

***Christ in Prophecy***  
**“Christmas 3: The Forgotten Promises of Christmas”**

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**Opening**

*Dr. Reagan:* Are you aware of the fact that there are some Biblical promises related to Christmas that most Christians either don't know about or have forgotten? Stay tuned for a discussion of the Forgotten Promises of Christmas.

**Part 1**

*Dr. Reagan:* Greetings in the name of Jesus our blessed hope, I'm Dave Reagan, senior evangelist for Lamb & Lion Ministries. Last week we ended our program with a reference to what I call the Forgotten Promises of Christmas. In this program we want to take an in-depth look at those promises. But first, let me introduce my colleagues who are going to participate in the discussion with me. First is my associate Dennis Pollock. He now is the founder and director of Spirit of Grace, located in McKinney, Texas. And we're glad to have you with us Dennis.

*Dennis Pollock:* Well thanks, Dave.

*Dr. Reagan:* Now this week we have two special guests. One is Don Perkins, right here, who is the founder and director of According to Prophecy Ministries, a Bible prophecy ministry based in San Diego, California. Don thanks for coming all the way from California to be with us this week.

*Don Perkins:* I'm glad to be with you today Dave.

*Dennis Pollock:* Oh, it's good to have you.

*Don Perkins:* Excited.

*Dr. Reagan:* And our other guest is from the great state of Louisiana. He is Don McGee, the founder and director of Crown and Sickle Ministries. We refer to Don affectionately as "the Raging Cajun" and I tell you what, when he gets excited during our discussion, you will understand why we have given him that nickname. Glad to have you Don.

*Don McGee:* Good to be here. Can't think of any other place I'd rather be.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, gentlemen, I want us to get into this discussion of what I like to call "the forgotten promises of Christmas." And to get the discussion started, let's go to the key passage that we're going to be considering on this program. It's found in Luke 1 verses 26 through 33. And Don, how, you know, when I say Don, we've got two Dons here, so I'm going to have to say Don Perkins, Don McGee. Don McGee, how about you reading that passage for us? Luke 1, beginning with verse 26.

*Don McGee:* "Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph of the descendants of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, hail, favored one, the Lord is with you. But she was greatly troubled at this statement and kept pondering what kind of salutation this might be. And the angel said to her, Do not be afraid, Mary for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb, and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great, and He will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

*Dr. Reagan:* Thank you very much Don. Now, folks, I want you to note that this passage contains seven promises. First, Mary will conceive and give birth to a Son. Second, He will be named Jesus. Third, He will be great. Four, He will be called the Son of the Most High. Number five, He will be given the throne of David. Number six, He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And number seven, there will be no end to His kingdom. Now, gentlemen, of these seven prophecies, which ones have been fulfilled?

*Don Perkins:* I would say the first four Dave. First, Mary, she conceived and bore a Son. His Name would be called Jesus. Third, He would be great. And then, fourth, He would be called the Son of the Most High. Jesus was God in the earth. He was the Son of God.

*Dr. Reagan:* Yes, God in the flesh.

*Don Perkins:* God in the flesh.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, there you have it, just one, two, three, four, just bang, bang, bang.

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* I mean Gabriel said, "This is what's going to happen," and that's what happened, right?

*Don Perkins:* Exactly as he said.

*Dr. Reagan:* Ok, now, let's take a look for a moment at the last three prophecies that appear to be unfulfilled. Those prophecies are that He will be given the throne of David. Secondly, that He will reign over the house of Jacob forever. And number three, there will be no end to His Kingdom. Now what about it? Have these three prophecies been fulfilled just as the first four?

*Dennis Pollock:* Well, Dave, they obviously have not, if you take them at face value. Let's consider the first one. It says that He'd be given the throne of David. Well, David's throne was a throne over Israel. David was a king, he was a leader, he was the monarch over the nation of Israel. Jesus is not ruling Israel right now. They have various people in leadership. But Jesus Christ is not one of those in government right now, and He's certainly not the king over Israel. The angel said He would be the throne of David, He would be given the throne of David. Therefore it has not been fulfilled. The same thing with the house of Jacob reigning over the house of Jacob. Obviously Jacob references Israel. He would lead and be the ruler over Israel forever. He has not even begun that. It says His kingdom won't end. Well, it hasn't even started in terms of Israel. So these are promises that have been given. We know that God cannot lie. And yet they have not been fulfilled to this point. Therefore we can only conclude, they will at some future point.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well folks, I would agree with Dennis that these prophecies are unfulfilled. But I want to hasten to point out that the leaders of the Catholic Church and the leaders of the vast majority of protestant denominations in the world today would strongly disagree. The fact of the matter is that the predominant Catholic and Protestant viewpoint is that these three prophecies, like the first four, have already been fulfilled. The argument goes like this, the first four promises were literally fulfilled in the life of Jesus. But the last three have been figuratively or symbolically or spiritually fulfilled in the life of the church. Now what about it fellows? Take these last three for a moment, and let's discuss that. Have they been fulfilled figuratively in the life of the Church?

*Don Perkins:* I would say no. These are literal prophecies. As the first four prophecies were literally fulfilled, I would say the last three have to be literally fulfilled also.

*Dr. Reagan:* You know Don that makes a lot of sense. It's just as logical as it can be, isn't it?

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* The first four were literal, why aren't the last three literal?

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* And yet, we have the majority of Christian leaders on the planet earth today saying those last three are being fulfilled figuratively, symbolically, right now in the Church. What do you think about that Don?

*Don McGee:* My question to anyone who would take that stand would be this, "what law, what rule of hermeneutics, or Bible interpretation do you apply to this? It doesn't apply to any other aspect of New Testament Scripture. Where this comes from, I don't know. I know why it's there. It's because they are trying to take a concept, a Scripture, and cut it and mold it and fashion it into a predisposed theological viewpoint.

*Dr. Reagan:* And that's where you get in trouble.

*Don McGee:* Anytime you do that, you're in trouble.

*Don Perkins:* Yes, very true.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well you know, even the Scriptures themselves, I think can be used to prove that these are not being fulfilled symbolically. For example, what throne is Jesus sitting on right now?

*Don McGee:* Yeah, Jesus is not on a throne right now. He's at the right hand of the Father.

*Dr. Reagan :* Yes sharing the Father's throne.

*Don McGee :* Right, right.

*Dr. Reagan:* But He says in Revelation that one day He's going to come back and take the throne of David.

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* What does this prophecy say? This prophecy says He will be given the throne of David. He is not on the throne of David right now.

*Don Perkins:* That's right.

*Dr. Reagan:* He is at His Father's right hand in Heaven. And you know it even says that when He comes back and takes His throne that we will be able to share His throne just as He is sharing His Father's throne.

*Don McGee:* And not only that, if you go back to the Old Testament, to Jeremiah particularly, in Jeremiah 3 and 17, it says that the name of Jerusalem will be changed to what? The Throne of the Lord.

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Don McGee:* I think that's very significant when you consider the Matthew 25, Matthew 19 passages about the throne of David being in Jerusalem.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well what about this next one? It says He'll reign over the house of Jacob forever. People say that's referring to the Church. What about it Dennis, is that the Church?

*Dennis Pollock:* Well, no, the house of Jacob is the house of Jacob. I think we're...

*Dr. Reagan :* Where do you get that Dennis?

*Dennis Pollock:* That's my personal interpretation. I tell you, I think where people miss it is that there are parallels between Israel and the Church. For example, Israel was circumcised, the males in Israel were circumcised. Well in the Church, in Christ, we're circumcised of heart, so there are parallels, but that doesn't negate the realities of the promises to Israel. Ezekiel 36, God says, "I'm going to give them a new heart, put a new spirit within them." We've often grabbed that promise, yeah, that's what happens when you get born again. And it is. But that doesn't negate the fact that God said to Israel, "I'm going to do that for you." And so here, whatever other spiritual application you may want to make, and maybe we'll get to Heaven and find out there were some. The truth is this was said about Israel, "He would reign over the house of Jacob." God means what He says, He says what He means.

*Dr. Reagan:* Fellows, is Jacob the Church?

*Don Perkins:* No. No. I would like to add to that. Jesus understood it so well in the Book of John, after He did the miracle of feeding the 5,000, the Bible says that the people looked at Him and they would have made Him King. And the Bible said that Jesus perceived that they would make Him King and He hid Himself from them, from Israel. What happened, He would not allow them to make Him the King over Israel before the time.

*Dennis Pollock:* Yes.

*Don Perkins:* He came, first to die for the world. And then later, based on these prophecies he will physically come back to fulfill that prophecy.

*Dr. Reagan:* Don any comment about Jacob being the Church?

*Don McGee:* Absolutely. I see a terrible inconsistency with people who say that this is the Church. They like to argue that we are all children of Abraham by faith. And that's true. But if we were spiritual Israel, then it would not be the house of Jacob, it would be the house of Abraham that would be mentioned here.

*Dr. Reagan:* Yes. Well what about this third prophecy, there would be no end to His kingdom? And again, this seems to me to raise a major problem for those who say this is talking about the Church because I believe the Bible teaches the Church age is going to come to an end. And yet this says there will be no end to His kingdom.

*Don McGee:* Well, the Church age is going to come to an end because the church is not in and of itself going to win this entire world to Jesus Christ. But when you go to Daniel, the "small stone cut out without hands that fills the whole earth" is the kingdom that He's talking about right here.

*Don Perkins:* That's right. Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* The church age is coming to an end when the Rapture occurs.

*Don Perkins:* That's right.

*Don McGee:* That's right.

*Dr. Reagan:* We're going to be taken out of here brother, and the kingdom that's going to fill the whole world is the one you just mentioned, when Jesus Christ comes back to reign.

*Don McGee:* Yeah, He's going to smash all others and He will be reigning supreme.

*Dr. Reagan:* But He's supposed to be reigning now.

*Don McGee:* If He's reigning now, we're in bad shape Dave.

*Dr. Reagan:* And He's doing a very bad job. Because it says that when He reigns none of the nations will be in revolt.

*Don McGee:* Well, if we're supposed to reign with Him, what am I supposed to be doing? I don't see me reigning anywhere.

*Don Perkins:* That's right.

*Dr. Reagan:* You're not reigning anywhere?

*Don Perkins:* I'm not reigning anywhere. It's tough enough reigning in my own home.

## **Part 2**

*Dr. Reagan:* Folks, those who take the position that the last three promises made to Mary have been fulfilled spiritually in the Church are called amillennialists. These are the people who argue that there is not going to be any future reign of Jesus on this earth because we are living in the

millennium now. That's right. They argue that we are living in the millennium right now! In just a moment, we are going to discuss this viewpoint, but before we do, let's pause for a song by Sandi Patty called *Bethlehem Morning*. Listen carefully to this song because it beautifully interweaves the First Coming of Jesus with the promise that He will come again.

Song *Bethlehem Morning*

*Dr. Reagan:* Okay fellows let's get right to the issue. We were talking about amillennialism, and we really want to focus in on that right now. And that particular viewpoint, which is held by the majority of Christians, both catholic and protestant, is that we are living in the millennium right now. What do you think about that?

*Don Perkins:* We're not, definitely not. I'll give you a simple example. Isaiah 11, one of the conditions of the millennium is that Christ will deal with the animal kingdom. Go to any zoo, and look at the lion. Based on the scripture, during the millennium, the lion will eat straw like the ox. Go to a zoo today and see if that lion is eating straw today.

*Dr. Reagan:* Yeah, put a little lamb in the cage.

*Don Perkins:* Put a little lamb in that cage and see what happens. Lamb chops.

*Dr. Reagan:* Lamb chops.

*Don Perkins:* Lamb chops.

*Dr. Reagan:* What about you guys?

*Don McGee:* Handel understood this many years ago when he wrote the words and the music to that great song *Messiah*. And Charles Wesley also understood it when he wrote the words to the song *Joy to the World*. We sing that as a Christmas song, but guys, that's not even close to being a Christmas song.

*Don Perkins:* That's right.

*Don McGee:* That's a song that has to do with the millennial reign of Christ. "He rules the world with truth and grace." That is not the case today. So this amillennial viewpoint is not something that was imposed upon the world in the fourth or fifth century and that it hasn't changed. There have been godly, scholarly men through those centuries who have understood these passages. But because of the Greek influence that goes back to the early church age, where anything having to do with the world, or the physical world was bad, was sinful, then that was imposed upon the Church, but it's not scriptural.

*Dennis Pollock:* Right.

*Dr. Reagan:* What about it Dennis?

*Dennis Pollock:* Dave, you know, I'll never forget, many years ago, before I really knew much difference between amillennial, pre-millennial, or a millipede or whatever. I heard some tapes by a guy that was teaching on the amillennial viewpoint, and he was going along and on the first tape or two it made some sense. And I was starting to think, "maybe he knows what he's talking about." But the thought came up, "where is the millennium in all of

this?" Well, he finally got around to that, and basically said, "it's all symbolical, it doesn't really mean anything of what it says, and essentially, there is no millennium." I couldn't go along with that.

*Dr. Reagan:* Boy, that really robs you of a lot of hope doesn't it?

*Dennis Pollock:* Well, it does, you know. And what they do, when you look at the millennium and you say, "What's involved, what does the Bible say about it?" There are really two great sources of that. One is Revelation 20 where it describes certain aspects of it. The other is Isaiah, where it goes into some of the more graphic details about it all. And when you look at that, if you take it as it's written, you find that Satan is going to be bound for this thousand-year period. I mean, he is not going to be active. If you're bound you can't do a whole lot. You know, if I was going to tie you up, you wouldn't get much work done, would you? And so he's going to be bound, thrown into a pit, and the Bible says, even beyond that, "he will deceive the nations no more." Well, I've been to India. I've been across the world and I've seen some of the way that millions and billions of people are bound by false religion, by deceit, by deception. Satan is very busy. He is not the least bit bound at this point. He is active, involved, and so forth. So, you know, if you took a couple of drops of coke and put it in a gallon bucket, and then you poured water in the rest of it and said to someone, someone hands you that and says, "here, have a coke." You'd say, "that's not a coke." You know, that's two drops of coke and the rest water. That's what they've done with the millennium. They have so diluted it, and said, "Well this doesn't mean what this says. This doesn't mean what this says. Yeah, Satan is bound, but he's still able to do a whole lot." Essentially they dilute it out of existence.

*Dr. Reagan:* Fellows, I was teaching on this one time, and I was talking about how Augustine, who developed this whole concept of amillennialism, back about 400 A.D., pointed out that Satan was bound by the cross and he's been bound ever since then and that's one of the evidences that we're in the millennial reign of Jesus Christ. And there was a fellow in the audience, just stood up right there, he said, "wait a minute, wait a minute. What?" He says, "You're saying to me that amillennialists believe that Satan is bound right now?" And I said, "That's right." He said, "Well brother, all I got to say is, if he's bound, he is bound on a very long chain because he's always gnawing on my leg." And boy, he just brought the house down.

*Don McGee:* Well, you see, Peter didn't understand what Augustine realized, because Peter said he's like a lion that goes about seeking someone he might devour.

*Dennis Pollock:* That's right, that's right.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, let me make another point here about amillennialism. I grew up in an amillennial church, and the only sermon we ever heard about Bible prophecy was one that said, "there is not one verse in the Bible that even implies that Jesus will ever put His foot on this earth again." I heard that over and over and over. "He is never coming back to this earth. He'll just appear. We'll go up to meet Him. The earth will cease to exist. We'll be in a nether-nether land, floating around on a cloud playing a harp." Something like that, but, "there's not one verse that implies He'll ever put His foot on this earth again." What about that?

*Don McGee:* Well, what did they do with Zechariah? That would be kind of difficult to deal with.

*Dr. Reagan:* Zechariah 14.

*Don McGee:* That's right.

*Dr. Reagan:* What does it say?

*Don McGee:* It says He is coming back to this earth. Not only does it say He's coming back to this earth, but it specifically says He's coming back to the Mount of Olives in Jerusalem.

*Dr. Reagan:* In fact it says when His foot touches the mountain, what's going to happen?

*Don McGee:* It'll break open.

*Don Perkins:* It will cleave.

*Don McGee:* It will split.

*Don McGee:* A great earthquake.

*Don Perkins:* Yes. Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* Yeah, and verse 14, let's see, chapter 14, verse 9 says, "on that day He will become..." What?

*Dennis Pollock and Don McGee:* King over all the earth.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, fellows?

*Don Perkins:* Dave, I believe it's a physical prophecy. Again, He must fulfill that prophecy, every jot and tittle of the Word He must complete. The Jews thought at the time, after His ascension, I mean resurrection, when He ministered to the disciples, they thought He was coming to restore the kingdom at that moment. And He said, "Just wait a little while longer, I've got some things we're going to do." But He knew that there was a time when He would come back and physically reign, sovereign, as King.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, another problem with the amillennial viewpoint is they say that the millennium began at the Cross, that it's going to end when Jesus Christ returns. That's been two thousand years and yet the Bible says it's going to last a thousand years. And they say, "Well, the thousand years is figuratively, it's symbolic, it doesn't really mean a thousand years." What do you think about that?

*Dennis Pollock:* Well you know Dave, the thing that amazes me is not that the liberals believe that, because they symbolize almost everything. They even say Jesus' resurrection was symbolic. He didn't even literally, physically rise. So that doesn't surprise me, but there are churches, including the one you grew up in, that hold pretty much to the face value of the Bible when it comes to everything else except prophecy.

*Dr. Reagan:* That's right.

*Dennis Pollock:* And then when it comes to prophecy, they start symbolizing like crazy, and spiritualizing. And so they do, they take that thousand years and say, "well, it can't mean that." Obviously it couldn't if they're going to hold on to that doctrine. But I just don't understand how



you can take every other aspect of the Bible at face value, and then take this one section and just spiritualize it.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, you make a very good point there. It's understandable for liberals to spiritualize.

*Dennis Pollock:* Sure it is.

*Dr. Reagan:* But for conservatives, I mean, I grew up in a very conservative church that taught me the Bible means exactly what it says, from beginning to end, unless it's talking about the Second Coming of Jesus; then it never means what it says. Now how can you justify that?

Dennis Pollock: You can't.

*Dr. Reagan:* And when you get over to Revelation 19, rather, Revelation 20, it says in verse 2 it's going to last a thousand years.

*Dennis Pollock:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* It says in verse 3 a thousand years. It says in verse 4 a thousand years. It says in verse 5 a thousand years. It says in verse 6 a thousand years. It says in verse 7 a thousand years.

*Don Perkins:* That's six times, Dave, it said a thousand years.

*Dr. Reagan:* How many times does it have to say a thousand years?

*Don Perkins:* It said it six times there. I believe the Word.

*Dennis Pollock:* One time would be sufficient.

*Dr. Reagan:* I've had people tell me that, "Well, it only mentions it in one chapter of the Bible, therefore it couldn't really mean what it says, or it's not important." I think if it mentioned it in one verse it's important.

All Agree: Sure it is.

*Don McGee:* If we're not going to have a thousand years on this earth with the Lord, then I'm going to seriously reconsider my belief in His imminent return to take the Church out. There is more in the Bible about the Second Coming, and what is going to happen when He comes back to this earth than there is about the Rapture in 1 Thessalonians 4 and 1 Corinthians 15. So if we're going to do this, then let's be consistent now. If we're not going to believe that He's coming back to this earth literally, then we need to question whether or not He's going to come back in the air to take the Church out.

*Dennis Pollock:* You know, if you lived back in the days before Christ came the first time, and you wanted to get the most accurate knowledge you could about how the Messiah...what He would be like, how He would come and so forth, the best way you could have done that would have been to have found guys who took the Bible literally. Guys that said, "well it says He's going to be born of a virgin, I think He's going to be born of a virgin. It says He's going to ride on a donkey at some point, I think He's going to ride on a donkey." The guys that took the Bible

literally would have been your best bet for understanding the First Coming. Who says that that's not the case for the Second Coming?

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, I always had people say, "Apocalyptic, apocalyptic, apocalyptic." And one day I read the whole book of Zechariah, which is an apocalyptic book. And that book says, "Jesus is coming. The Messiah is coming. He's coming on a Donkey, He's going to be hailed as a king. He's going to be betrayed, betrayed by a friend, betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. The 30 pieces of silver will be used to buy a potter's field. He will be lifted up. He will be pierced." And what, every one of those things meant exactly what they said. And you don't have to be a space scientist to say, "Well, if they meant what they said..."

*Don Perkins:* Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* ...then the Second Coming prophecies must mean what they say, whether it's apocalyptic or not.

*Dennis Pollock:* Yeah.

*Dr. Reagan:* Apocalyptic, I thought, was a disease for a long time. And I think it is the way some people use it.

*Dennis Pollock:* Well, the thing that is so disastrous is that if you do start spiritualizing, then nothing really means anything. I mean it's anybody's guess. There's nothing you can say definitively, and that's why those that hold to this view basically don't teach on it much. That's what they believe, but they don't teach on it much because it's just so wide open for anybody to believe anything.

*Dr. Reagan:* When you start spiritualizing, people love to do it, you know why? Because when you start spiritualizing, you become God.

All Agree: Yes.

*Dr. Reagan:* Because then the scriptures mean anything that you want.

## **Closing**

*Dr. Reagan:* Well, folks, that's our time for this program. The last three promises that the angel Gabriel made to Mary are really glorious ones for all believers. Don't let anyone rob you of their glory by spiritualizing them with nonsensical arguments that they really don't mean what they say or that they have already been fulfilled in some strange, mysterious, and spiritual way. Again, the first four promises were literally fulfilled. And I think we can confidently expect the last three to also be literally fulfilled in history.

*Dennis Pollock:* Let me ask you a question. Are you an heir of these promises? Do you have the promise of living with God in His eternal kingdom? The Bible says there is only one way you can become an heir of these promises, and that is to become a child of the Father who made the promises.

*Don Perkins:* And the way you do that is by being born into the family of God by accepting Jesus as your Lord and Savior. If you have never done that, then all you need to do is pray a

simple prayer to God in which you would say something like this: "Dear Heavenly Father, I confess to you that I am a sinner and that I am sorry for my sins. I ask You to forgive me as I accept Your Son, Jesus, as my Lord and my Savior. Thank you, Lord. In Jesus name, amen."

*Don McGee:* And when you pray that prayer, be sure to seek out a Bible believing church where you can witness your faith through a public confession of Jesus and through water baptism.

*Dr. Reagan:* Well folks, I hope you will be back with us again next week. Until then, this is Dave Reagan speaking for Lamb & Lion Ministries saying, "Look up, be watchful, for our redemption is drawing near."

**End of Program**