



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

What are you expecting this Christmas? Are you looking forward to receiving a special gift from that someone who holds you dear to their heart, or is this a lonely Christmas for you? Maybe it is going to be sad because you lost someone special in your life or your family can't make it home.

To each of you I say rejoice. I have good news for you. This Christmas can be a joyous event in your life because I have a gift for you - a very special gift. This is a gift that keeps on giving every day of the year, in your sad times and in your good times. It's a gift that will continue to give year after year during your entire life and continues right into the next life. This gift I want to give you is the love and life that come and continue to come through a little baby - the baby Jesus.

Because of His coming I now have a very special gift and you too can have this gift. But first you must know Him. Let me tell you about the greatest gift ever given.

The Prophets of old foretold of His coming, people like Isaiah, Micah, and Hosea. They write: "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14) and "For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given. And the government shall be upon His shoulders and His name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". (Isaiah 9:6) Micah says: "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler of Israel" (Micah 5:2). And Hosea continues: "When Israel was a child I loved him, and out of Egypt have I called my Son" (Hosea 11:1).

These prophecies did come true and the Christ child called Jesus was born of Mary in Bethlehem. He is the gift that is given to you this very day, if only you believe. But the story does not end there, must not end there at Christmas for He has done marvelous things. I must go on. This child was the Son of God and He lived His life here on earth as an example for you and I and in the end He gave His all. He gave His very life for us that we might have eternal life with Him and He was raised victorious to return to the Father to prepare a place for each of us.

This is the gift I give to you as He has freely given it to me. This joy of Christmas the Christ Child has been born for you and now He lives for you in, glory.

I pray that this will be the day that you too come to know Him as your personal Savior. Amen.

-Pastor Alvin L. Oberhammer