

Advent Four  
Year of the Lord 2019

**“Holy Spirit, Light Divine, shine upon this heart of mine;  
Chase the shades of night away; turn the darkness into day!”  
“Let me see my Savior’s face; let me all HIS beauties trace!  
Show those glorious truths to me which are only known to  
Thee!”**

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit.

**<sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.** <sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel”

(which means, God with us). <sup>24</sup>When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, <sup>25</sup>but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.

In the Name of Jesus:

Joseph was a ‘just’ man—and he planned to divorce from Mary. As a dear saint has taught us all recently, ‘Even when we’re RIGHT, we’re WRONG!’ Thank God for these words, from Mary’s son, Whom Joseph called Jesus:

<sup>16</sup>Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. <sup>18</sup>And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

<sup>20</sup> teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” <sup>1</sup>

We too have been washed by His authority and taught all that is His... So He is with us, to the End. What End? The END...OF SETTLING SCORES! The End of vengeance. The End of getting even. The End of....THIS!

When Israel was in Exile in Babylon—this world’s powers had been, it seemed, victorious! ‘We beat you; our gods beat your God; and now, we’ve got you.’ And they hoped, it seemed, to squeeze the faith and prayer of the servants of the Living God into their mishmash of gods and noise and sensuality—a precursor to the good ol’ USA! There’s a psalm about it!

**137** By the waters of Babylon,  
           there we sat down and wept,  
           when we remembered Zion.  
<sup>2</sup> On the willows there  
           we hung up our lyres.  
<sup>3</sup> For there our captors  
           required of us songs,  
 and our tormentors, mirth, saying,  
           “Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

No; the God of Abraham is not just—as Babylon, USA teaches—just another piece of the puzzle; not just another piece of fabric in the wondrous mosaic of religious expression...

<sup>4</sup> How shall we sing the LORD’s song  
           in a foreign land?  
<sup>5</sup> If I forget you, O Jerusalem,  
           let my right hand forget its skill!  
<sup>6</sup> Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,  
           if I do not remember you,  
 if I do not set Jerusalem  
           above my highest joy!

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<sup>1</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 28:16–20). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.

Then, if you want to be disturbed by your Holy Bible, read the rest of the psalm. By the time the psalmist gets to the part in his prayer where NEW conquerors are taking the children of the Babylonians—and dashing them against the rocks—we learn why this psalm has NO PLACE in the hymnal of the disciples of Jesus Christ, the New Covenant, Christmas!

God hates divorce, the final prophet of the Old Testament cried out; Malachi. Yet Joseph was just, our New Testament commands; ‘just,’ and planning to divorce Mary, the mother of God!

Merry Christmas, dear saints! Americans! Let’s tell the Babylonians too! They’re not hard to find!

For our delivery from Exile—here—is not only sure to come! It came! He came!

And He has commanded—commanded; fun word on Jesus’ lips! Like He’s Moses. He’s NOT Moses.

He has commanded—He has laid it all out: what no man...no man...E...V...E...R.....

We...do...not...have...this...INNNN....US.....

The Living God is pleased as punch that the world plays Christmas jingles non-stop for a month or so—to put men in the mood to spend, spend, go into debt.... What’s the difference! The whole WORLD is singing, due to the woman Joseph WAS...PLANNING...TO...DIVORCEEEEE!!!!!! And her boy.

The Living God now cries out to His disciples: from HIS MOUNTAIN; from Calvary; from Galilee, the place to which HE and His angels RUSHED the apostles—off to Galilee! There you will meet Him! Meet ME!—

Galilee; that first New Testament Babylon, USA, world; strange mixture of ‘just’ men, men who are Jews; and people like us, men who are not.

And what shall they do in Galilee, Babylon, America; these Eleven, and Jesus with them, and more disciples to come? Haha! They will eat and drink His Body and His Blood—to ground them again, pledge them again, that our FAILURINGS with HIS—His--His----COMMANDMENTS?

In the New Testament, the ONLY reason for being a learner of Jesus and trying out His Words of Good News and Good Living, is so that the world can see that  
NO...MAN...HAS...THE...NEW...TESTAMENT...IN...HIM!

THANK

GOD

FOR

OUR

BAPTISM! His Spirit lives in...what people? ‘We ain’t gonna sing with you, you wicked world!’ ‘Oh, you’re gonna get it one day soon; and your little ones with you!’ (Lord, have mercy!)

His Spirit lives and brings to life, these commands, which cannot be commands, because Jesus only spoke them to drive us to confess what we do INSTEAD; and what HE does INSTEAD of TREATING US AS WE DESERVE!!!

<sup>17</sup>“Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. <sup>18</sup>For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

<sup>19</sup>Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>20</sup>For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>21</sup>“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ <sup>22</sup>But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the council; and whoever says, ‘You fool!’ will be liable to the hell of fire. <sup>23</sup>So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother has something against you, <sup>24</sup>leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. <sup>25</sup>Come to terms quickly with your accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be put in prison. <sup>26</sup>Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you have paid the last penny.

<sup>27</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ <sup>28</sup>But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. <sup>29</sup>If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. <sup>30</sup>And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell.

<sup>31</sup>“It was also said, ‘Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.’ <sup>32</sup>But I say to you that everyone who divorces his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery.

<sup>33</sup>“Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.’ <sup>34</sup>But I say to you, Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven, for it is the throne of God, <sup>35</sup>or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. <sup>36</sup>And do not take an oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. <sup>37</sup>Let what you say be simply ‘Yes’ or ‘No’; anything more than this comes from evil.

<sup>38</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ <sup>39</sup>But I say to you, Do not resist the one who is evil. But if anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also. <sup>40</sup>And if anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well. <sup>41</sup>And if anyone forces you to go one mile, go with him two miles. <sup>42</sup>Give to the one who begs from you, and do not refuse the one who would borrow from you.

<sup>43</sup>“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ <sup>44</sup>But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup>so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. <sup>46</sup>For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup>And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup>You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect. <sup>2</sup>

No wonder the whole world is singing at this time, when the Church celebrates His Incarnation. For the world hears—even through us!—that the people of the Living God LIVE to their God, as the men that GOD—all He can do with HIS ‘just men,’ is pardon them, forgive US...continually in the Name of Jesus.

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<sup>2</sup> [\*The Holy Bible: English Standard Version\*](#). (2016). (Mt 5:17–48). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles.