

12/21/19

NT #49

Christmas
Good Tidings of Great Joy

GT

Christmas was a long-awaited fulfillment of a promise

think of... Daniel chapter 9 - 70 x 7 years

- 2 Peter 3 → Jesus delays his coming. (His second coming)

- Helaman ch 16 & 3 Nephi 1:8 - they did watch steadfastly... that they might know that their faith had not been in vain

① God's timing might be unfathomable, but his blessings do come

Christmas was an up-ending of expectations

think of...

- → the Davidic Covenant. There would be a king whose house should never fail. The assumption was, he'd be more powerful than David or Solomon, both powerful and prestigious monarchs

- Matt 5-7 → blessed are... meek, poor in spirit, those who hunger and thirst

- "good tidings" Isaiah 40, 52, 61 - news about a king victorious in battle

- manger = "to eat" in French. Not a quaint symbol of bucolic ease, it's a feeding trough. The kind of want that has to exist in your life to put your baby in a trough is a lot

in fact, Jesus' birth ~~was~~ happened amid a whole series of calamities or near calamities for his family - unwed pregnancy, travel during 3rd trimester, unplanned taxation, displacement, persecution & murder by Herod, relocation to Egypt

② God's gifts come dressed in disguise.

Christmas was a supreme manifestation of God's love

think of

- John 3:16 → God so loved the world

- 1 Nephi 11 → Nephi understood the fruit was the love of God after he learned the meaning of condescension

③ For those willing to see, God's plan radiates love and multiplies it

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Russell M. Nelson excerpted from "Teachings of Russell M. Nelson"

"Remembering Christ in Christmas" → which is taken from

"Gifts for an Empty Stocking"

3 Paragraphs - read them

what kind of things would you put in a stocking for the savior

The things that come to my mind are all acts of service and love to someone other than Jesus. Isn't it interesting that it is literally impossible to serve Jesus directly? He needs nothing from us, except to bring joy into our own lives and the lives of others.