

# ECHO OF HIS CALL



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Editor : S. SAM SELVA RAJ

16 Languages

Associate Editor : SIS. SAJINI CHERIAN

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No. 12

## THE HOLY BIBLE



Please memorize  
this portion  
Isaiah 9:1-6

1. Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naph-tali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.
2. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.
3. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil.
4. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his opp-ressor, as in the day of Midian.
5. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire.
6. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Coun-sellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

## THE GIFT OF THE PRINCE!



★ Rev. Angeline Selvakumari ★



Ever since I was a child, Christmas has always held a special place in my heart. It brings an indescribable joy. When I was young, we didn't have enough money to buy new clothes or gifts, or to decorate the house with fancy colored paper or lights. We lived in a small one-bedroom house with limited food, but my parents always found ways to make our childhood beautiful and meaningful. My brother and I are forever grateful for their efforts. It was an amazing time! Visiting grandparents, meeting cousins, going to Church early in the morning with sleepy eyes, eagerly waiting to eat a delicious lunch with the whole family gathered around, playing games, and even the occasional sibling squabble - all these things made those days truly beautiful.

Even now, every year, the scent of candles, the aroma of cookies, the twinkling decorative lights, and the chilly wind, along with heartwarming carols, bring back great memories.

....Contd. to page 3

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from your dearly beloved brother...



### OUR MISSION POLICY

We should expound and teach the contemporary generation the undiluted teachings of the ancient and early Apostles. It is the need of the hour.

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Echo of His Call

My soul follows close behind You;  
Your right hand upholds me. - Psalm 63:8.

★ Dearly beloved brothers and sisters in the Lord!

We greet you in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We wish you a Happy Christmas and a Blessed New Year.

#### ECHO OF HIS CALL MAGAZINES AND THE YOUTUBE MINISTRIES

We thank our Lord God for the positive feedback we receive from the readers of our magazine, **Echo of His Call**, and the viewers of our YouTube Channel. We expect your prayers for our multifarious ministries. We encourage you to watch the **five-minute sermons** that are telecasted through our YouTube Channel in English, Hindi, Tamil and Telugu starting from 2 a.m. every day. Please save our mobile phone number **+91-98410 71858** in your mobile phones dedicated for this purpose only. We also request you to **subscribe** to our **Echo of His Call YouTube Channel**. Additionally, please save our other mobile number **+91-98412 71858** to contact me directly. These services are completely free.

#### GLOBAL VISION FOR YOUTH & KID CARE

We have initiated a movement called **Global Vision for Youth and Kid Care** to **pray for a minute** for the welfare of young boys, girls, and children worldwide. Many friends from all over the world have registered their names in this ministry. **Everyone who has registered is encouraged to pray the following prayer every night at 10 O'clock, according to the time of the nation they live in:**

“Dear Lord, we pray in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that you remember every young boy, girl, and child all over the world – Amen.”



*Youth and Kids with Lord Jesus Christ!*

As a result of this prayer, many young adults and children are emerging as witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ. All glory and honor to our Lord Jesus Christ only. Amen.

If you provide us with the names of your children, we will include them in our prayers. Kindly refrain from sending any monetary contributions for this purpose.

**Our Ministries:** ✨ ECHO OF HIS CALL Monthly Magazines (16 languages) ✨ BIBLECOR - Postal Courses (3 languages) ✨ YouTube Ministry ✨ Online Courses ✨ Theological Correspondence Courses (2 languages) ✨ Church Planting ✨ Nehemiah Bible Colleges ✨ Gospel Printing Press ✨ Great Commission Partners ✨ St. Paul's Matriculation School ✨ Crusades ✨ Community Development

Many of our dedicated colleagues who serve at the forefront of our ministry are grappling with various illnesses and have suffered significant losses. We humbly request your prayers for the well-being, protection, and family situations of all our servants of God.

Our New Year Service for this year will be broadcast online on our YouTube Channel starting at 10 P.M. on December 31<sup>st</sup>. You are welcome to watch it at your convenience. We encourage you not to forego attendance at your local Church. Attending your Church is very important.

Special prayer sessions for blessings in the New Year will be conducted daily at 6 a.m. from January 2, 2024, to January 6, 2024 at main Church.

We are dispatching our **Echo of His Call** magazine via postal mail. However, we are aware that not everyone may receive it. To ensure you receive our updates, please share your WhatsApp number and email address with us for added security.

We have organized various programmes in our ministries for the month of December, and we earnestly seek your prayers for their successful execution without hindrance.

Merry Christmas greetings and best wishes for a Blessed New Year to all of you!

*Your servants in Christ Jesus,*  
**Pr. S. Sam Selva Raj & Alex Samson Sam.**

(+91) 98412 71858 / 98410 71858,  
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However, for some, Christmas can be a different experience. It may be a stressful time that brings back memories of loved ones who are no longer with us. Others may be battling health issues or financial constraints. Some people may find the hustle and bustle of Christmas overwhelming, leading to feelings of loneliness, sadness, or depression. It is even said that suicide rates are higher during this season.

Additionally, there is an ongoing debate about whether Christmas should be celebrated on December 25<sup>th</sup> and whether it is the actual date of Jesus' birth. For me, the specific date is not as important as the fact that Jesus was born into this world, and that is an unshakable truth. The Son of God became the son of man, and that is what truly matters.

Therefore, I take this opportunity to declare to the world the greatest gift I have ever received - the birth of Jesus. Regardless of my life's circumstances, I love celebrating this event with my family and friends. I also strive to include those who may not have families or who are going through difficult times. It is a

time to show love, care, and share what I have with others.

One aspect of Christmas that seems so usual is that, it is often associated with giving and receiving gifts. We tend to buy new clothes for our children and something special for our loved ones to show that we love them, care for them, and want to share our joy with them. In Western countries, people start shopping for Christmas gifts as early as August. The giving of gifts is such an important Christmas tradition in many countries that sometimes people actually forget to celebrate the greatest gift already given to mankind - the birth of Jesus.

### THE BIRTH OF JESUS PRESENTS TO US FIVE IMPORTANT GIFTS:

#### 1. The Gift of a Fulfilled Promise!

The birth of Jesus Christ reminds us that our God is a Promise Keeper. What He says, He will do. He is not a man to lie or change His mind. It might even take time - sometimes even a few generations - but His promise always stands. The Bible says,



*For unto us a Child is born!*

**Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away** Matthew 24:35 (NIV). However, we often give up easily after a few weeks, months, or years. One thing we need to remember is that when God says something, He will do it. It may happen during our lifetime or even during the time of our children. God promised a Messiah to the Jewish people, and He did send ONE!

Bible scholars say that around 44 promises from the Old Testament were fulfilled with the **birth of Jesus Christ**. For example, Genesis 3:15 prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a woman, which was fulfilled in Matthew 1:20. His place of birth is another promise fulfilled (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1). I can go on and



list all of them because there are many more promises that were fulfilled, but the important thing to understand is that the people of God had to wait for years to see the fulfillment of these promises.

Dear children of God, if God has promised you something, keep on praying in faith. Don't give up. You may not see the rain or wind, but your trenches will be filled with water. When Jesus Christ says YES, nobody can say NO! He is a Promise Keeper! Hold on to your faith, even when there is nothing to hold on to. What God has said, He will bring to pass.

Christmas is a time to remember that even when we don't see it yet, God is still working on our behalf.

All things will be made beautiful in His time. Wait for His time! His time is perfect! "All things are possible." Surrender and keep waiting like Elizabeth, Mary, Simon, and Anna. They all waited and saw the fulfillment of God's promise.

## 2. The Gift of Peace!

The second greatest gift from God is the peace that He grants. His name is the Prince of Peace! Peace is the most important aspect of our lives, yet it may not be recognized or received. Without peace, nothing makes sense. We can have a huge house, expensive car, highly paying job, a trophy from a spouse, a wealthy husband, talented children, and yet if we don't have peace, there is no use in all that we may possess.

I once met a young man who blew my mind when he told me, "I'd rather live in a big house crying, than live in a small house and be happy." Honestly, my heart went out to him! This is the society we live in; we are living to impress people. We want others to see us as

successful and powerful, measured by our outward wealth. But what about inner wealth - PEACE?

Jesus says, "The peace I give you is sufficient for all situations, whether you have a 10-digit bank balance or a single-digit one, whether you have a family or you are all alone, whether you are healthy or spending your fortune on doctors and medicines, whether you are male or female, young or old; it does not matter." Jesus says, **Come to me, all who are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest** (Matthew 11:28). **The peace I give you, the world cannot give** (John 14:27). The peace that God gives is beyond our understanding, beyond our imagination. It is the peace that Daniel experienced in the midst of roaring lions, it is the peace that the Hebrew brothers experienced in the middle of the blazing fire.

The peace that Jesus gives has no limit. Even in the midst of a storm, you can still experience His peace because He is in control of

every situation. Without God's knowledge, nothing will touch us. That is the confidence we should have. He will never let us down.

Dear Friends, maybe you are going through a dry season in your life, maybe you are experiencing a tornado-like situation right now, but let me tell you, I have been there not once, not twice, but many, many times, and I have seen that Jesus is always the same yesterday, today, and forever.

He has always filled me with His peace. Today, ask God to give you peace, regardless of your situation, the circumstances you are facing, the pit you are sitting in, or the Goliath you are facing. Jesus will give you PEACE because He is the Prince of Peace.

Did you know that the first Christmas was not actually a great and peaceful celebration? On the contrary, some people were terrified upon hearing about the birth of Jesus Christ. They were

....Contd. to page 6

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# GREAT COMMISSION PARTNERS

TO SHARE (Galatians 6:2)

SUPPORT (Romans 12:13)

SPEED UP (II Timothy 1:6)

**PRAISE & PRAYER POINTS - From 2023 December 19 To January 18**

(Please take this sheet out, fold it and keep it in your Bible and pray continuously)



## ✠ PRAISE GOD FOR...

- December 19** ⇒ Our **St. Paul's Matriculation School, Nehemiah Bible College, Theological Correspondence Course**, all of which serve the needs of the less fortunate.
- December 20** ⇒ For blessing our translators, associate editors, coordinators, and their families.
- December 21** ⇒ The great commitment of the mission workers.
- December 22** ⇒ The blessings showered upon the families of our dedicated workers.
- December 23** ⇒ Protection for our Senior Pastor and his family members from all kinds of evil forces.
- December 24** ⇒ Blessing us to successfully complete the 2nd term in our **Nehemiah Bible College**.
- December 25** ⇒ Blessing all our Christian Celebrations of this year.
- December 26** ⇒ Blessing us to receive Registration Certificates for all our publications in 16 languages.
- December 27** ⇒ God's mercy towards our Prayer Partners, Subscribing Partners, Faith Partners, Life Partners, and Great Commission Partners, as well as their families.
- December 28** ⇒ The growth of our **Biblecor Correspondence Course** and **Theological Correspondence Course**.
- December 29** ⇒ Enabling us to print and publish our magazine in 16 languages in our printing press and distribute them to the mission fields.
- December 30** ⇒ The smooth functioning of our **Nehemiah Bible Colleges** throughout this year.
- December 31** ⇒ Miraculously meeting all our needs for the year 2023.
- January 01** ⇒ Wishing peace for all the readers and people around the world throughout the New year 2024.

- January 02** ⇒ Blessing all the Churches and believers with good promises for 2024.
- January 03** ⇒ Blessing all Christian Organizations and Churches during the year 2024.

## ✠ PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

- January 04** ⇒ The eradication of violence and murder among the youth, and for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- January 05** ⇒ Peace to prevail in all families.
- January 06** ⇒ World leaders to be filled with divine wisdom and work towards the welfare of the people.
- January 07** ⇒ Improved income for individuals around the world.
- January 08** ⇒ The sustained good reputation of all Christian educational organizations worldwide.
- January 09** ⇒ Christians to follow the Word of God and exhibit Christ-like character.
- January 10** ⇒ Peace between countries and economic development.
- January 11** ⇒ Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj and his family members to be under the mighty hand of God in the year 2024.
- January 12** ⇒ Divine protection against evil forces in all Churches.
- January 13** ⇒ All Churches and Christian organizations to be legally registered with the Government.
- January 14** ⇒ Suitable employees for our organization.
- January 15** ⇒ The success of our ministry partners and state coordinators in their activities.
- January 16** ⇒ The successful completion of our Senior Pastor's autobiography.
- January 17** ⇒ The expansion of our ministry and the worldwide propagation of the gospel.
- January 18** ⇒ God's provision for our needs for this month.

....Contd. from page 4

scared and disturbed. However, when the frightened yet faithful ones heard and believed the good news, they began to rejoice. When the angel appeared to the shepherds, he said, ... **“Do not be afraid. ... I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people”** - Luke 2:10 (NLT). They were simple people with simple faith.

There is yet another important thing that disrupts our PEACE: hatred and unforgiveness. This reminds me of the poem:  
**The Poison Tree** by William Blake.

*I was angry with my friend;  
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.  
I was angry with my foe:  
I told it not, my wrath did grow.*

*And I watered it in fears,  
Night & morning with my tears:  
And I sunned it with smiles,  
And with soft deceitful wiles.*

*And it grew both day and night.  
Till it bore an apple bright.  
And my foe beheld it shine,  
And he knew that it was mine.*

*And into my garden stole,  
When the night had veiled the pole;  
In the morning glad I see;  
My foe outstretched beneath the tree.*

This is my all-time favorite poem.

Let us forgive and move forward. Only then will we find peace. If we hold unforgiveness in our hearts, peace eludes us. Yes, people may have wronged us, caused deep scars, inflicted pain, or stabbed us in the back. Let God deal with it.

Perhaps you're yet to forgive someone in your life; now is the time. Send a text or make a phone call to reconcile. May God grant you the peace to do so.

### 3. The Gift of His Presence!

The third gift from God is His Presence. Wow! What an amazing gift! His name is Emmanuel, meaning “God is with us.” He has promised never to leave us nor forsake us. **In His presence,**



**there is fullness of joy** (Psalm 16:11). King David had everything in life—money, fame, wealth, power, victory, and yet there was one thing he longed for above all he had — to be in the presence of the Lord, more than in his palace. When David sinned, he was not worried about his reputation; he was more concerned about the Presence of the Holy Spirit. He said, **Cast me not away from thy presence; O Lord, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me** (Psalm 51:11).

When Jesus went home, He said, **“I will send you a Comforter. He will guide you. He will be with you all the time”** (John 14:16). Let us ask ourselves today, do we have the gift of God's Presence in our lives, our families, our homes, and in our relationship between a husband and wife? Do we give preference to the presence of God or to the presents of this world? This is a question to ask ourselves this Christmas season.

....Contd. to page 8

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## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MINISTRIES AT THE HEAD QUARTERS

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Marathi, Gujarati, Bengali, Odiya, Nepali, Assamese,  
Punjabi, Urdu, Sinhala & Afrikan.
4. Nehemiah Bible Colleges (Three Centres) (Evening / Residential)
5. Theological Correspondence Courses: English & Tamil
6. Great Commission Partners (Network of Pastors)
7. Training Programmes
8. Crusades
9. Literature Distribution and Follow Up
10. Gospel Printing Press - Publications
11. St. Paul's Matriculation School - Village English High School
12. Sunday Schools : 8.30 a.m. & 4.00 p.m. Sunday
13. **Tamil Services : 8.00 a.m. & 10.00 a.m. Sunday**
14. **Hindi Service : 4.00 p.m. Sunday**
15. **Telugu Service : 5.00 p.m. Sunday**
16. **English & Tamil Service : 6.00 p.m. Sunday**
17. Women's Prayer : 5.30 p.m. Wednesday
18. Men's Prayer : 7.00 p.m. Friday
19. Discipleship Meeting : 6.00 p.m. Saturday
20. House Meetings : 6.30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday
21. Special Holy Communion : 6.00 a.m. 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month
22. Ministers Review Meeting: 5.30 p.m. First Saturday
23. Parents' Prayer : 4.00 p.m. First Sunday
24. Night Prayer : 9.30 p.m. Second Friday
25. Fasting Prayer : 9:30 a.m. Third Saturday
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# PIT TO PALACE

(Life experiences of Pastor S. Sam Selva Raj)

*“Whoever reads, let him understand” (Matthew 24:15)*

## THE LORD HEARS AND DELIVERS!

**The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears and delivers them out of all their troubles”. Psalm 34:17**



During my early days as a minister, I had to live a simple lifestyle due to my low income.

One morning, my late Chief Pastor, Pastor G. Sundaram, announced in the Church that there would be a special meeting at the PERIYAR THIDAL hall in Chennai on the upcoming Sunday. At that time, I was responsible for the ministry of custodianship of the shoe stand in the Church. So, I washed the only set of my best clothes and kept them ready for use on Sunday.

On the previous Friday, a young man visited me and introduced himself as the brother of one of my friends. He requested accommodation for two days, and I gladly allowed him to stay with me. I was happy to help the brother of my old friend.

However, to my surprise, the next day (Saturday) while I was away from home, he collected all my old and new clothes, including the set I had set aside for Sunday Service, along with my other valuables, and ran away. I lost all my clothes and important belongings.

I felt very sorry for my situation because I did not have any money to buy another set of clothes for Sunday. It was not acceptable for me to fulfill my role at the shoe stand ministry wearing dirty clothes, as my Chief Pastor was very strict about dress code and appearance. I was greatly distressed and turned

to the Lord, hoping for some financial help to buy a fresh set of clothes. Although my faith was shaken, I had no

choice but to believe in God for a miracle in that difficult situation on that Saturday afternoon.

Suddenly, someone called me from outside my house. I went outside and invited him in. He was carrying a bag filled with a few sets of white clothes. He handed them over to me and said, "Dear Brother Sam, six months ago, one of my relatives from a foreign country brought several sets of white pants and shirts. Since they were not suitable for my body size, I have been contemplating giving them to you, as they would fit you perfectly. I was filled with gratitude and joy as all the clothes were made from luxurious foreign materials and tailored to my exact measurements.

The next day, I put on one of the sets and went to Church. Pastor G. Sundaram, our Chief Pastor, looked me up and down and said, "Brother Sam, you are impeccably dressed today!". I briefly explained to him what had happened and how God had blessed me. He was also delighted and gave me a reassuring pat on the shoulder, smiling in his customary divine manner. Praise be to the Lord.

As Psalm 34:19 says, **“Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”**

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### 4. The Gift of God's Power!

Another supernatural gift of the Prince is His awesome and powerful in our lives. The birth of

Jesus Christ is a fulfillment of the promise made in Genesis 3:15, which is the first promise of the Savior. The verse states that **And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush**

**your head, and you will strike his heel.** Genesis 3:15.

This verse establishes a permanent enmity between Satan and humankind. However, the birth of Jesus Christ shattered every power that Satan held. Satan, in an



attempt to thwart God's divine plan, sought to destroy the heavenly purpose by killing babies at the time of Jesus' birth. Nevertheless, Satan's plan was futile, as God's plan cannot be destroyed. Dear children, no one can destroy the plan that God has for you and me. Even if your current circumstances may suggest otherwise, remember that Isaiah saw **God sitting high and exalted on the throne** (Isaiah 6:1). Our Lord reigns! The ultimate authority lies with our Lord. God directs our footsteps and sets limits for the waves of the sea, commanding them not to advance further. God declares, "My purpose will stand!" Our God is mighty and awesome in power!

He desires for us to be winners and overcome our circumstances, failures, defeats, sins, curses, and above all, Satan. Do not give up! Christmas serves as a reminder that we are more than conquerors. Elizabeth conquered the curse, Mary conquered social stigma, and the Human race conquered sin and Satan.

What are you waiting for? Remember, we are more than conquerors!

### 5. The Gift of Pardon!



*Forgiveness of Jesus Christ*

Finally, when God created the world, He saw that it was good, beautiful, and perfect. However, with the entrance of sin through disobedience, everything changed.

It brought in sin, and mankind has been struggling to overcome sin and its consequences ever since. This is a concept that is present in every religion. The Bible, states that ... **the wages of sin is death...** Romans 6:23. In other words, the consequences of our sinful actions are not limited to physical death but also spiritual death. Sin has separated us from God, creating a great chasm between us. However, the birth of Jesus Christ marked the end of this separation. When Jesus came into this world, His purpose was to die for our sins and take our place of punishment. By dying on the cross, Jesus Christ granted us the special gift of "Grace." Christmas is a time to remember the pure, selfless love of God, which comes to us in the form of grace. Additionally, Jesus is continually interceding for us, as stated in Romans 8:34. It's important to remember that there is no sin too great that grace cannot cover, and no sin too small that grace cannot make up for.

Dear friends, the pressures of this world, the demands of our daily lives, and the challenges we face sometimes drive us away from God. If you find yourself having drifted far away from the Lord, it is now the time to come back to Him.

Jesus Christ loves us and is willing to forgive us. He desires that we have a personal relationship with Him.

Dear Friends, I pray that this Christmas may be a meaningful one for you. May you enjoy the five gifts of the Prince. I pray that you will always remember that He is a Promise Keeper, regardless of the time it takes. He is a Peace Giver, even in the midst of the storm. His Presence will always be with us,

even when we don't see it or feel it. He will be with us until our last breath. He is a powerful God, so we don't have to be afraid. He will not only make us conquerors but more than conquerors. Finally, He is waiting to embrace you in His arms and accept you just the way you are.

If you accept the five gifts of the Prince, you can experience the true meaning of CHRISTMAS!

Wishing you all a very happy, blessed, joyful, and meaningful Christmas!

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