



Dear Friend of *Abiding Above*,

December 2016

Christmas is certainly a special time of the year. It is a time to gather together with family and friends and to once again celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let's remember this - the Prophet Micah predicted where Jesus would be born,

Micah 5:2 - *"But as for you, **Bethlehem** Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One (**Jesus**) will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, **from the days of eternity.**"*

These words were written more than 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The prophecy came true! And you can know His second coming will be just the same, right on time.

Let's think for a moment of what Micah wrote:

"From the days of eternity ..."

What is he saying here?

Think of a line that has arrows on each end symbolizing ***eternity***.

Eternity did not start in the Garden of Eden with the creation of Adam and Eve. No, eternity did not start; eternity has always been and eternity will have no end. This is where God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit have always been. So, this is what is meant by ***"From the days of eternity ..."***

Now, we live in a moment that is called time. It seems like a long time to us as we live day by day and grow older. But the truth is, time is just a brief moment **in eternity**.

Notice what God's Word says in **Psalm 139:16** – *"Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them."*



Chris Hodges
President & CEO

This was written about the prophet Jeremiah and the same thing can be said about you. In the mind of God, *in eternity*, God knew you before you had substance! God knows exactly how long you will live.

And then this:

Jeremiah 29:11-13 – “*For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the Lord, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope. ‘Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ‘You will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.’*”

God has a wonderful plan for your life! Even if you only discover it today, there is more for you to do before He calls you home.

Now, back to what we are celebrating, let's read,

Galatians 4:4-7 – “*But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.’*”

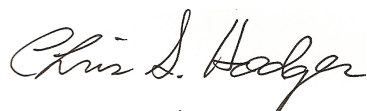
Do you see it? ***From the days of eternity*** ... God the Son (**Jesus**) broke into this moment called time to live only 33 years because those were the days God ordained for Him in time and God, the Father's, perfect plan for Him was to die on an old Roman cross so that our sins were washed away by His precious blood!

The greatest gift ever given was "***For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son....***"

This is what we are celebrating! Were it not for God's grace, we would be wandering down a road to nowhere. Jesus came to pay a debt He did not owe, because we owed a debt we could not pay. Let's keep this in the forefront of our thinking this Christmas!

You are special to us, and we continually thank God for your prayer and financial support. Please consider the most generous donation you can at this year-end. We want to finish balanced and with running room for the new year.

Abiding above,



Chris S. Hodges
President
Abiding Above Ministries
Colossians 3:1-3