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An outreach of Richard Hughes Ministries, Inc.

The Pen of a Ready Writer

...I speak of the things which I have made touching the king:

My tongue is the Pen of a Ready Writer (Psalm 45:1).

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Truth Can Be Stranger Than Fiction

That God so loved man that he would give his only begotten Son to save us from our sins. That the Son of God would humble himself, be made flesh, and submit to the death of the cross for man's redemption. That God's Spirit would dwell within man, on this earth, in this life. These are great truths that none could imagine on their own. Yet, they are reality!

We remind ourselves of God's prophecies concerning Christ's birth each Christmas, often forgetting that His birth is but a portion of those prophecies. Consider Isaiah 9:6 - *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

A child is born - that was the virgin birth of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Unto us a son is given* - that was the crucifixion of our Lord. For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son. *The government shall be upon his shoulder* is not yet seen. Jesus Christ will sit on the throne of his father David (Luke 1:32). He is risen; he has ascended; he now sits on the right hand of his Father in heaven, expecting till his enemies be made his footstool (Hebrews 10:12-13).

During the Lord's first advent, he was submissive to the authorities over him, even unto death. At his second arrival on earth, he will not be as a defenseless babe. He will come to make war, riding a white stallion and wearing a vesture dipped in blood (Revelation 19:11-13). The armies which were in heaven (the Church and Old Testament saints) follow him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean (Revelation 19:14). He will deliver Israel at the Battle of Armageddon. Only then will the government be upon his shoulders, for a thousand years (Revelation 20:1-5).

His rule, however, will be with a rod of iron. Not until he makes all things new, after one final revolt and the White Throne judgment, will he be called *The Prince of Peace*. All will call Christ *Wonderful* in his everlasting Kingdom.

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God is Our Comforter

A friend of mine just lost her husband suddenly, and it brought back painful memories from losing Jerome, my first husband, to a heart attack. Every day I hear of someone losing a loved one: a spouse, a mother, a father or a child. There are hurting people all around us, today more than ever before.

My heart breaks for them. I feel lost as to what to do to help them. You feel the same. We do not know how to lift their burden, but we know the One who can. We can listen, and we can pray.

Our comfort comes from God. As the song *Wonderful Peace*, written by Warren D. Cornell and William G. Cooper, declares: *What a treasure I have / In this wonderful peace / Buried deep in the heart of my soul, / So secure than no power / Can mine it away / While the years of eternity roll!* Consider this acrostic of **LOVE** as you help those about you: **L** - listen to them; **O** - open your heart; **V** - visit them; **E** - enter in prayer on their behalf.

More valuable for the moment than the words we speak, listening is something we all can do. Listening to learn that for which we ought to pray. And the peace of God that passes all understanding, knowing we have made our pray and supplication to him with thanksgiving, shall keep our hearts and our minds through Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:7).

What Would Make 2022 a Happy New Year?

What would it take for you to have a happy New Year? Can we speak so certain of tomorrow that we know what is the very best for us? Or, do we discover that what pleases us the most is found in pleasing others, in pleasing God?

Peter reminds us that the Spirit of Glory and the Spirit of God rests upon us if we be reproached for the name of Christ (1 Peter 4:14); or, if we suffer for righteousness' sake, happy are ye (1 Peter 3:14).

How should we react when we suffer affliction? James says to count them happy which endure such things. He reminds us of Job's patience; and, he points out our Lord's own end: that Jesus was very pitiful, and of tender mercy (James 5:11). The focus is not on how the Lord looked, but on how he reacted: he was full of pity. That is, he was filled with compassion toward those who persecuted him.

Paul shifts the focus regarding happiness, reminding us that we often persecute ourselves for the things we do, even if they are lawful. *Happy is the man*, the Apostle writes, *that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth* (Romans 14:22b). His focus is on not offending our brother in that thing which we do (Romans 14:21). An example is the meat from the market that had been offered to idols. Paul's advice is to eat it at home, *to thyself before God* (Romans 14:22a).

After washing the disciples feet, our Lord asked them a question: *Know ye what I have done to you?* He tells us to wash one another's feet, to prefer others before ourselves. And, if we do these things, we will be happy (John 13:12-17).