

CHRISTMAS EXPECTATIONS

- Selected texts

With special focus on Luke 1:74-75

Let's consider some Christmas expectations from the biblical record of the time surrounding Christ's birth.

I. VARIOUS CHRISTMAS EXPECTATIONS

A. SOME EXPECTED ROUTINE

1. Zacharias – Luke 1:8-14
 - He expected to go do his priestly service in the order of his division (8)
2. Shepherds - Luke 2:8-10
 - They expected their night watch guarding the sheep to be uneventful (8)
3. Yet unexpected things do happen outside the routine

B. SOME EXPECTED MONEY

1. Caesar Augustus - Luke 2:1-3
 - His goal was to have all register so that he could then tax them for his massive building projects
2. The Inn Keeper - Luke 2:7
 - The inn was overcrowded, every possible space was rented, and he was no doubt making money.
3. Illustration: Retail business forecasts for the Christmas season

C. SOME EXPECTED A KING

1. Mary - Luke 1:31-33
 - The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David (32)
2. Wise Men - Matt. 2:1-2
 - Herod expected a threat or revolt with this new king See Matt. 2:13-18

D. SOME EXPECTED A SAVIOR

1. Joseph - Matt. 1:21-23
 - He will save His people from their sins (21)
2. Zacharias - Luke 1:67-73
 - ... And has raised up a horn of salvation for us (69)
3. Simeon - Luke 2:28-32
 - My eyes have seen your salvation (30)

Over please >

II. GOD'S CHRISTMAS EXPECTATION - Luke 1:74-75

A. GOD EXPECTS SERVICE (74)

1. He Rescued us from our Enemies
 - a. Those that hate us (71-73)
 - See Psalm 97:10
 - b. That which holds us: Evil's bondage and guilt's condemnation
2. He Desires from us Service
 - a. We are not rescued so that we can just rejoice and then just go back to our routine
 - b. God expects activity and allegiance not apathy!

B. THE SERVICE GOD EXPECTS

- Far more than mediocrity, He expects sincerity
1. Fearless Service (74b)
 - a. Having no fear of bondage, failure or retreat
 - b. Note Psalm 27:1
 2. Excellent Service (75a)
 - a. In holiness: A devotion based upon respect for God and His eternal principles
 - b. In righteousness: A demonstrated godliness as a witness to those around us
 3. Devoted Service (75b)
 - An audience of one! > I did this before You as I do this for You
 4. Persevering Service (75c)
 - An enduring, continued, unending commitment

CONCLUSION:

**IS GOD GETTING WHAT HE EXPECTS THIS CHRISTMAS?
- Let us give Him our undefiled and uninterrupted worship!**