

### “Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him”

Self-driving cars in San Francisco encountered a colossal problem recently. A widespread power outage in that city rendered self-driven cars useless. Without the availability of functional traffic lights the cars were dumbfounded, unable to make decisions, came to a standstill, clogged intersections, and rendered many important roads in the city impassable. Towing off the unusable cars, restoring power, and reopening the roads was described by city officials as a significant and extensive undertaking.

Created as they were in God’s image and with a spiritual inclination to worship God, Adam and Eve soon made the life-changing decision to become “self-driving” - to worship themselves and to render obedience and faithfulness only to their own desires. This tragic and self-created separation from the Lord’s grace and power rendered Adam and Eve hopeless. With the image of God lost they could only pass on to subsequent generations their own fallen image and self-driven instincts of eternal destruction.

The Lord promised to undertake and to accomplish the massive work of restoring people to Himself: “The Lord said to the devil, ‘I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.’” (Genesis 3) Instead of being self-driven, the Lord was wholeheartedly salvation-driven.

The One appointed for the work of salvation was Jesus. This promised Redeemer would carry such divine titles as Wisdom (our Teacher), Root of Jesse (God’s Banner over His people), Key of David (Rescuer of the prisoners), Dayspring (splendor of Light everlasting), King of the Nations (the Ruler for Whom His people long), and Emmanuel (God with us).

The promised Savior came at Bethlehem: “Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.’” (Luke 2)

Immediately this news was broadcast throughout the region and beyond. God’s salvation-driven love could not be contained. This was the Epiphany of Our Lord - the continuing echo of the angels’ joyful words “peace, good will.”

Through His salvation-driven love and life-giving sacrifice for us the promised Messiah restores us to God, blesses us with His eternal gifts, and empowers us for joyful service in His Kingdom in this new year. “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28)

“Oh, come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Oh, come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”

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