



# PEACE BY *piece* SERIES

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## CHRISTMAS DEVOTIONAL WEEK THREE: PLAN

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### *Light of the World*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ~John 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters. And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ~ Genesis 1:1-3

The people I formed for myself that they may proclaim my praise. ~ Isaiah 43:21

The Holiday Season is a time of great joy and celebration, Christmas lights and Decorations, where we gather with friends and family to be thankful, to take account of the previous year, and to Worship and Praise the Birthday of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is also a time of conflict within families, deep Darkness within some families who have struggled with challenges and loss, and our neighbors who are confronted with the Christmas Season and the awkward questions it forces upon them.

The BIG awkward question is why did this Jesus guy come? We are extolled and barraged by countless celebrities in every type of media to keep in mind the real reason for season as they hawk beauty products, their latest CD, and How buying your spouse a new Audi is the way to rock their Christmas morning. But as much as we are told to keep the real reason for the season in mind, they avoid the answer, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, had to come.

As an endlessly curious Christian with no level of minutiae too great to pursue, for years I researched The birth of Christ. I learned some interesting (to me at least) facts like Christmas wasn't in December because it was too cold for the shepherds and their flocks to be out the field. And you couldn't have Christmas in September because of College Football Games. I also learned that the 3 wise men were not 3 Benevolent guys riding Camels bringing gifts to the manger. Why would Herrod be afraid of that? Because they weren't 3 Benevolent guys. They were Warrior Priests and more importantly Kingmakers. With a huge party of men and equipment with them to make it so. And they showed up at Joseph and Mary's house when

Jesus was a toddler. This scared Herod enough to kill every young boy born in Bethlehem under 2. And why the young family had to flee to Egypt to avoid the carnage. But fulfilling the Prophecy in Hosea that "out of Egypt I will call my son".

And here is what Christmas is all about, the birth of the Son of God! End of Questions! Why did Jesus need to come in approximately somewhere in the bye weeks of fall over 2000 years ago? Because it was prophesied and foretold throughout the Old Testament and it was absolutely required and planned for from the second sentence of Genesis. The 3 Warrior Priests knew that. God created us to praise him, but God in all three persons hovered over the waters in the beginning, if you research the Greek and Hebrew the word for hovering is better translated as "brooding". There was Darkness everywhere, literally figuratively, and in every dimension of time. In those moments, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all knew the result of this creation of Man "in God's Own Image" was destined to fall, and Jesus, the Son of the living God, would have to become man, proclaim the Gospel, and die a guiltless sacrificial death on the cross for the forgiveness of all sins, past, present, and future. Yes, that means the sins you committed yesterday are covered. Not by the birth of Christ, but by his death. But he had to come to Earth to fulfill that prophecy and role.

To become the light of the World in a World filled with Darkness.

That is how we are going to be with him when we leave this Earth.

We needed him to do that.

That is why he came.

That is why we are here to Praise him.

Because he came for his Church.



Today, thank God for the light He has brought to your life. "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows." ~James 1:17

Ask Him to show you ways in which you can be a light to the people you come into contact with today.