

**SERMON: Jesus has Arrived, Let Us Welcome Him with Songs of Worship....  
And Faith**

**GOOD Evening & Merry Christmas,**

**In this Message I will share some Bible verses that reveal God's Love for men and how the Celebration of Jesus' Birthday pleases Him. And how He draws or attracts people to faith in Jesus each Christmas Season. God also uses pain and trials in life to prepare hearts to receive Jesus.**

**JESUS BIRTHDAY CREATES JOYFUL SINGING AND SONGS**

All of us like to celebrate a family and friends' birthdays. When God came to Earth in Jesus a special celebration is described in:

**(Psalm 98.4) *Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth;  
break out in loud songs, and sing praises.***

Our Christmas song, *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come*, captures the spirit of Jesus' Birthday that we are celebrating this Christmas Season.

**GOD MAKES MANY PEOPLE, SAINTS & SINNERS, FEEL SPECIAL AT CHRISTMAS**

I use the word “saint” here as in the Christian Bible. It means a Christian, a “holy one.” The first verse of this song: *Joy to the World* says: **Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth receive her King.** During this Christmas Season there are a lot of happy things to create some joy. Bright lights and Christmas Trees decorated with colors, and gifts under the Christmas Tree can make us happy. These are cheerful things.

Doctors have said that depression in people is improved by light, especially bright lights. Mankind has learned this without doctors. Parts of the world with many clouds and much rain have more medical depressions, and even lower populations. Cities like Seattle, Washington in

America; and, islands in the Aleutians west of Alaska, USA are like that. One island on the Aleutians had its population go from 500 to 15 in only a few years. Residents learned that nearby cities on land offered new employment and housing! The immense cloud cover over the Aleutians forms when the warm Pacific waters with warm air masses approach the colder air from the Arctic Ocean. This natural event produces this depressing weather environment.

So the brightness of Christmas should give some relief of sadness and depression in us all. But the song *Joy to the World* is looking deeper than the natural phenomena as we have learned from medical science and demographic or geographic history. The song claims that the world, the whole earth, should have joy because **the Lord Jesus** has come to the Earth.

Psalm 98 was written almost 3,000 years ago! It declares that all the inhabitants on earth must prepare themselves for God's coming by an open welcome, shouting "for joy," bursting "into jubilant song," and making "music." This praise is in response to the expectation that his acts of Salvation will benefit all the Earth, so all should rejoice. It was prophetic to the nation Israel, but meant for all of Mankind to understand. Israel had been told by prophets that the Messiah, their Savior, would come to them. This psalm makes it clear that their Saviour, the Messiah, is the Lord and belongs to **the whole earth, all peoples. He is the Saviour of the whole world. His name is JESUS!**

## **FIRST PEOPLE TO WELCOME THE LORD JESUS**

### **Mary & Joseph**

Reading (**Luke 1. 26-35**) *the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." 34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called **the Son of God.***

Reading (**Matthew 1.18-25**) *18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by*

*the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away {divorce her} secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for] the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet {in Isaiah 7.14} : 23 “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.” 24 And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, 25 but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

In (Luke 1.28) The Angel Gabriel, addressed Mary and told her: ***“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”*** In (Matthew 1.20) an Angel called Joseph: ***“Joseph, son of David.*** Therefore they both knew that his miracle baby had been promised them by two Angelic visitors. They had God's favor like no two people had ever known before! When Jesus was born from the Virgin Mary, both she and Joseph must have gazed at him with hearts filled with praises to God. (Luke 2.19) Reveals Mary's inner feelings: ***But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.***

### **The Shepherds**

Reading (Luke 2.8-20)**8** *In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. 9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12 This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14 “Glory to God in the highest, **And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.**” 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.” 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. 19 **But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.** 20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.*

**The Angels who knew Jesus in Heaven, the lowly Shepherds, and Joseph and Mary had all fulfilled Psalm 98! Joy to the World the Lord is come. They praised God for arrival of the Savior of the World. The Shepherds spread the Good News of Jesus' Birth. They also praised God for seeing the angels, but even more so, for seeing the Lord! God in the highest was pleased with Joseph and Mary and these Shepherds.**

## **WAS BABY JESUS WELCOMED BY THE EARTH'S PRAISES ?**

Now you may ask, **“Did the Earth also praise God for Jesus' Birthday?** Well, other than Joseph and Mary and the Shepherds...not really. At that time, the only Earth or part of the World that knew of Jesus was Israel. Without relating all the details of the Israelite King Herod's plot to murder him, the Apostle John summed up Jesus' welcome in: **(John 1.4-13): 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overpower it. 6 There came a man sent from God, whose name was John {John the Baptist} . 7 He came as a witness, to testify about the Light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the Light, but he came to testify about the Light. 9 There was the true Light which, coming into the world,**

*enlightens every man. 10 He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. 11 He came to His own {Israel}, and those who were His own did not receive Him. 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

So we look at the Birth of Jesus which we celebrate on December 25<sup>th</sup> each year as an event spread over thousands of years. Actually, God planned to send Jesus as our Saviour as a baby before the foundation of the Earth. But the people on Earth today are much like those 2,000 years ago. Most refuse to receive this little Baby as God in the Flesh! But He is!!! Many say they believe, but will not *Bow Their Knee to tell Him!* Well, actually, many people will receive the Baby Jesus, but only as a nice baby; not believing what He did for Mankind 35 years after His Birth, His Sacrificial Death for their sins!.

## **SAVIOUR FROM GOD'S JUDGEMENT OF MANKIND'S SIN**

This Little Baby grew up to reveal God to Mankind as the Son of God! The Apostle Paul, had seen the risen Lord Jesus on a road in Israel. At that time, Paul had been persecuting, arresting for prison and torture, and actually supported the murder of one Christian by stoning. But when He saw Jesus, he knew, as Jesus spoke to Him, that Jesus is the Son of God and Lord! Some years later he wrote a letter to the Church in Corinth and repeated what Jesus did for Mankind to buy their pardon and forgiveness by God. He wrote in **(1 Corinthians 15.3-4)** *For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.*

The Man of God as written in the Bible, Paul, says that he *delivered* or preached to these Christians *as of first importance what I also received.* This means this was so important that when he received it. It changed him from a murderer of Christians to a preacher for Jesus Christ. How important this must be! As Jesus had said in **(Luke 9.25)** *For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? ...There is nothing more important than this!*

**Baby Jesus grew up and died for our sins according to the Scriptures....**The Older Testament of the Bible foretold a *Suffering Servant* to do this for Mankind; *and that He was buried, so Jesus was really dead and gone*, buried like everyone else who died.

**BUT, as no one else before or ever since, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.** The Older Testament of the Bible, here called the Scriptures, spoke of the Saviour who would conquer death and rule as King of the Universe, forever. Jesus was and is that King of the Universe. He is ALIVE...today!

**So, God raised His Son from the grave to show with power that Jesus' death on the Cross was acceptable by God to take away the sins of the whole world for all time. The only problem or hitch, or requirement for being forgiven is the same as for the Apostle Paul, or any sinner. You do not have to see Jesus as Paul, but, you must believe that Jesus is as He said He is, the Son of God. And, you must believe with faith like a child that He died for you, for your sins. When you believe in your heart of hearts, then you have received Jesus. Then you are a Christian.**

**And, as God promised, you have the right to become a Child of God as in (John 1.12-13)**  
*12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, 13 who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.*

## **CALLING JESUS LORD AND YOUR LORD**

In America, the word “lord” is not used except by Christians. There it might be better to say JESUS IS GOD AND HE IS MY BOSS! Oh, but Japan and Great Britain have this word deep in History. It became common on the *feudal system* in both of these nations many centuries ago. In England, the rule of the supposedly divine kings came through the “lords” who ruled over the “serfs.” In England today, and in some Japanese, the word has an authority not divine, but only in society.

Actually, I see the Japanese word more current. Its History is still current and may be applied to the whole world in a spiritual way. In the mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century, the “lords” under the ruling “Shogun” were taken out of power by the new Emperor Meiji. He decided that the only way to be independent of the more powerful western nations, was to become more like them. After violent confrontations against the Tokugawa Shogun system, the Emperor Meiji with western army help, took control of Japan. No longer did 20 lordships with samurai protectors exist under the Shogun's authority. Former samurai were no longer allowed to carry weapons (swords). But, the loyalty of the

samurai prevailed in Japanese thinking. This was seen in a Japanese Christian leader in 1950 here in Osaka, JAPAN.

### **IF JESUS IS YOUR LORD, YOU ARE GOD'S SAMURI**

In my last Sermon at OIC titled *Legacy of Faithfulness, part 2*, I spoke of the legacy left by the **Man Who Bombed Pearl Harbor** on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941, Mitsuo Fuchida. The Japanese Armed Forces had many ideals of the ancient samurai as shown in the life of Fuchida.

After the War, Fuchida took up farming on land owned by his wife's family. He worked diligently. He had to purchase *How To Farm* books, as a career in flying left him unaware of how to farm. He persisted. As success came to him he realized a TRUTH. He thought: "I worked but some other power had to make these things grow and be good food. There must be a Creator God behind this." Many Japanese worship "Nature", or the "Universe" as god. Fuchida's keen mind realized how helpless he was as a farmer to cause things to grow. He saw God's hand in Nature.

As his farming life gave him time to think, he also found other TRUTHS from a Christian Bible. In his autobiography, *God's Samurai (FLSB)*, he wrote that after the war he was in Tokyo for signing papers regarding the upcoming War Crime Trials! On the street he met an evangelist who gave him a tract, and later sold him a Bible. In the quiet of his farming home he thought many things: "War between nations is crazy. All my close friends who learned to fly with me are dead. Millions of both Japanese and American soldiers and many Japanese citizens are dead! I learned to admire the Americans who were giving up their lives to crash into the aircraft carrier I had flown from. I wanted to be their friends for their courage..but I had to kill them!"

**Reading and meditating on the Bible led him to believe that it had the true answers. These answers point to God's Son, Jesus. He accepted Jesus as his personal saviour, who on the Cross took the punishment Fuchida deserved for his sins. Fuchida read of Jesus' Life and Death. He accepted the Baby Jesus is the Son of God, and the adult Jesus as the Sacrifice for his own sins.**

Jake DeShazzer was the leader of the Christian Evangelism in Tokyo. After he met Fuchida, he encouraged him to speak in public. DeShazzer knew that Fuchida would attract crowds to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

### **Quoting from my last Message:**

"Actually, at first, Fuchida was hesitant to actually preach Jesus. The ministers from Tokyo including Jake DeShazzer, who had given him a tract and then sold him the Bible that *saved him*,

pressed him to not keep his religious rebirth a secret matter. Keeping religious things a secret is a very common Japanese trait. But on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1950, they had gathered a crowd in **Osaka for Fuchida's First Public Testimony**. People mobbed the open street area to hear **the Man who Bombed Pearl Harbor**. Seeing Fuchida's stubborn resistance, one of the ministerial team, Kinichi, said to him, **“Christ said that if you're ashamed of him before men, he'll be ashamed of you before your Father in Heaven. A true samuri maintains unflinching loyalty to his lord. If Christ is now your lord, he has made you his retainer. Your life belongs to Him, now.”** Kinichi took the loyalty of an honorable samurai warrior and used it to convince Fuchida, a wartime pilot and now a Born-Again Christian, to give his testimony for Jesus!.

Soon, Fuchida was speaking with great eloquence to the audience. Fuchida exclaimed the love of American Christian soldiers tortured by Japanese in prison who later returned to the Japanese to save them, even Jake DeShazzar and others. He spoke of the amazing love of the daughter of martyred Christian missionaries beheaded by the Japanese Army. For she was nursing Japanese prisoners of war back to health! And of the God who saved him by faith in His Son. **This faith, he said, is the only way to the harmony Japanese seek!** Soon, he joined with Billy Graham as an evangelist in America. Despite much hatred from Americans, he stayed true to be *God's Samuri* !

## **A GLORIOUS BABY, DEPRESSING WARS, GOD'S GIFT OF SALVATION**

As I think of Fuchidas' path to Jesus as Saviour and Lord I think of these verses from the Book of Romans in the Bible. **(Romans 11.33-34)** says: *Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways!*

**34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?** ...Fuchida's path to believe in Jesus included death and destruction, tragedy, and miracles to keep him alive. Today, we have the feelings of joy at the Birth of Jesus. But, whatever path, happy or sad, God leads each of us. His desire is for us to receive the Gift of His Son, Jesus. The best and never-ending Gift from Christmas!

Many Christians did not have such a hard life as Fuchida to prepare their hearts to accept God's Gift of Jesus. But, this choice is God's wisdom in **(Romans 11.33-34)** *How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR?*

## **Repentance and Salvation**

To Believe in the Gift, Jesus, we all first need the gift of Repentance. Fuchida was a broken warrior, a *Wounded Tiger*. His humility as a farmer after the fame and glamour of a “War Hero” was God's wise work to open Fuchida's heart to repentance for his sins. The Christian Bible, as the one that saved Fuchida, tells us that in **(Luke 24.46-47)** *46 and He {JESUS} said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that **repentance for forgiveness of sins** would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.* We preachers declare the Good News of Jesus as the Savior of the World. But, we must also declare that *without repentance there is no forgiveness of sin.* As Jesus preached in Jerusalem in **(Luke 13.3)** *3... but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.* Jesus commanded us preachers to preach, not only His Birth, Death, and Resurrection; but also ***repentance for forgiveness of sins** would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations,* as He said in Luke 24.

Therefore, every sinner coming to Jesus first admits to God his sinful life, repents or chooses to try to turn around from it toward God. Only then can he believe in Jesus, even in His Name.

Remember I opened this Message with **(John 1.12)** *12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name.* God will cause anyone who believes in Jesus' name to believe in His Gospel, which we preach.

The good feelings of Christmas Lights and songs will fade away. But repentance for sin and faith in Jesus lasts forever. Remember Fuchida's message to the people of Osaka in 1950 included these words:

**“This {Christian} faith,” he said, “is the only way to the harmony Japanese seek!”**

Now today China sends shocks of the fear of War, and not Peace, all around the Earth! We realize that Fuchida's Gospel message for harmony is the same for the whole world, not just for the Japanese.

AND,

Remember earlier in this Message! The Apostle Paul wrote in **(1 Corinthians 15.3-4)** *For I delivered to you as of **first importance** what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.* **If this Christmas Eve you have a heart TO REPENT and believe those three things: CHRIST DIED FOR YOUR SIN, HE WAS BURIED, HE WAS RAISED FROM THE GRAVE, then there will a new birthday to celebrate tomorrow. YOURS!!! Your Spiritual Birthday would be tonight on Christmas Eve. Joy about Jesus will be more than a song...FOREVER!**

Let Us Pray....

## REFERENCES

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**(FLSB) Fuchida's Life Story Books:**

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***From Pearl Harbor to Golgatha*** by Mitsuo Fuchida(available at O.C.C. Web, Facebook)

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