

12-19-21
THE HEATHEN ARE STILL RAGING

Intro: As we gather together to honor our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, I am reminded of the fact that the world is at enmity with the Savior we worship. This world system is very much opposed to Christ. Even though we celebrate Christmas and think that the world is doing Him homage.. they really are just looking for a reason to party and have a good time. All the gift giving and spending is not really to honor him, but yet in the midst of this, He is still honored. Remember he is the creator, and he is working all things for his honor and glory.

As usual the atheist crowd is out to put away all mention of Christ. They are as obnoxious as ever opposing manger scenes and trying to force companies to forbid their employees from saying Merry Christmas.

Yet our Scripture Chorus and Bible verse that I have picked for this month says.

Luke 2:14 Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

What a beautiful statement the angels made so many years ago. Show me a people that give glory to God and those people will live in peace and bring good to all.

When Jesus came into the world, he brought peace and good will to men, I could not think of any better words to put to music for the Christmas Holiday season.

Those words just give a warm and fuzzy feeling in my heart.

Really, can you see people spending as much money on gifts and showing expressions of love.. for any atheistic cause or celebration. How many people would go out and buy everyone in their family a gift? What pagan traditions would add to our economy like Christmas? NONE.. they would just add more crime, more drunk driver, more deaths, more rapes, more hate and more turmoil.

What brings peace on earth and good will toward men?
Only the Spirit of God does this:

Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
Galatians 5:23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

But what does the world bring and men who live in and for the flesh?

Galatians 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are [these]; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

Galatians 5:20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

Galatians 5:21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told [you] in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

The opposite of peace on earth good will is the works of the flesh and world..

HATRED, VARIANCE, EMULATION, WRATH, STRIFE, etc.. all the wars and fighting and hatred and contentions of this world come from rejecting Christ and God their creator.

But this one thing is sure, like it or not every knee is going to submit to Christ and when he returns there will be peace on earth and good will reigning on planet earth. In that day every knee shall bow to Him.

Now in this present life, there is a great conflict between the Kingdom of our Lord and the Kingdom of this world. The message of our New Years Eve service shares how that conflict has raged in the past and is raging even today and will continue till he returns.

Though at times it seems that the world is prevailing, yet that advantage is but temporary and soon Christ is going to come to this planet and his Kingdom will come and his will, will indeed be done on earth. Peace on earth and good will toward men, will prevail.

However, in this world, there is no peace, and good will presently is not prevailing. I also fear it may grow worse and not better. This morning I had my wife sing that old Christmas hymn, I heard the bells on Christmas Day..

A fellow by the name of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote the words to this song during the civil war. Just a few years before he wrote the poem, his wife Fannie, had died in a tragic fire when her dress caught on fire. Henry was severely burned trying to put out the flame and was not even able to attend his own wife's funeral because of the burns on his body. So traumatized from this was he that he thought he might suffer a mental collapse.

Two years after this his oldest son enlisted to fight for Lincoln's union army. It was December 1863 that Henry Longfellow received word that his son was seriously wounded in battle. With the backdrop of all these tragedies it was Dec. 25th Christmas day, when Henry heard the Church bells ringing, and the singing of peace on earth good will toward men, that he penned these words.

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
and wild and sweet
The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The households born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

JESUS WILL BRING PEACE TO EARTH! Humanism, Atheism, no man made organization or government will bring that peace to this planet. This is our blessed hope, and what we believe by faith!

Now in light of these truths.. My mind goes to the Messianic Psalm of King David. He starts out with this statement

Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Let me suggest to you that the heathen are still raging! Nothing has changed.. Except that Jesus has won the battle, and the princes and rulers of this world are still refusing to bow their knee to him!

This morning I would like to look at this passage in Psalm Chapter two..

I. Consider Those Who Rage Against Our Lord..

Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, [saying],

Psalms 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

1. The people who imagine vain things.. Rage against the Lord.. These are the so called educated people.. intellectual giants..

Those who reject the Scripture do so and then fabricate their own vain thoughts and imaginations..

Evolution is one of those vain things..

False ideas and religions.. People turning to paganism...

False ideas on governing and economics..

Where do vain imaginations germinate and breed. Is it not in our higher educational institutions?

Professors from Harvard, Yale, and renowned lecturers and speakers and writers on economics and ethics. Liberal politicians, and the so called intelligentsia. These are the ones who counsel our leaders.

The liberal educational facilities of our country have become the hot beds of those who fabricate vain thoughts that contradict the Bible. From these come vain ideas about morality, the environment, economics, healthcare, and a host of other things.

What are some of the vain imaginations that are being pumped out of these institutions?

The war on fossil fuels,

The war on traditional family..

The concept of systemic racism, producing more hate and division,

The concept that we need to put our faith in science so called and not God!

These are the same people whose ungodly lifestyle feed their immoral and covetous practices and have caused our economic woes, divisions, that we face today.

I remember what it was like when I went to secular college in 70's, I couldn't imagine how bad it is today. There were subtle attacks daily on the Bible, and those who believe

the Bible. Today, the attack continues, only now it is outright, wholesale in your face, LGBT rights, radical environmentalism, spewing out hatred for anyone who holds to traditional morality and values.

These are the vain imaginations of the heathen.

WHO ARE THE HEATHEN THAT RAGE?

2. *They are the Kings and rulers of the earth than desire to break loose of the Moral restraints of Christianity and the Bible..*

Psalms 2:2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,

Psalms 2:3 Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us.

Of course... it was the rulers of this world that opposed Jesus.

Herod sought to kill Jesus when he was just a child..

Pontus Pilot condemned him to the cross..

The religious leaders conspired against him....

THESE SAY LET US BREAK THEIR BANDS ASUNDER..

The moral law and the Bible are looked upon as bands that must be torn asunder..

LET US BREAK THEIR BANDS..

So the Bible is being banned

The voice of the church muted..

The Law of God is looked upon as a restrictive band that must be put asunder..

THE HEATHEN ARE STILL RAGING Today..

They rage whenever the ten commandments are displayed in public.

They rage whenever some people preach on the moral law and defines morality based on Scripture...

Our president spews out incoherent nonsense about how we need to trust in the science and it's gurus, making innuendos that those who believe in the Bible are non scientific.

There is a point where science leaves off, and faith must take precedent. There are things beyond what science can teach and know.

Hebrews 11:3 Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

No one was there when the worlds were created! Science requires the ability to observe and test and see! How can you test what you cannot see? How can you observe what only God was there to observe? Our God made everything that science can see and test. All science should lead us to Him!

Pasteur the inventor of vaccines said that:

"Little science takes you away from God, but more of it takes you to Him...."

Posterity will one day laugh at the sublime foolishness of the modern materialistic philosophy. The more I study nature, the more I stand amazed at the work of the Creator. I pray while I am engaged at my work in the laboratory..."

Isaac Newton Quotes on God

"And from true lordship it follows that the true God is living, intelligent, and powerful; from the other perfections, that he is supreme, or supremely perfect. He is eternal and infinite, omnipotent and omniscient; that is, he endures from eternity to eternity; and he is present from infinity to infinity; he rules all things, and he knows all things that happen or can happen.

In want of other proofs, the thumb would convince me of the existence of a God."

Now in spite of all the momentum to oppose, our Lord Christ prevails and will prevail..

We as Christians are surrounded with these leaders who rage against our Lord and a system that is subversive to Christianity..

We could feel defeated if we look at them. We may even be tempted to be depressed, except for one thing: WHAT OUR LORD SAID CONCERNING THEM!

II. CONSIDER OUR LORDS REACTION TO THE HEATHEN'S RAGE AGAINST HIM..

Psalms 2:4 He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision.

Psalms 2:5 Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his sore displeasure.

1. Our Lord just Laughs....

He is not threatened.. he just laughs..

Reminds me of what you do when some little kid comes up to you and threatens to fight you! You can hold him at bay with one hand..

If all the might of every army of this world were to rally together to fight against our Lord.. he would still laugh!

This world has no idea who they are dealing with!

2. *Our Lord Brings them to derision..*

What has become of America since we have aligned ourselves with those who rage.. those who reject the Bible..

Our nation is in derision..

The word derision means to be mocked... be in confusion ..

Once.. our products were admired by everyone..

We had the best cars..

We had the best appliances..

We had the best steel..

Today even people in America don't want to buy American products..

We even deride our selves.. I have heard people say they would not buy an American car.. or an American.. whatever...

WHY? IS IT NOT BECAUSE WE HAVE ABANDONED THE LORD?!

Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people.

The world's tallest building is in Dubai not America.

Its largest publicly traded company is in Beijing.

Its biggest refinery is being constructed in India.

Its largest passenger airplane is built in Europe.

The largest investment fund on the planet is in Abu Dhabi;

The biggest movie industry is Bollywood, an Based in India not Hollywood.

The largest Ferris wheel is in Singapore.

America no longer dominates even its favorite sport, shopping. The Mall of America in Minnesota once boasted that it was the largest shopping mall in the world. Today it wouldn't make the top ten.

In the most recent rankings, only two of the world's ten richest people are American.

These lists are arbitrary and a bit silly, but consider that only ten years ago, the United States would have serenely topped almost every one of these categories.

God will bring every nation into derision who sets themselves against Him..
And soon when the tribulation comes, he will bring the whole world into derision..

Hold on to your hat you have seen nothing yet!

III. CONSIDER THAT CHRIST HAS BEEN ANOINTED AS THE SUPREME RULLER OF THIS PLANET..

Psalms 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Psalms 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession.

Psalms 2:9 Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.

Jesus Christ is Lord ...

It is decreed He is, and someday will come to earth to lay hold on this decree.

Today Christ is seeking to recruit citizens for that Kingdom..

An allegory of this is found in the Book of Song of Solomon..

The Song of Solomon is a very hard book to understand because it is a filled with Hebrew poetry but many believe it is a story about Solomon disguising himself as a lowly shepherd to win over to him self the love of a Shulamite woman

Here is a condensing of the Story

Summary of the Love Story of the Shulamite and the Beloved.

Once there was a beautiful young girl who lived with her mother and brothers in Shunem, a town in northern Palestine. Her brothers often bullied her and made her work for them by tending their sheep and vineyards, but one day she met a handsome shepherd as she was in the fields minding the flocks. (This shepherd was none other than King Solomon in disguise. He had learned of her from afar and wished to meet with her without all his royal pomp.) She fell in love with this shepherd, and he with her. Then, on a certain spring night, he came to her house and invited her to come out with him that they might share the joys of love together. However, she hesitated to leave because of what her brothers might say; she only flirted coyly with him, and he left without ever having entered the house. Later that night, she could not sleep. She grew so upset about not accepting her Beloved's invitation that she eventually got up to search for him in the town. While out searching, she asked the night watchmen if they had seen him, but they mistook her for a prostitute and beat her. Nevertheless, she eventually found her Beloved and swore never to let him go again. She took him back

to her mother's house and openly declared her love for him to her brothers. They tried to argue against her, but she put them off. Then, the shepherd revealed his true identity and escorted the Shulamite to Jerusalem in a royal litter with an armed escort. In Jerusalem they were married and enjoyed each other for the rest of their days, often reminiscing about the times when they first fell in love.

The application to this story is as follows..

The rulers of this world are the cruel Brothers.. They keep their citizens in bondage and subjection through intimidation and threatening..

The Beloved King Solomon disguised as a lowly shepherd is a picture of Jesus who leaves his royal palace and seeks to win to himself the love of a the Shulamite, but the citizens of this world will try to talk the woman out of loving this poor shepherd. It is not until the Shulamite expresses her deep love for this lowly shepherd that the shepherd reveals his true identity and power. He then sends for his royal escort and takes the Shulamite into his palace and marries her.

Jesus is Lord..

Jesus is King of Kings and Lord of Lords..

However we are under the authority of the cruel Brothers.. who bully and threaten and abuse their authority.

SOLOMON ASKS THE SHULAMITE IF HE CAN COME INTO HERE HOUSE AND FOR FEAR OF HER BROTHERS SHE SAYS NO, WITH THIS SOLOMON LEAVES.

After he leaves, she repents and sets out in the city and seeks him. In the process of trying to find him, the citizens of the city beat her and persecute her thinking her a harlot...

So it is that Jesus was rejected by the leaders and rulers of this world who intimidated the citizens into rejecting Christ, but like the Shulamite many have a change of heart and seek him. This is what we are doing today.

Jesus has gone to his palace once again. He has ascended into heaven and we are left with the cruel older brothers, but many of us have repented and we are now seeking him to come into our lives and hearts. When we find him we want everyone to know we love him and want him in our lives.

Matthew 10:32 Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven.

Psalms 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

Psalms 2:7 I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou [art] my Son; this day have I begotten thee.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I shall give [thee] the heathen [for] thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth [for] thy possession.

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Today the heathen rage..

Psalms 2:1 Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing?

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Psalms 2:6 Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion.

The Lord of heaven will laugh..

He will have them in derision..

Yet right now we do not see them in derision. But they will soon be!

Paul writing to Timothy explains what we experience in this present life..

II Timothy 2:9 Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, [even] unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

II Timothy 2:10 Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

II Timothy 2:11 [It is] a faithful saying: For if we be dead with [him], we shall also live with [him]:

II Timothy 2:12 If we suffer, we shall also reign with [him]: if we deny [him], he also will deny us:

IN THE PRESENT WORLD, WE ARE ARE LIKE THE AFFLICTED SHULAMITE!!!

We are oppressed and cast down, but our love for our savior Jesus Christ cannot be quenched..

Song of Solomon 8:7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if [a] man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

Today we do not see him in his glory, but he is seeking people that will love him with just seeing him for who he is..

WE DO NOT RECEIVE HIM TO BE THE RICH POWERFUL AND MIGHTY OF THIS WORLD...
BUT IN FACT SOMEDAY HE WILL COME BACK AND BE ALL THAT...

We love Him for who he is .. We love him because of his world..

BUT IN FACT TAKE HEART HE SOMEDAY WILL RULE THINS PLANET WITH A ROD OF IRON.

Do you love Christ, will you seek him, and go after him in your heart!
He is looking to make up his bride and sending out an invitation. Will you respond to his invitation!

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

I love that old Christmas Hymn .. "O Come All Ye Faithful.. a great Christmas invitational song. Let us sing it!

EVENING SERVICE
OUR SUPREME PURPOSE IS TO SERVE AND LOVE JESUS

Intro: THIS MORNING WE LEARNED HOW THE HEATHEN RAGE.. THE CITIZENS OF THIS WORLD.. THE RULERS THAT BE HAVE SET THEMSELVES AGAINST THE LORD OF GLORY.

However, God will laugh at their threats.. We used the illustration of the Shulamite in the Song of Solomon as an example of this. In the Song of Solomon was Solomon threatened by the Older brothers of the Shulamite? No he just wanted to see if the Shulamite would love him in spite of this opposition!

So the Psalmist writes..

Psalms 2:10 Be wise now therefore, O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth.

Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

Kiss the son.. Love Jesus..

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

There is no option. Those who will not love him will perish...

How sad it is that people will not love him

How sad it is that people will not believe in Him

How tragic it is that people will not trust him ..

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Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

Psalms 2:12 Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

I. BE WISE NOW THEREFORE O YE KINGS AND JUDGES..

We have a message to the rulers of this world.. Trust in Jesus before it is too late. When he comes back to earth it will be too late to choose to love him. It will be too late to serve him..

1. The Early Christians thought it a privilege to suffer for the Lord..

Acts 5:40 And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and beaten [them], they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go.

Acts 5:41 And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.

They rejoiced in the privilege to be able to suffer for the lord.

There will be a time when no one will have that privilege..
But all who oppose him will suffer. But now we can sacrifice to serve him
Now will can give something up to be his citizen..

And in face what do we suffer and what do we give up?

Self.. All that I left was but dung..

The Shulamite in the Song of Solomon, what did she leave? She left her mother's house filled with cruel brothers who made her work long hours in their vineyard.

2. Think about the opportunities we have today to suffer for him

We can make mention of his name to those who do not love him and they in turn may speak evil of us.. they may deride us.. they may mock us..

What is this in comparison to ruling and reigning with him for eternity!

II. WE SHOULD SERVE HIM IN FEAR AND REJOICE IN TREMBLING

Psalms 2:11 Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.

How foolish men are to not fear him ..
How foolish we are not to tremble before him..

There is no fear of God in the eyes of men today

HOW SAD THIS IS.. For there will be a day when every knee shall bow, every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...

How foolish we are to serve ourselves and not the Lord!

OUR PURPOSE IN THIS LIFE IS TO SERVE HIM!

What can we do to serve Him?

We can support help strengthen his Church
We can give to his work..
We can witness and win others for his Kingdom..
We can do good works in His name

III. WE SHOULD LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS..

Psalms 2:12 **Kiss the Son**, lest he be angry, and ye perish [from] the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed [are] all they that put their trust in him.

This is the first commandment..

LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART..

I Corinthians 16:22 If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

That is a pretty strong statement..

THERE IS A CURSE THAT PEOPLE BRING UPON THEMSELVES FOR NOT LOVING THE LORD!