

Thesis: **God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

## INTRODUCTION

Share some of this year's favorite Christmas cards . . .

If you received a card postmarked "Heaven," what would it say?

**God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

He did not send a card; He sent His one and only Son!

He cared enough to send His very best!

If God sent you a Christmas card, what would be the message?

Read John 3:16.

**God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

What does His message say?

## I. I AM!

Expl. *For God . . .*

The bible does not argue or debate God; it assumes and declares God!

The message of God's word is clear and consistent: **God is!**

Illus. Moses and the burning bush: God said, *I Am!*

Expl. God is the author of two books: The Bible and Nature!

Both reveal that God is real! (*My God is Real* by Kenneth Morris)

Appl. That is a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!

When you are hurting, God says *I am your help!*

When you are anxious, God says *I am your peace!*

When you are blessed, God says *I am your provider!*

When the enemy attacks, God says *I am your shield!*

The coming of the Christ-Child affirms the truth: God is!

**God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

What is the message in His Christmas card?

***I AM!***

Not only would a card from Heaven say *I Am*, it would have another message:

## II. I LOVE YOU!

Expl. *For God so loved the world . . .*

I am sure God does love His creation (*It is very good!*)

He does not speak here of sky and sea, He speaks of you and me!

God speaks through the incarnation to say: *I love you!*

Appl. *I love you, Hosea! I love you, Samantha! I love you, Hunter! I love you, Robert! I love you, and you, and you, and you!*

Expl. *I love you* enough come down to a virgin's womb and a cattle stall.

*I love you* enough to die on the cross for your sins!

*I love you* even if you reject me!

*I love you* even if you take my Name in vain!

*I love you* this much!

Illus. If God had a refrigerator, your picture would be on it.

If He had a wallet, your photo would be in it.

He sends you flowers every spring and a sunrise every morning.

Whenever you want to talk, He'll listen.

He could live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart.

What about the Christmas gift He sent you in Bethlehem; not to mention that Friday at Calvary! Face It, **He's Crazy About You!!!**

(E-mail from Laura Fogle/June/2001)

Appl. **God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

What is the message in His Christmas card?

**I love you!**

Let me suggest a third message from Heaven in our Christmas card:

## III. I AM WITH YOU!

Expl. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son . . .*

How did He give us love? By sending His Son to this world!

Before the crucifixion there had to be an incarnation!

*The Word became flesh and dwelt among us* (John 1:14).

*"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"* which is translated, "God with us."

(Matthew 1:23; cf. Isaiah 7:14)) NKJV

What a lovely Name: Immanuel!

It could be argued that this is God's greatest miracle!

Surely John had this in mind when he wrote: *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life — 2 the life was manifested, and we have seen, and bear witness, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us* (1 John 1:1-2 NKJV).

One of the last things Jesus said during His earthly ministry was: *Lo, I am with you always* (Matthew 28:20).

Appl. But is this truly a word for all of us? Hasn't He left us?

Hear Jesus: *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.* (John 14:15-18 NKJV).

You can rest – assured – that He is with you!

Illus. In one of Max Lucado's writings he imagines Joseph's Prayer. Then he writes: *You've stood where Joseph stood. Caught between what God says and what makes sense. You've stared into a sky blackened with doubt. And you've asked what Joseph asked.*

*You've asked if you're still on the right road. You've asked if you were supposed to turn left when you turned right. And you've asked if there is a plan behind this scheme. Things haven't turned out like you thought they would.*

*Each of us knows what it's like to search the night for light. Not outside a stable, but perhaps outside an emergency room. On the gravel of a roadside. On the manicured grass of a cemetery. We've asked our questions. We questioned God's plan. And we've wondered why God does what he does.*

*No, the Bethlehem sky is not the first to hear the pleadings of an honest heart, nor the last. And perhaps God didn't answer every question for Joseph. But he answered the most important one. "Are you still with me, God?" And through the first cries of the God-child the answer came.*

*"Yes. Yes, Joseph. I'm with you."*

*There are many questions that we won't be able to answer. Many times we will muse, "I wonder . . ."*

*But in our wonderings, there is one question we never need to ask. Does God care? Do we matter to God? Does he still love his children?*

*Through the small face of the stable-born baby, he says yes.*

*Yes, your sins can be forgiven.*

*Yes, your name can be written in heaven.*

*Yes, death has been defeated.*

*Because God has entered the world.*

*Immanuel. God is with us.*

Appl. **God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

What is the message in His Christmas card?

**I am with you!**

Let's look again: What has God written in your card? **I Am, I love you, I am with you. God has certainly sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!** Let's look at one last line in our Christmas card from Heaven:

#### **IV. I CAN AND I WILL SAVE YOU!**

Expl. *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

Jesus came to rescue the perishing, and we were all perishing!

Jesus came that we might have life more abundantly now and forever!

He and He alone **can** save (John 14:6)!

He **will** save all who turn from their sins and trust in Him!

Appl. He is not just with us, He is for us!

Salvation is bigger than we think!

Past, present, future!

Illus. At the crucifixion of Jesus, hear the scorn of the Chief Priests, the scribes, and the elders: *He saved others; Himself He cannot save* (Matthew 27:42).

He could have saved Himself; He chose instead to save us!

The writer of Hebrews says this about Jesus: *Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.* NIV

Appl. The name Jesus means "Jehovah saves."

He is able to save His people from their sins!

The great good news of Christmas is that God can be found!

Illus. Playing hide and seek with little children – they giggle!

In a stable in Bethlehem, God giggled! You can find Him!

## CONCLUSION

Let me end with a reading I found, and I do not know where it originated. It speaks powerfully of our loving God:

You say – God says:

--You say: "It's impossible"

God says: All things are possible...  
(Luke 18:27)

--You say: "I'm too tired"

God says: I will give you rest...  
(Matthew 11:28-30)

--You say: "Nobody really loves me"

God says: I love you...  
(John 3:16; John 13:34)

--You say: "I can't go on"

God says: My grace is sufficient...  
(II Corinthians 12:9; Psalm 91:15)

--You say: "I can't figure things out"

God says: I will direct your steps...  
(Proverbs 3:5-6)

--You say: "I can't do it"

God says: You can do all things...  
(Philippians 4:13)

--You say: "I'm not able"

God says: I am able...  
(II Corinthians 9:8)

--You say: "It's not worth it"

God says: It will be worth it...  
(Roman 8:28)

--You say: "I can't forgive myself"

God says: I FORGIVE YOU...  
(I John 1:9; Romans 8:1)

--You say: "I can't manage"

God says: I will supply all your needs...  
(Philippians 4:19)

--You say: "I'm afraid"

God says: I have not given you a spirit of  
fear...  
(II Timothy 1:7)

--You say: "I'm always worried and frustrated"

God says: Cast all your cares on ME...  
(I Peter 5:7)

--You say: "I don't have enough faith"

God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith...

(Romans 12:3)

--You say: "I'm not smart enough"

God says: I give you wisdom...

(I Corinthians 1:30)

--You say: "I feel all alone"

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you...

(Hebrews 13:5)

**God sent us a joyful Christmas message from Heaven!**

**I Am, I Love You, I Am With You, I Can and Will Save You!**