



Elizabeth's Christmas Blessing

Luke 1:39-45

03 December 2023

Christies Beach Baptist Church

It can be difficult to wait for Christmas



This is the season of Advent, a season of **waiting with hope.**

Sometimes, waiting makes the experience richer, for there's a joy in expectation. Waiting can be part of the fun.

But waiting isn't always a joy. When we are waiting for rescue, for justice, for healing waiting prolongs our pain. **Waiting is difficult when the world is not as it ought to be.**

What is a truly Christian Christmas Greeting?



The first Christmas card, 1843

The traditional Christmas greeting is about the merriment of seasonal festivities.

Merry Christmas vs Happy Holidays

Is there a particularly Christian greeting for Christmas?

At the sound of Mary's greeting, Elizabeth's child leaped within her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, ... "Why am I so honoured..."

"And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

“blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”

*Not just the
promise of
the angel*

What Mary believes... [**the prophetic aorist**]

1:51 He has ...

1:52 He has ...

1:53 He has ...

1:54 He has ...

1:55 according to the promise he made to our ancestors...



I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, USA, 1864

*The world is not
as it ought to be!*

*But God will
keep his promises*

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to me

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
God is not dead, nor dies he sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men



A Christmas Blessing

Initially, Mary's unique role is highlighted. "...God has blessed you above all women..."

But, the second blessing, is available to us all... "blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." **Blessed are those who believe that God keeps his promises!**

In a world that is not as it ought to be, Mary's song celebrates the God who will put the world to right.

Jesus is proof that God keeps his promises



Emmanuel = God is with us!

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, greets Mary as “The mother of my Lord!”

“The fulfilment of God’s promise to Mary is the reader’s assurance that the rest of God’s promises will come to pass. Part of the assurance comes from knowing what God has done already, so one can trust in what he will do.” (Darryl Bock).



Luke 1:39-45

Christmas is proof of God's faithfulness and a promise of future fulfilment of all God's promises.

**Blessed is the person who believes
that God keeps his promises.**

Knowing that the world is not as it should be, yet assured that God will keep his promises, I wish you all **a blessed Christmas** this year.