

“A Savior Is Come”
By Brother Parrish Lee
Sunday, December 7th, 2014

Ain't this just some kind of awesome? Just to be in the House of the Lord, this is a beautiful time this morning.

Giving honor to God, who is the head of my life. Giving honor to our founding pastor; giving honor to he and his family. To our pastor, he and his family. Giving honor to all of those who have stood in the gap, to make up the hedge, and giving honor to all of you who are here to present yourselves, who have come to receive a Word from the Lord.

My name is Parrish Lee; I'm one of the two fellowship leaders here. Before I go another step, I'd like to—the other fellowship leader is Brother Andy Giebler. Normally he is—I'd tell you he's the more modest; he's more quiet than I am, but he ain't really all that quiet. Where are you, Brother Andy? I want to see Brother Andy and Sister Sonia. I want them to come up here and just feel the love—they weren't here last week. Can we show them how much we love them?

Andy: We spent time in worship at another church with my parents last week, and, you know what? I missed being here. I missed *this*. Amen. Thank you.

Sonia: It really is good to be home. We enjoyed visiting Andy's folks; we love our family, but, there's something to be said about God's family, and I'm so thankful. If I haven't told you lately how much you all mean to me, and how much you've advanced my life. I want to say it from up here: I love you and miss you all, even though I don't say it on a regular basis. It's great to be home to worship with you all.

You may be seated. You know what somebody told me? They said that they see you, Parrish, up here a lot, but they don't see Andy and Sonia enough. *Enough*. They told me that recently, bro, and we really have to take that to heart, because you can't imagine the load and the burden that my co-workers, my leaders, have shown and proven and have encouraged both to me, and to all those who are here. I just want to come up and give y'all a shout and some props. It's nice to be loved, right? You want to be loved, but then you want to *know* that you're loved. Amen? Amen.

So, we took for ourselves—the theme for this month is going to be from the Book of Luke:

Luke 2:10-11 *And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*

Of course, our intention is to have a wonderful holiday season, a wonderful Christmastime, but you really always want to remember the reason for the season. Amen? Our Scripture thought for today:

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

If we could just bow our heads for a moment. Lord, it's—it just goes beyond words, what You do for us, how much You love us, how much You show to us, Lord. We just present ourselves to You. God,

we thank You for the time that we could come into Your presence, enter into Your gates with thanksgiving and praises to show You. We thank You, and we love You, but, God, Your love and mercy passes all our understanding. God, we just enter, more and more, into our presence. Bless us in all our endeavors as we wholly seek You with our whole heart, and our whole soul, and our whole mind. And, at this time, Lord, we pray that You would add Your blessing to the reading of Your Word, God, that it may do exactly as You said, that it would not return unto You void, but it would accomplish that to which You sent it. That it might nourish us, God; that it might nurture us, God; that it would build us up to be more of the person that You would have us to be. Less fear, more strength, God, more anointing, more power, more humility to walk before You. We pray, and thank, and claim all these things in Your name, and everyone said, amen. Amen; amen.

Part #1- The Promise Is Found By Those Who Looked For It.

Isaiah 9:6 *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

We start our message today with one of the most famous scriptures from the book of Isaiah, in fact, truly, so much so, that it has been used as a standard in nations, in nations, and houses, to bring hope. That is a lot of what our message is about today, a message of hope. At the time that this Scripture was given to Isaiah, Israel was in captivity; Israel was in bondage. Israel was under the auspices of another nation, they were under Babylon at this time. When you are in a captivity, when you are held prisoner, when you don't have a will of your own, so to say, you look for something very specific, you look for deliverance. This message, this Scripture came to the land of Israel: "For unto you a child is born, unto you a son is given..." When you're in captivity, you are not the main people; the oppressors, the captors, they are the main people. You are the lesser people. So, therefore, when you are in captivity, your main goal is to have deliverance. To have deliverance, you have to have hope. So, where could the Children of Israel, at this time, get hope from? After all, they're in captivity. Where in the world are you going to get hope from? And, yes, this message is not just for thirty-five-hundred years ago when they were in captivity under the auspices of Babylon. This message is very real for us, today.

So, as they looked for hope, they had to say, "In order to have hope, we have to be able to hold on to something." At this time, there weren't a whole lot of tangible things—after all, this was after the Temple had been decimated. This was after all their great kings were put down. This was after their wonderful Law and their victories seemed to not be able to do them a whole lot at this point. They had transgressed and God had let them go into captivity, that they might learn how to come back to God. So, what do you hope for? Well, at this point, God had given them something that they could hold onto. He gave them something that sets everything else apart. God had given them a promise. God gave them a promise. Always, with a promise, if you believe it, if you believe that it's able to happen, then you have hope. I promise, if you lift these weights, you'll get stronger. I promise that if you eat that banana pudding, you could get happier. I promise. I promise that if you wear the right tie, you'll get compliments. I promise, if you study, you'll get better grades. Always, the promise is hope; it's hope. So, they have been looking for this hope for a long time at this point. They had been looking for this hope—after all, they had been in captivity for many years. Their fathers, and their father's fathers had looked for hope. Their father's father's father's father's fathers had looked for hope. So, with the promise, comes hope; and the promise simply was: Unto you would be a child born, unto you will be son given, and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name would be called Wonderful, wonderful. His name will be called Wonderful. Wonderful meaning *miraculous*, stupendous, marvelous... His name would be

something that you could wonder at. His name would be called Counsellor. In other words, a leader, a guider, someone to advise, someone to give purpose. His name would be, easily, the Mighty God. The Mighty God, and that is exactly what it means. A God who is mighty, a God who is strong, a God who can. His name would be everlasting Father. Everlasting Father; exactly what it says: A Father who will never desert you, never go away, never leave you stranded, and never not know what to do. Everlasting Father. And, of course, His name would be Prince of Peace. Prince of Peace; a ruler who could bring a comfort, a ruler who could bring completeness. Prince of Peace.

Now, a promise is defined as a binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect, or claim, the performance, or the forbearance, of a specified act. Once again: It is binding declaration that gives the person to whom it is made a right to expect either the performance, or the forbearance, of a specified act. That is a promise. So, this promise that was made to them, to them, it was a guarantee. "I expect that to happen. I expect that, whoever this child is, he should be able to handle this government. He should be wonderful—better than wonderful. He's got to be wonderful; it was a promise. He's going to be able to counsel me, lead me, to guide me, to give my life purpose. He's going to be able to be a Mighty God over my life. Nothing is going to be able to take Him down. He's going to be able to be a great Father to me; I have an earth father, but He's going to be a great, everlasting Father. He is really, truly going to be able to bring me the kind of peace that I haven't known. Great day in the Morning. What we did was, we just went over part one.

Part #2- The Man: There Are Those Who Are Told and Therefore Seek

***Luke 2:25-32** And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.*

Yes, this is a Christmas message. When you get right to Christmas. We have here, Simeon, a man, the Bible says he was a devout man. The Bible says that he had a promise to him, also, that he would not see death until he had seen the Lord's Christ. What kind of a promise that must have been. So, I can imagine what kind of a life Simeon must have had. Who knows how long that was that he had to wait? Who knows how long of a time it was between the times that he had the promise and he had the fulfilment. But, how it must have been. How it must have been when the Spirit moved him and sent him to the Temple—it says he was moved by the Holy Ghost—it sent him to the Temple and allowed him to open his eyes and be able to see the Lord's salvation incarnate. What must that have been like to somebody who was waiting all this time? You know, when you're told that something's coming, you tend to have an expectation for it. So, Simeon had to be looking, "Is today the day? Is today the day that I'm going to see this wonderful thing that the Lord bringeth?"

We have some Simeons here today, whom God has really touched their lives and has already let you know that He is not going to leave you comfortless. He has already let you know that you are not going to be left forsaken, or abandoned, and, you're not going to be left without answers. You're not going to be left without a path or a way. You're not going to be left to die before God shows you His beautiful will for your life. Yes, we have Simeons here today.

Part #3- The Woman: There Are Those Who Desire and Therefore Seek

Luke 2:36-38 *And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of Him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.*

So, here we have Anna the prophetess, 84 years young—the Bible says she was fourscore and four—84 years young. Here she is, a woman who comes into the Temple. It says that she served God daily, night and day. How must this have been? She was a prophetess; she came to the Temple daily... No, she wasn't told, "You're not going to die until you see the Lord's anointed." No, she sought for God's promises. She looked for it. The truth of the matter is, you have those that were told, and you have those that take it upon themselves, "I've got to know." They look, and they seek, and they search, and the Bible says that she came in that instant, and told them, "Yes, this One is for the redemption of the nation." Anna, the prophetess.

Yes, we have some Annas here today, who don't have to be told. You don't have the blinding light strike you up and move you. You don't need to have a great big hole for you to be knocked down, but who say, "I'm going to find him, anyway. I'm going to look, and I don't need to wait for a sign. I have the burden in my heart." So, the question would be, why would they be so excited about a baby? Why all the stir over a baby? The truth of the matter was, it wasn't the baby that they were excited about, but, it was the promise- and whenever they saw that babe, they saw the promise.

You ever find yourself looking for something to happen? Something that would be a blessing for your life? Have you ever found yourself, that you were looking and waiting for God to do something for you or with you? Maybe you asked God, "Please help me pass this test," or, "Lord, you know money's kind of tight at this time and I really need some help with these bills," or maybe, "Lord, me and somebody else, we have a rift between us, I pray, Thee, Lord, patch things up between us so that our relationship could be better," and, you know, when God does those things, you're very happy about it, you're very thankful, and you say, "Thank You, Lord, thank You. I really appreciate it, God; nobody like You," and you move on. You go forth, you go forward, because God has given you that blessing. Well, this particular blessing was different from all those other blessings. This particular blessing was different: it wasn't just getting delivered from a battle, it wasn't just about getting bills paid, or even getting the right job, or getting transportation, or patching up relationships, it wasn't about that. This particular blessing was about a Deliverer that would keep on delivering. This particular blessing was about a healer that would keep on healing. This one was about that whole everlasting Father thing, about a Savior who would keep on saving. This one was different from all the rest of them, and, you know, somewhere along the line, you have to say, "Thank You, God, not just for the things that You're doing for me know, but I know that, just as You spoke it, it is forever written." When I was just—how you can get on the wrong path: I had been a Christian for just a little while, and I had a real good opportunity. My mom, she used to take care of a daycare center. I went over there to visit here, and she had these little kids there, and, it was interesting. So, I go over there, and they're getting ready to put on their Christmas play. My mom was there, and she wakes them up out of their nap, because she wants them to perform for her son. So, I'm there, and I'm like, "Dogs! If I'd have been just five minutes quicker, I could have got out of here and missed this whole thing." So, anyway, there I was, and my mom, she puts a record on—yeah, it was that long ago—she puts a record on, and they played the song, "The Little Drummer Boy." I've told this story before, but it bears repeating. They play this song, "the Little Drummer Boy," and, one of the kids, he had woken up from his nap, and he had a blanket tied around his neck like Superman. You could tell he'd

been... He had a little metal toy drum, and little plastic sticks. You can imagine what kind of sound that must have made. But, in this whole little ragamuffin little scene here—wasn't going to win no awards on TV, wasn't going to be published, wasn't going to be sent out and everybody's going to talk about it; no, it wasn't going to be that kind of thing. It was going to be something—I thought it was going to be something for the kids. As they went on to have their little play, and as they went on, the song went on, "Come, they told me, pah-rum-pah-pah-pum, a newborn King to see, pah-rum-pah-pah-pum." Here I am, just enduring it, and then it comes to the part—and it's amazing how God can give you a message that nobody else can see it, because it's for you right there. So, here I am, a little Christian; I've been living for God a little while, and I've been trying my best—I don't know; I might have been two years in the faith. They're putting on their play, and, as the song comes around, "I have no gift to bring," the little boy turns to me, and opens his arms wide, "I have no gift to bring that's fit to give a king." Right in that second, God showed me, "Hey, that's you. That's you. You don't measure up to anything that I do for you. You are this little child that you judge as a little ragamuffin that just woke up and little blanket tied around because you think you're something super sometimes. Here I am the Lord God Almighty to be over your life." I couldn't stand it. I had to walk out of there in tears; I couldn't even open my mouth to tell my mom goodbye, because God humbled me and showed me how great He was to me. How great He was to me.

Part #4- The Angels: Those Who Are Excited About Your Blessing

Luke 2: 7-15 *And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherd said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.*

I can imagine how exiting this must have been. I can imagine this, that these angels came down. Now, there's something real special about this. People knew that this was for them, but the angels, they weren't going to get part of this blessing. No. But, the angels were rejoicing at the blessing that was coming down to men. I can imagine, I can imagine how it must have been, the shepherds out there in the fields, tending to their flocks. I can imagine how, when the angels started appearing, saying, "Fear not, for unto you is born this day a savior, in the city of David. Oh, it's going to be great! It's going to be great for you. Dog, I'm telling you, you're going to love it! It's going to be awesome!" And, as the multitude—the Bible says that a multitude of the Heavenly host appeared round about them to tell them—I can imagine. I can imagine, because, you see, the angels had seen something before this whole scene took place. They were there when God spoke and creation—fft!—was there. They'd seen the universe, and they'd seen the galaxies, and they'd seen as God spoke and did it. They'd seen when God formed and made man and breathed—puff!—the whole breath of life thing. They'd seen the animals as they came, and were made, and how the harmony of nature on this planet would go forth. They'd seen the oceans and creation and all that. All that that scientists are trying to figure out. They saw all that happen, and, you know what? they had to say, "God, You rock! You rock, God! You speak it, and—POW!—it's there." So the angels saw all that, and then they saw this thing, and they're singing, and they're praising God,

because there's something different about this one. There's something different about this blessing. I can imagine the angels as they're getting together, and they're telling them, "Hey, hey, hey! Gabriel, Michael, check this out! God's doing it again! He's doing it again; He's making a way out of no way! He's doing the impossible all over again!" How great is this thing? In the Book of Psalms 145, they describe it. They describe it in verse 9. They describe it. It says that His tender mercies are over all His works (Psalms 145:9). Think about the angels as they saw the works of God. They've seen the far-reaching planets, and they've sent the probes out, and they have a vision of the Milky Way, and they say some of the light that gets here has taken light-years to get here. Things that happened centuries ago, we're just now getting the light. All that creation, and they said that the mercy, the tender mercies of God are greater than all of that. So, when the angels saw, they said, "Look at what God's doing this time! He's making the Word flesh. Check that out! How great a thing God's doing this time! This is greater than the universe! This is greater than the trees, and the colors, and the harmony! God has just made the Word flesh! Flesh!" This is the mercy of God extended to man, no wonder they'd say that. Saints, that's the answer. That is the answer.

We've got a lot of things going on; I was on the way over here, the radio was talking about trying to get churches together so they could protest or march or something with the stuff that's going on about—I'm sure, if you looked at the news, you'd see that there's thing going on about that. Then there's the other side, for your rights and for the political thing, and then there's the money thing, and there's always some thing going on that needs attention, and we should be giving attention, but don't leave the Son out of it. Don't leave the Word that's been made flesh; bring Him to the picture. That is the answer. Bring Jesus; take Him to Ferguson. Take him to Wall Street. Take Him to the schools. Take the Lord Jesus every place you go, and watch Him rock. Watch Him do His miracle. Watch Him perform that miraculous, wonderful, counselling, the everlasting Father, that Mighty God, yeah, that Prince of Peace. Take the Lord every place we go, in Jesus' name.

And, why? I'm getting ready to close, here. Why? Why the shepherds? You've got Jerusalem, here. You've got the rabbinical people, here; you've got the Pharisees and the Sadducees here, if you will. You've got the kings, and you've got decent families. You've got a whole town of people in Bethlehem, and Jerusalem, and all about the place. Why would the angels go to the shepherds? Ain't no great crowds out there. Why go to the shepherds, when you could go to the little schools, and the children? Why go to the shepherds? According to the Scripture, here, it says in verse number eight, "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night." Those are the things that it says about them. They were abiding where they were supposed to be, and they were watching what they were supposed to be watching. Abiding and watching. And the Scripture goes on to say, after that, "'Let us go and see that which the angels spoke to us of.' And they turned around and glorified God." Of course, we know that if they would have gone to the whole political ring, they would have judged it. If they would have gone to the whole king's ring, they would have tried to kill them. Of course, we know all this. But they went to people who were going to spread the message; to people who were going to turn that into a praise to Almighty God.

So, here we are, Christmas, 2014. The message isn't so much about how many gifts can be put under any tree, it isn't—Andy, I think you said it well, "This is the time of year that people will be nice to people that they're not nice to any other time of the year." At least, it used to be that way. Now, Christmas doesn't seem to have very much affect over very many people at all, except, especially the Christians who take Christ every place they go. They bring Christmas, and they talk about the reason for the season. Amen? Amen. Give the Lord a praise.