

# DAMASCUS FRIENDS CHURCH

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**Date: December 4, 2022**

**Series: Good News! Great Joy! All People!**

**Title: Gifts and Promises**

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## **I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day**

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along  
The unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head  
"There is no peace on Earth," I said  
For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

Yet pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!  
The Wrong shall fail,  
The Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then ringing, singing on its way  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on Earth, good will to men

## **Isaiah 9:1-7 NLT**

Nevertheless, that time of darkness and despair will not go on forever. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali will be humbled, but there will be a time in the future when Galilee of the Gentiles, which lies along the road that runs between the Jordan and the sea, will be filled with glory.

<sup>2</sup> [a]The people who walk in darkness  
will see a great light.

For those who live in a land of deep darkness,<sup>[a]</sup>  
a light will shine.

<sup>3</sup> You will enlarge the nation of Israel,  
and its people will rejoice.

They will rejoice before you  
as people rejoice at the harvest  
and like warriors dividing the plunder.

<sup>4</sup> For you will break the yoke of their slavery  
and lift the heavy burden from their shoulders.

You will break the oppressor's rod,  
just as you did when you destroyed the army of Midian.

<sup>5</sup> The boots of the warrior  
and the uniforms bloodstained by war  
will all be burned.

They will be fuel for the fire.

<sup>6</sup> For a child is born to us,  
a son is given to us.  
The government will rest on his shoulders.

And he will be called:

Wonderful Counselor,<sup>[a]</sup> Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His government and its peace  
will never end.

He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David  
for all eternity.

The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven's Armies  
will make this happen!

## **God Gives Hope**

### **Romans 15:13 NLT**

I pray that God, the source of hope, will fill you completely with joy and peace because you trust in him. Then you will overflow with confident hope through the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **God Gives Life**

### **John 10:10 MSG**

Jesus told this simple story, but they had no idea what he was talking about. So he tried again. "I'll be explicit, then. I am the Gate for the sheep. All those others are up to no good—sheep rustlers, every one of them. But the sheep didn't listen to them. I am the Gate. Anyone who goes through me will be cared for—will freely go in and out, and find pasture. A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.

## God Gives His Kingdom

### **Luke 12:32 NLT**

“So don't be afraid, little flock. For it gives your Father great happiness to give you the Kingdom.

### **Revelations 12:3,4,7 NLT**

3 Then I witnessed in heaven another significant event. I saw a large red dragon with seven heads and ten horns, with seven crowns on his heads.

4 His tail swept away one-third of the stars in the sky, and he threw them to the earth. He stood in front of the woman as she was about to give birth, ready to devour her baby as soon as it was born.

7 Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.