeping, washing ourselves or, other physical adornments of the flesh has no spiritual meaning to God.

Rather, we learn to read the Book and understand that everything is in Jesus - in Him alone. We learn that Jesus **"...is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have pre-eminence," Col. 1:18.**

Paul's letter to the Colossians presents Jesus, the Christ, as the only and final hope for man. Colossians 1:16 states, **"For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him:"**

Further, Colossians 2:10 declares that Jesus is sufficient. **"And ye are complete in Him, which is the head of all principality and power:"**

And, Colossians 2:15 (NASB) declares why we are complete in His accomplishments. "When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him."

THEREFORE, Colossians 3:16-23 teaches, (based upon what was previously declared), that: 1). *'Food or drink, festival, new moon and holy days are mere shadows of what was to come. But, they defraud us our prize'* (V16-17).

2). That, *'Fleshly works puffs up the mind. Angelic claims and visions seen will sever us from the Head which is from God'* (V18-19).

3). Paul continues that we must look to Jesus, alone; for, we *'have died and those elementary principles of tasting, handling and touching are done away'* (V20-21).

4). That, *'men's teaching only appear to be wisdom. They are self-made and will perish. There is no value (to God) in body abasement or treating it severely. Such practice is merely fleshly indulgence'* (V22-23).

At this time of the year, while we focus on the birth of Jesus, let us understand that this baby grew into the only man that is called our Savior. And, look at what the Savior did ..."**for, He shall save His people from their sins,**" Matthew 1:21.