

## ISAIAH'S CHRISTMAS

Around the year 710 B.C., inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "He has no form or comeliness, and when we see Him there is no beauty that we should desire Him."<sup>1</sup> This is a declaration that the Word Who spoke the universe into existence, Who was to be born of a virgin on the earth, would not be so attractive that He would be followed because of His masculine countenance, or outward appearance. No! He would be just the opposite. One whom the world would mock, call an impostor, a Samaritan, and would despise, reject and crucify on a cross, the most ignominious death reserved for criminals under Roman law.

But how precious He is to those who know Him *today*. For to *know* Him personally, defies description in human terms. To be introduced to Jesus by the Holy Spirit is so wonderful, there is literally *no* [other] *beauty* that we should desire Him. To know Him as revealed by the Holy Spirit, to hear His voice, to perceive with the eye of faith the beauty of His character, His Spirit, leaves absolutely nothing to be desired. *Absolutely nothing!* Such is His beauty today. One does not know Him through good works or the praise of men, but by being born again. As Jesus said to Nicodemus one night, "unless one is born again, he cannot *see* the kingdom..."<sup>2</sup>

That rebirth<sup>3</sup> is not an achievement of the mind or the intellect, but is a supernatural act of God, when by faith, one invites Jesus into his heart as Lord. And the word *Lord* means one who rules or reigns with authority. In this case, with absolute authority, for He said, "All authority has been given to Me [by God] in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..."<sup>4</sup>

No one...

spoke as He spoke  
lived as He lived  
died as He died  
gave as He gave.

He gives one...

reason to live  
reason to love  
reason to write.

He is...

the essence of giving  
the reason  
for the Season.

To know Him is...

to love Him  
to wish for everyone  
that blessing.

And Indeed, by faith

we offer Him to you  
the greatest Gift to give  
at Christmastime.

Merry *Christmas* from

Jim & Dale Ash

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<sup>1</sup>Isaiah 53:2 (b).

<sup>2</sup>Read John 3:1 - 21 for the story of Jesus' secret meeting one night with a prominent ruler of the Jews.

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<sup>3</sup>Even the crickets say rebirth, rebirth, rebirth.

<sup>4</sup>Matthew 28:18 (b), 19 (a), (brackets inserted).