



Christmas Holiday Greeting 2014

William C. Patterson, Ph.D.

“The Christmas Gift of Time”



Jesus Christ is the love gift of God to the world central to the Holiday of Christmas.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life (John:3.16).

The Christmas tradition on Earth follows God’s gracious lead, with families and friends giving each other gifts liberally every commemorative Christmas morning for over 2,000 years. Children remain focal and especially blessed, even as Baby Jesus was given the star of Bethlehem by His Heavenly Father (Matthew:2.2), and Heaven’s precious Son was given a blessed earthly family in the Line of David, Joseph and Mary, by angelic proclamation (Matthew:1.20,Luke:1.28).

Jesus was a Christmas gift to Israel with power to draw the whole world into God’s Kingdom. He was Messiah (The Anointed) of Israel, according to a sacred saving promise from God (Daniel:9.25); and “Emmanuel,” that is, “God with us” (Matthew:1.23). A promised son in the line of King David, He did not make his princely appearance until 28 *generations* after David. Not only had Israel’s dominion *not* advanced to global scope during those many generations, it actually had retreated to an occupied nation status. When royals Joseph and Mary entered the City of David for Jesus’ birth, the hospitality extended was not a King’s mansion, but a stenchy stable (Luke:2.7). No resident royalty were in reception for the Prince. Only humble shepherds of the field, arranged by heaven, showed up that “safely silent” night to celebrate arrival of the Son of God, the King of all Kings (Luke:2.15-16).

God’s Covenant with Abraham, promising him offspring numerous as stars of the sky (Genesis:15.5), was made 14 *generations* before David, but was neither fulfilled by David nor Jewish rulers in place at the time of Jesus’ birth 42 *generations* after Abraham. The rekindled hope of World Kingdom glory, so promising with David’s anointed but bloody reign, remained unfulfilled (1 Chronicles:28.3). So unrefined and fruitless had the Jews become in God’s expansion plan that *pagans* occupied Israel *and* the inhabited world God’s Chosen People should have been claiming for His Divine glory. When God’s investment in Israel clearly failed maturation, John the Baptist and Son Jesus were sent to rescue the *desperate* situation. Israel was on course to fall and scatter shortly (about 70 A.D.). The “light of world” (entrusted to the Jews) was about to go out (Matthew:5.14). God’s ordained Jewish “salt” of the Earth was not “preserving” His earth (Matthew:5.13). Had John and Jesus *not* been dispatched from heaven, the *whole world* would have gone dark, and the human *tree of life* would have withered and died. The *world* our mighty God created and loved would have ended (remember the love scope of John:3.16 is global, not just Israel). The huge but pagan Roman Empire lacked sustainability without God’s Son, collapsing in decadence about 476 A.D. Only the seeded *Church* of Jesus Christ ultimately gave Romans and the world survivability. Although Christmas is annually celebrated on a Roman Calendar, **time** on that Calendar springs solely from our Dear Lord, dispensed at God The Father’s discretion and through God The Son’s (i.e., Jesus Christ’s) high priestly work.

Flash forward about 100 generations from Jesus’ birth to these amazing times. Life in our Information Society doing Knowledge Work has never been easier. Adam’s race (Adam was the

first Son of God), God's Chosen People (the Jews), and the faithful followers of Christ (The Church), all preservers of the Most High Law of God, have persevered and sustained life on earth. They obediently filled the world, tamed the wilderness, stewarded earth's munificence (Adam Covenant: Genesis:1), and evangelized the masses [Abraham Covenant (Genesis:17) and Jesus' Great Commission (Gospels)], empowering survival, peace, and prosperity. These last hundred generations have anticipated return of the Lord Jesus, our Great Shepherd of the Sheep, to finally grace Global Millennial Peace.

Why is He not yet here? God is waiting (again) for a refined, unified, fruitful Church to unite the *whole* world in peace; shower *all* with prosperity; raise *every* son a gentle, wise, providential potentate. God's timetable calls for His globally-refined bread-and-wine people to present Him with a complete *global paradise*, set at the feet of His Dear Son, the Lamb, a gentleman worthiest of power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing (Revelation:5.12), never to be resisted again, never to be harmed again, never to die again.

The present counter-reality of crime, terrorism, wars, doom, nuclear weapons, environment abuse, climate damage, societal instability, over-pacing, frustrating complexity, secret hazards, etc., soberly reminds us how much modern man is squandering the gift of TIME. Too many are given TIME, but have not eyes and hearts enlightened by the Word of God, neither heads and hands Spirit-guided to His good works. God's gift of TIME must interweave with God's gift of mature LOVE . . . refining the same LOVE that came down as a babe from heaven at Christmas long ago. When the Son of Bethlehem is fully understood, appreciated by all; when He orchestrates each globally-savvy mind; when each man stands as a particular God (John:10.34), gently governing wife and family, houses and lands, throughout the world; we finally shall have *heaven on earth!* Do not contradicting obstacles, now so heavy "on the table," give opportunity to identify and fix *everything* with globally-educated, Christ-sanctified minds, and to expertly and skillfully set a course for 1,000 years of peace and rest (Revelation:20)? Let's not fail this long-awaited sanctification crown. Let's not keep the Lord waiting . . . again. Dedicate this Christmas, your Christmas, these consummate times, as the Great Day of the Lord! *Very good* things await us.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year In Christ

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Global Environmental Service

Music Attachment

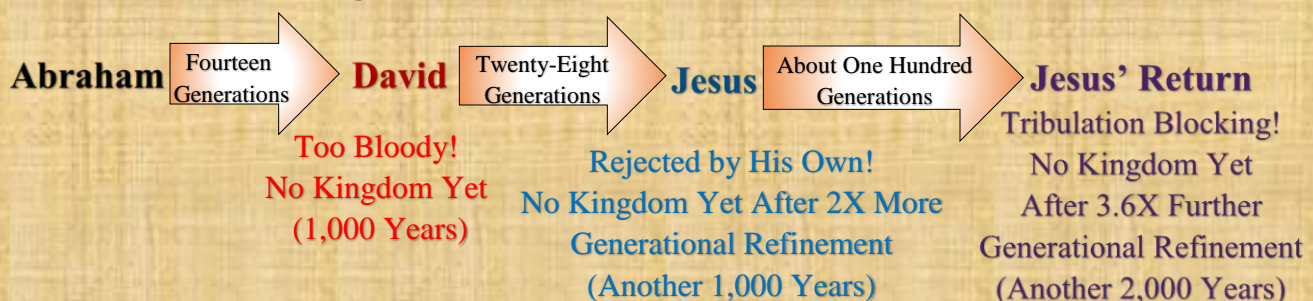
"Silent Night"

Christmas Carol Arranged By Dr. William C. Patterson



God's Kingdom Promise Timeline

William C. Patterson, Ph.D.



Silent Night

Joseph Mohr & Franz Gruber

Silent Night, holy night,
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent Night, holy night,
Son of God loves pure light.
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at Thy birth; Jesus, Lord at Thy birth.

Footnote

This Carol is sung almost every Christmas Eve all around Christendom with a softness and reverence that covers our eyes to the hardship of such an obscure and humble birth experience. We might imagine Mary anxious about the baby's health after such an arduous trip on the back of a donkey, or giving birth under such cold and unsanitary conditions, assisted by an inexperienced husband and no midwife. Some couples might have entertained thoughts like: "I wonder if we somehow offended God, and He has abandoned us by this unusually distressing turn of events." Consider this, however, as a reason for the obscurity: If authorities found out about Jesus, they would have killed the Babe, maybe Mary, too. Herod later killed thousands of proximate male children aged two and under in an attempt to quash any contender for his power. Mary and Joseph did not seek out the residence of David, and stayed only briefly in the City of David, leaving no trace. They saw no star or angels, but the shepherd visitation from distant fields brought confirming testimony that they were solidly in the Will of God. The City was no doubt overloaded due to tax registration on those particular winter nights, so firewood would have been scarce. Their donkey and stabled livestock, however, constituted rather large, multiple "furnaces" radiantly warming the birth space, and exhaling warm, moist air over the Babe, perhaps as they nuzzled the manger for food. Straw not only made a cushiony crib, but it served as a good thermal insulator from the cold earthen floor at Jesus' underside. Finally, it is likely that Mary used a birthing posture typical of stable animals: that of reclining, possibly on her side, to give birth. In many primitive cultures, women simply squatted during labor and let gravity bring down the new born, which might have brain-damaged precious Jesus. The rest of Mary's delivery was, most assuredly, ably in the hands of God our Father. So, I don't think she had a shrieking-hard labor, or was burdened by any of the numerous possible birthing or nursing complications some mothers have known. By the grace of God, it was a safe and relatively silent night after all.

This emailed Christmas Greeting is larger than typical Christmas Cards. Significance of the Christmas Story grows with each passing year, beckoning larger reflection and grander anticipation of the Lord's return. If this form of Christmas Greeting heightens your appreciation and cheer for the Holidays, feel free to re-email it to friends and family in that same Christmas Spirit.