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The Birth that Changed the World

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Merry Christmas my friend!

I hope you had a joyous, memorable time with family on Christmas morning. Everyone has different experiences based on what phase you are in your life. We were able to have our young adult children with us and had a grand time.

As humans, it's hard for us to really transport ourselves to another place and time. We are very caught up in the present. That's why keeping records, history and scriptures are so important to us. If we don't document something, it is very easy to eventually believe that it didn't happen at all.

What's interesting is that now that we have the power to document things in high definition detail, there's so much information, we don't always know which version or set of information is actually true.

Well, in the meridian of time, documentation was much simpler. There was usually only one set of documentation (or very few.) And verbal communication was the more common way to pass on information. Since the writing process was a little more involved, and used resources not everyone had, there were fewer people who performed that task. And so what they wrote was important, and meant to last.

Of course, the story of Jesus is an important one. It changed the course of mankind. Billions of people over centuries of time have been impacted in one way or another, whether they believed in His divinity or not. And even though details of His gospel and plan of salvation have been altered and changed over the years by many people, the basic story of how he came to earth remains consistent across all faiths who believe in Jesus as the Christ.

He was born in humble circumstances of a virgin mother. Everyone agrees with that. I'm so glad it was written down.

And that's why we can all celebrate that amazing event together! What a blessing it is to have the world still recognize that special event which happened many years ago!

It really happened. We can believe the writings. And be grateful for them.

We can also believe in the Holy Spirit. It is the divine that communicates with your spirit to tell you what is true. You can use it to know what is true about Jesus. Connect with it. Knowing what is true is getting more and more difficult these days, but that doesn't change the truth. It will always be there.

The truth is that God became man. That's what we celebrate on Christmas. A holy birth of a holy Son.

An event that had been foretold and prophesied for ages. And is still being told today. Because it means that something bigger than our current daily events is happening in the story of the earth and mankind. It's the story of a Father in Heaven, and a family, and a Son, a brother, who did something wonderful for everyone in the family.

And so, people must know about it. We must be the messengers.

Today, the way we can transport ourselves to another time and place is through compelling video stories. One of the best portrayals of this special story is called "The Christ Child."

I encourage you to watch that video here:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/comeuntochrist/light-the-world-2021/the-christ-child>

And share it with others.

I hope you had a very merry Christmas!

Bishop Williams

- Next week, on January 2nd, we will meet at 10:30am. Hope to see you there!
- There is also another rendition of the Christmas story produced by the writers of the TV Series called "The Chosen." This video was shown in movie theaters this month with great success. There was a Christmas special broadcast with Christian musical performances and interviews with the artists on December 12th, but you can watch the actual short movie on YouTube here, starting at minute 1:24:33 -<https://youtu.be/UOTkTBxTxEA?t=5073> It is 36 minutes long.
- You can also watch it on the BYUtv app. Download it from any app store to your phone or computer and look for The Chosen Christmas episode.
- If you can't join us for Sacrament meeting on Sunday, here is the link to our Zoom webinar:
https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_f9u14RA6TxejiODyPS0Suw

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