

God Provides for He is a Giver! December 21, 2014

The Christmas Season always means a lot to me because people are prone to look for ways to give to those who are less fortunate than they are during this season. The holiday focuses on family gatherings, sharing time, giving gifts, and finding ways to give to the needy. Those who are determined to take Christ out of Christmas miss the whole point of the holiday. All that remains is a meaningless and empty celebration with no central theme for the reason for the season. The Christmas season enriches a person's heart when he counts his blessings and thinks about all the wonderful ways that God has blessed his life. Thankfulness is the key to happiness and contentment. From the first chapter of Genesis all through the Scriptures, there are many, many references to God giving to his creation. God made the world and the elements of heaven and earth, the sea and dry land, the animals and all the vegetation. He filled the heavens with stars, the sun and moon and everything that exists and after he created man and woman, He called his work "very good." He made the garden and filled it with vegetation to sustain the animals as well as mankind; he provided everything that was needed for man to live in harmony with nature and with his creator forever. The one commandment was not obeyed and sin entered the earth bringing the fruit of death to the universe. Satan's scheme was thwarted when God told him that He would put enmity between Satan's seed and the woman's seed. He promised to send a Redeemer who would bruise Satan's head so his plans would fail. God was and always will be in control. Each generation looked for the promised Savior to come and deliver this world from the curse of death that hovered over the universe.

In Deuteronomy 18:14, 15, Moses spoke these words to the Children of Israel. "The nations you will force out listen to people who use magic and witch craft, but the Lord your God will not let you do these things. The Lord your God will give you a prophet like me, Moses, who is one of your own people. Listen to him. You asked the Lord, while you were gathered at Mt Sinai, not to make you listen to the voice of the Lord your God again and not to make you look at the terrible fire again for fear of death. So God told me that what you said was good. God will tell his servant what to say and the prophet will speak for him; anyone who does not listen when he speaks will answer to God." Moses continued by saying that if a person professes to be speaking God's words yet the prophesy doesn't come to pass, then that person should be labeled a false prophet. God's words are always true and will happen just as is spoken. The worship for God that people offer must spring from the Holy Spirit.

God provides for his creation. When Adam and Eve sinned, they made aprons from leaves. God provided them with coats made from animal skins. He provided for the children of Israel as they fled from the bondage of Egypt and though they sinned and disobeyed God, He gave them food and water for forty years and their clothes and sandals didn't wear out. He sent manna from heaven to feed them and when they complained

about that, He sent quail so they would have meat. He is the giver of life and through the blood he shed on the cross, He gives eternal life to all who believe.

When he commanded Abraham to take his son, Isaac, up a mountain and offer him as a sacrifice to God, Abraham arose early in the morning and headed out to be obedient to the call of God. When Isaac asked, "We have the wood and the fire, but where is the lamb for the sacrifice?" Abraham said simply, "The LORD will provide." When Abraham lifted his knife to slay Isaac, the angel of the LORD called to him and told him not to harm the lad for God now knew that he would obey the LORD even to giving up his son. He looked and there the LORD had provided a ram caught in a thicket to be used as a sacrifice to the LORD. See Genesis 22:8.

In John 8:56, Jesus spoke about Abraham for God used this event to show Abraham a visual of the coming Messiah who would give his life as a sacrifice to God for the souls of men. Jesus said, "Abraham was happy that he would see my day and he saw that day and rejoiced." Though the Jews refused to believe the words that Jesus spoke, he proclaimed them to be the truth in spite of their unbelief.

Jesus said that those who worship God must worship him in spirit and in truth. Man's ideas or philosophies are meaningless to the Lord. He laughs at men's attempt to overthrow him and their ideas and schemes to shut him out of their lives and society will prove futile. He is everywhere and is nowhere absent. His presence is here to stay until He takes it away and leaves men to destroy themselves.

In John 1:29, John proclaimed Jesus to be the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Jesus proclaimed that He is the way, He is the truth and He is the life. No one can come to the Father except through him.

Matthew 6:24-34 explains how that God takes care of his own. He is a giver and He delights in providing for his creation. Those who seek him first and those who serve only the true God have divine protection. Read these verses and note that his eye is on even the smallest of his creatures. The birds of the air neither sow nor reap and they don't gather food to store into barns yet the Heavenly Father feeds them and people are more important to him than the birds. The lilies of the field don't work at spinning or toiling, yet they are clothed more beautiful than the wealthiest king that ever lived, Solomon. Jesus explained to those who were listening to his words that if God takes care of the smallest of creatures and the flowers that grow in the fields, would he not take care of the needs of his children? Have faith! In verse 33 it tells us to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you. God's mercy is extended to all, however, for he says that the rain shines on the just and on the unjust and the sun to shine on the evil as well as the good. Matthew 5:45. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16. Jesus came to save the world; not to condemn it.