



Confronting Christmas Ghosts

The Peace of Christ for your Past, Present & Future



Ethan Livingstone

Confronting Christmas Ghosts

The Peace of Christ for your Future

Fears of the Future

“Personal” Fears

- Career
- Health
- Family
- Finance



Fears of the Future

“Personal” Fears

- Career
- Health
- Family
- Finance

“Big Picture” Fears

- Environment
- Economics
- Politics
- War



Hope



EBENEZER
SCROOGE

Luke 2:8-14

**The people walking in darkness have
seen a great light; on those living in the
land of the shadow of death a light has
dawned.**

For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9

Hope



**Hope: A confident expectation and desire
for something good in the future.**



Moral Certainty: Beyond Reasonable Doubt

**The *Hope* I have for our
marriage**



“Biblical hope is a confident expectation and desire for something good in the future. Biblical hope has moral certainty in it. When the word says, “Hope in God!” it does not mean, “Cross your fingers.” It means, to use the words of William Carey, ‘Expect great things from God.’”

John Piper



Hope

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.
Isaiah 9:6.

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Isaiah 9:6.

So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father's one and only Son.

John 1:14

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John 1:14

But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38-39

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I am all for a person's right to believe in whatever he or she desires, to embrace foundational myths of aliens, or miracles, or extreme positions of love or hatred, as long as it remains in a place of worship, with the door closed.

Neil McDonald,
CBC News
May 30, 2017



Has Jesus come to give us hope
for our *personal problems* only?



The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned. You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as men rejoice when dividing the plunder. For as in the day of Midian's defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior's boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9

**If Jesus can't offer credible hope
for the world and its problems,
then what are the alternatives?**





“All of the examples our age displays as proof of civilization’s advance might prove to be a falling backward... The marvelous mariner’s compass has led its share of pirates, Nazi’s and Kamikaze pilots. Has the film industry made a vital contribution to our pilgrimage to the eternal city? What does the airplane make you think of—hijackers, holidays, or bombers? We shall always have to hang our heads in shame that atomic energy made its debut at Hiroshima instead of at the World’s Fair.

Concentration camps are not the malicious crimes of ancient times which we've outgrown, but far more massive atrocities than Nebuchadnezzar had the capacity to administer. The tribal chieftain cut through our illusions of superiority when he asked the American soldier in North Africa, "Why do you kill so many more people than you can eat?"

What is the advantage of stretching life as long as Methuselah, or mixing up men by the batch in our own clever little laboratories, if this only multiplies the agony and absurdity?"

David Redding



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