

White As Snow

Thesis: Celebrate Christmas With A Heart That Walks in His Light!

Introduction: (Sing or play song)

"I'm dreaming of a White Christmas, just like the ones I used to know. Where the treetops glisten, and children listen to hear sleigh bells in the snow. I'm dreaming of a white Christmas with every Christmas card I write. May your days be merry and bright and may all your Christmases be white."

White Christmas is THE Christmas song of the United States. It was originally recorded by Bing Crosby back in 1942, and it became so popular that he had to re-record it in 1947 because the masters became worn beyond use. (from <http://mymerrychristmas.com/2005/whitechristmas.shtml>)

Its popularity had a lot to do with the fact that America had just gone to war. Our people found themselves in a confusing and unstable world - loved ones being shipped off to the battlefield, not knowing if they would ever see their families again.

And so this song had a powerful impact on American soldiers. They dreamt of a white Christmas when they could come home again. And WHEN that "white Christmas" came, all would be merry and bright.

For centuries, the Jews had dreamed of their own "White Christmas". For centuries they been given promises that predicted the coming of a Messiah. And that messiah would bring:

- * salvation to His people
- * forgiveness for their sins
- * and light and peace to those who were God's people.

THUS the Jews were looking forward to a time when life would be merry and bright again. Isaiah had predicted that when that day came:

"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool." *Isaiah 1:18*

Through Isaiah, God had declared that there would be a "White Christmas" for His people. There would come a day when their lives would be cleansed as "white as snow". And their lives would be changed forever!

Zechariah gave praise for such blessings...

I. The Blessing of Zacharias' Praise!

Summary of Luke 1: 57 – 66: When we last left Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, she was six months pregnant. In Luke 1:57 she has just given birth. On the day of the baby boy's circumcision he was to be named. He was to be called after his father Zachariah, but Elizabeth said, "No, he shall be called John." At this point Zachariah was still mute and they signaled to him to find out what he wanted and he confirmed "John" and immediately he was able to speak again.

(Luke 1: 67 – 76)

67 Now his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:

68 "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,

For He has visited and redeemed His people,

69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us

In the house of His servant David,

70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who have been since the world began,

71 That we should be saved from our enemies

And from the hand of all who hate us,

72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers

And to remember His holy covenant,

73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:

74 To grant us that we,
Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,

75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the
days of our life.

76 “And you, child, will be called the prophet of the
Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to
prepare His ways,

We will serve Him without fear in holiness and
righteousness before Him all the days of our life!

II. The Blessing of God's Tender Mercy!

(Luke 1: 77 -79) 77 To give knowledge of salvation
to His people By the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the
shadow of death, To guide our feet into the way of peace.”

(Isaiah 53: 4 – 5) 4 Surely He has borne our griefs and
carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.

5 But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for
our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are
healed.

(Isaiah 1:18) “Come now, and let us reason together,”
Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They
shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like
crimson, They shall be as wool.

(John 1: 6 – 9)

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7 This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the
Light, that all through him might believe.

8 He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of
that Light.

9 That was the true Light which gives light to every man
coming into the world.

Though our sins were scarlet, they have
been made white as snow!

III. The Blessing of the Shining Light! **(John 8:12)**

Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the
light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in
darkness, but have the light of life.”

How Did Jesus' Light Shine?

(Ephesians 4: 17 – 20)

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you
should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk,
in the futility of their mind,

18 having their understanding darkened, being
alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance
that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;

19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over
to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ,

Walk in the light that Jesus has shone on our hearts
that we might praise Him!

Conclusion:

Celebrate Christmas With a Heart That Walks in His
Light!