

unexpected

four unexpected christmas stories

Zechariah

Herod

Mary

Simeon



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When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."



Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.



Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God saying:



29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."



The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him.³⁴ Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,³⁵ so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."



But to Israel and Judah He will be a stone
that makes people stumble, a rock that
makes them fall. And for the people of
Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare.

Isaiah 8:14



"He would come unto His own and
His own received Him not."

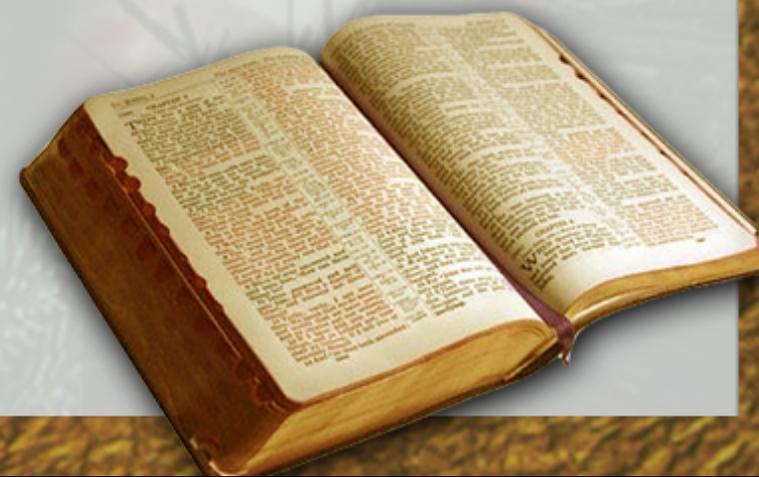
John 1:11



... and to be a sign that will be spoken against,



This is the verdict: Light has
come into the world, but
people loved darkness
instead of light because their
deeds were evil. John 3:19



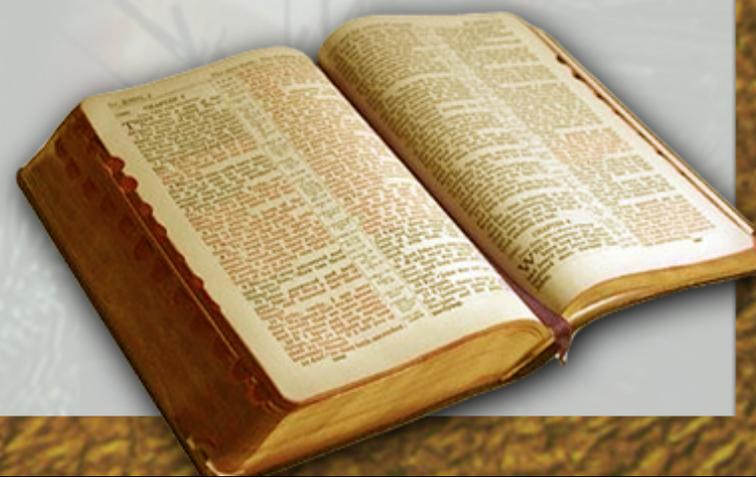
Matthew 10:34 Jesus says,

“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword?”



“Glory to God in highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those
with whom God is pleased.”

Luke 2:14





At once the Pharisees went away
and met with the supporters of
Herod to plot how to kill Jesus.

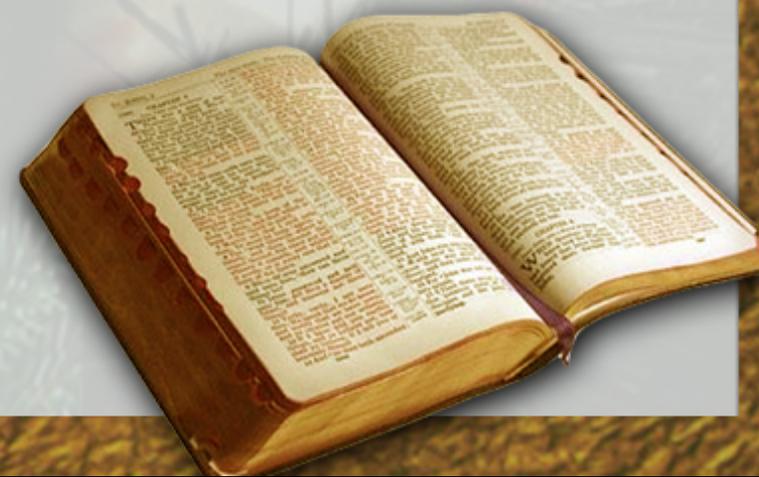
Mark 3:6





But the teachers of the law from Jerusalem were saying, *“Beelzebul is living inside him! He uses power from the ruler of demons to force demons out of people.”*

Mark 3:22



"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. Matthew 7:13



Merry Christmas

"I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.

John 5:24



Merry Christmas



...so that the thoughts of
many hearts will be revealed.

Luke 2:35



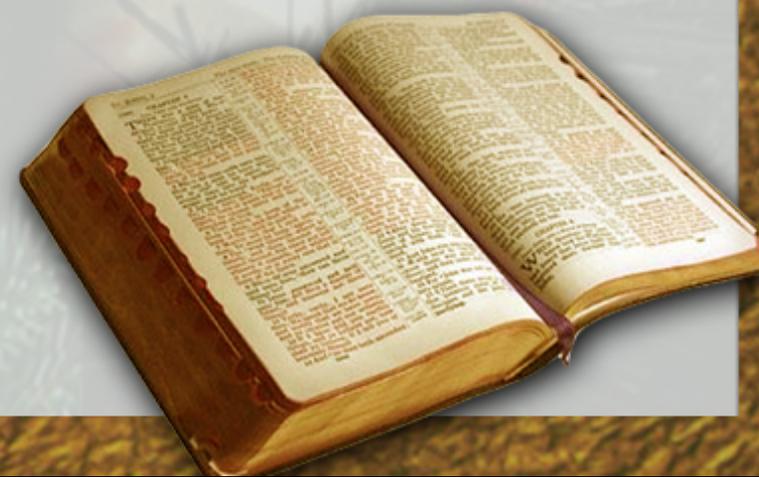


"The only way for you to get peace is to pass through the pain of repentance and exposure."

C.S. Lewis

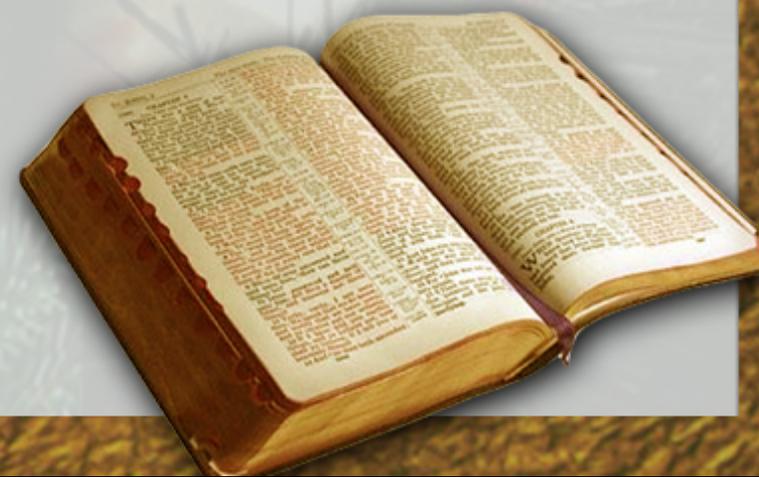


For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—
Ephesians 2:8



This righteousness is given through
faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.

Romans 3:22





Then he added, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture: 'I want you to show mercy, not offer sacrifices.' For I have come to call not those who think they are righteous, but those who know they are sinners." Matthew 9:13



Merry Christmas

Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death.

2 Corinthians 7:10



Have mercy on me, O God, because of your unfailing love. Because of your great compassion, blot out the stain of my sins.
² Wash me clean from my guilt. Purify me from my sin. ³ For I recognize my rebellion; it haunts me day and night. ⁴ Against you, and you alone, have I sinned; I have done what is evil in your sight. You will be proved right in what you say, and your judgment against me is just.

Psalm 51:1-4



"God, I don't have the right to tell you how to run the universe."



Joni



For everything that is hidden will eventually be brought into the open, and every secret will be brought to light.

Mark 4:22



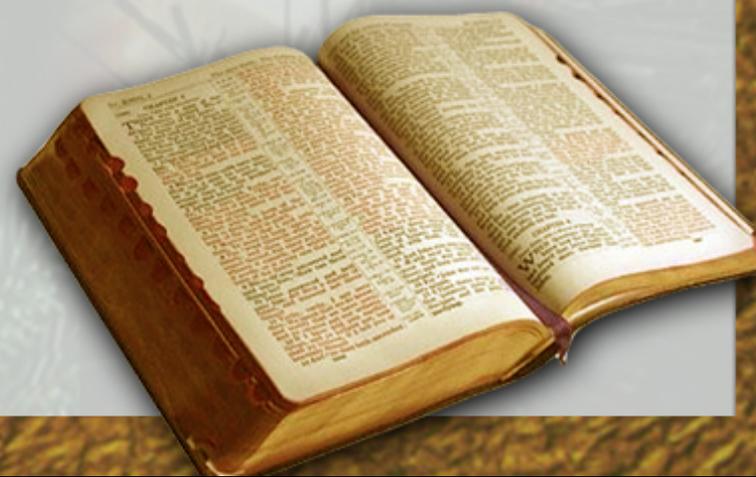
Whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be shouted from the housetops for all to hear!

Luke 12:3



For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.

2 Corinthians 5:10







Merry Christmas