



Christamas Gifts

*By: H. Grace Bishop Moussa
Bishop of Coptic Youth*



Without doubt, the birth of our lord Jesus Christ is the birthday of mankind. The birth of our Lord Jesus Christ became humanity's incarnation. By His Glorious incarnation, our Lord Jesus Christ opened for mankind the only way for self-realization, happiness and glory.

Shame of sin:

Human kind fell and was despised by Satan. In their self centeredness, humans knew the pains of regret and lived under the shame of sin.

Is there a shame greater than separation from God?

Is there a shame worse than banishment from the Garden of Eden?

Is there a shame worse than disorder in human components?

Instead of being led by the Spirit within them, humans were led by their enemy Satan, and motivated by rebellious instinct?

Then came the pressure of lust. Instead of living in a pure spiritual love, Adam and Eve fell under the sway of sensuality. Instead of being filled in generous, self-sacrificing, pure, divine love, selfishness appeared to kill

Abel the righteous. Instead of laying sacred foundation for marriage, the sons of God loved the Daughters of the world.

Humanity was stricken by corruption. Adam and Eve came out to till the land. Thus, their eyes looked down to the earth of which they were physically made, not up to heaven where the divine breath exists, this breath that made a living soul out of dust.

Hope of salvation:

We thank God that he didn't stop when we stopped, He raised Adam and Eve and placed before them the image of the Savior. Through women's offspring, came the man who would bruise the serpent's head in his divinity, but the serpent would bruise his heel in humanity; he would be crucified. Meaning that, our Savior takes His humanity from Eve, while His divinity is infinite. The two natures, (human and divine), are united in one nature, making out the "Unique Natured", the only one of His nature. Mankind waited many centuries for the Messiah while they were living in the sorrow of sin.



Then came our Lord Jesus Christ, He came with gifts for mankind, those gifts are...



People have a good conscience to show the right way, people follow their instincts instead, which led to the path of evil. People couldn't and still can't control these instincts, which causes people troubles until this very day.

- *Light.*
- *Salvation.*
- *Glory.*

In this issue we are emphasizing on Light, Salvation and Glory will be continued in the next issue.

Light...

“God is light, dwells in light, and is praised by angels of light” (Church hymns)

“God is light and in Him is no darkness at all” (1Jn 1:5)

Since the fall, humanity has entered into a dark world, which was the darkness of sin and the separation from God. This happened because of the separation from the One True Light, God. A sinner is a person who is blinded and therefore falls into the pit and dies. Our Lord Jesus Christ opened the man eyes and led him into repentance.

Mankind was in darkness before our Lord Jesus Christ Coming...like...

1. Darkness of mind...

People started out with paganism but they didn't feel satisfied, so they worshiped an “unknown God” which was in Athens during the days of St. Paul.

2. Darkness of instinct...

3. Darkness of sin...

The enemy of God predominated over humanity. He gave it the ability to invent many evils.

Light Shone on Them:

Before our Lord Jesus Christ, humanity lived in the faint light of candles...like...

1- Prophets' words

Prophets' words which instructed people trying to help them in God's ways. Yet the nature was corrupted and it needed a healer, a creator who can restore everything. There were a lot of prophecies foretelling the coming of the Lord.

“I see Him, but not now, I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come forth out of Jacob” (Num 24:17)

2- Predications of Philosophers...

Every body waited for the Messiah and a lot of people predicted it and God seeing their yearning for the truth sent his spirit, the best example is Magi, After the Balaam's prophecy, they waited centuries for the shining star, believing that God, the Light,



must fulfil His promise and the a star “Will shine from Jacob”.

3- Then Came The Light...

When the Lord was born, all, even shepherds knew His glory. God knew we couldn't be like Him, so he became like us, taking the flesh but not the sin and brought us up with Him. “Lord, now you are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your words; for mine eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles and the the glory of Your people Israel”(Lk 2:29-32).

4- Light Shone Out of St. Mary...

The church sings, “God is light, dwells in light, and is praised by angels of light. Light shone out of Mary, Elizabeth gave birth to the Baptist...”.

God is our light and His light shines our hearts together with the daylight.

To be Continue...



*We want to hear from
you.....*

Through the Grace of God, the Southern Diocese Publication is currently mailed across the world. Therefore we will like to encourage all subscribers to complete a questionnaire giving us your input in order to make the magazine a valuable assest towards your life. The questionnaire is available on line at ...

[www.suscopts.org/mightyarrows/.](http://www.suscopts.org/mightyarrows/)

