



**Empowering People to Change the World**

**Christmas Eve 2021  
The Light Shines in the Darkness**

**Steve Holt**

## **The Light Shines in the Darkness**

### **Christmas Eve 2021**

#### **Luke 2:1-7**

#### **Dark Times**

- The Romans had ruled with an iron fist for over 100 years, and they could do whatever they wanted with their captive peoples.
- Caesar Augustus, the first Roman Emperor, was a de facto dictator who ruled with ruthless effectiveness.
- Augustus Caesar maintained autocratic authority by having the Senate grant him lifetime tenure as Supreme Military Commander, Tribune, and Censor.
- There was no voting. Taxes could be levied at any time.
- They registered the people through taxation in order to keep complete control over all their provinces. This put an enormous burden on the working class.
- One writer speaking of the times stated, "Poverty was commonplace, and the constant threat of famine and drought had taken its toll on the food supply."
- Joseph and Mary were poor. The route from Nazareth to Jerusalem was 70 miles on foot, with a pregnant wife. Scholars believe under such conditions, it would have taken them two weeks.
- There were bandits along the road, and it was a dangerous route with no protection.

#### **Galatians 4:4**

***"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law."***

**The fullness of times—the perfect time for Christ to come to the earth was the darkest of times. Jesus came on that first Christmas during dark times.**

### **Today's World is a Dark Place**

- Domestically, inflation is soaring, with the greatest rise in inflation in over 30 years.
- Gas prices have doubled. Food supply chains have diminished.
- Despite the abundance of available jobs out there—ten million at last count, businesses can't seem to find anyone to hire.
- With the exception of Big Pharma, Big Tech, and Big Media, most businesses have still not recovered from the shutdown.
- Dr. Fauci's business closures have pulverized America's middle class and engineered the largest transfer of wealth in human history. In 2020, workers lost \$3.7 trillion, while billionaires gained \$3.9 trillion. Some 493 individuals became new billionaires and an additional eight million Americans dropped below the poverty line.
- The biggest winners were the robber barons of Big Technology, Big Data, Big Telecom, Big Finance, Big Media, and Silicon Valley.
- Racial tensions have divided us, and vax mandates have divided us.
- A more aggressive China is on the move.
- Since Roe v. Wade in 1973, an estimated 62 million abortions have taken place in the U.S.

**But like that first Christmas, the deepest problems we face are not political, economic, or educational, but spiritual.**

**Isaiah 9:2**

***“The people who walked in darkness  
Have seen a great light;***

***Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death,  
Upon them a light has shined.”***

**Jesus does His greatest work in the darkest of times!**

**The fullness of times—the darkest of times. Jesus came on that first Christmas during dark times.**

**Jesus comes this Christmas in the fullness of times—the darkest of times in our nation.**

Ex. John Wesley, the great English evangelist, having arrived in Newcastle, wrote in his journal in 1742, “I walked into the town. I was surprised: so much drunkenness, cursing and swearing...Surely this place is ripe for Christ to come.”

**Ripe for revival? Ripe for a Kingdom of God revolution! It was Wesley’s view that the darker the times, the more ripe for revival.**

This is why Matthew writes of the advent of Jesus upon the scene in Galilee, paraphrasing Isaiah 9:2,

**Matthew 4:16**

***“The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light,  
And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
Light has dawned.”***

**On that first Christmas, on this 2021<sup>st</sup> Christmas, Christ has come, the Light has come into our darkness.**

- **Jesus said:** *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)
- **John said:** *“This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.”* (1 John 1:5)

- **John continues:** *“If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.”* (1 John 1:7)
- **Jesus said to all of us:** *“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 5:14-16)

**El Paso County is ripe for a Kingdom of God revolution, and it is happening!**

- As we have seen the darkness over our county, our school system, and our city, we have stepped up and brought Christ’s Light.
- The Church Voter Guide that Chaim Goldman developed helped inform El Paso County residents what each candidate for school boards truly believed.
  - We have been used to turn around five school districts with freedom loving, Constitutional school boards.
  - All of our candidates that came from The Road won!
- With Pam Holloway’s Health Recovery Ministry, she and her team have ministered and healed over 1,500 people from covid.
- In feeding our neighbors at Thanksgiving and Christmas, over \$17,000 has been given in the past month, and over 40 full-course meals went out at Thanksgiving from you!
- We have had some needy folks in our congregation who have lost their jobs, and we are meeting their desperate needs this Christmas!
- Partnering with the Colorado Springs Pregnancy Center and Save the Storks, helping women make informed decisions about their pregnancies, we will be giving \$12,000 to each.

- To the new App, Pando, helping and discipling prisoners through “God behind Bars,” we will be giving \$12,000.

### **Have you experienced the Light of Christ in your darkness?**

- **Jesus said:** *“I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* (John 8:12)
- Join the Revolution!
- Jesus is the King of a revolutionary movement of love and freedom.
- We are the lights of the world, a city on a hill, bringing Christ to the hurting, the needy, and the brokenhearted.

### **The mission of Jesus is our mission:**

***“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,  
Because He has anointed Me  
To preach the gospel to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives  
And recovery of sight to the blind,  
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”***

**Join the greatest revolutionary movement the world has ever known!**