

Love and War 2 (Light of the World)

What a YEAR!

I. The Great Drama - Wickedness in high places or Joy in a higher place

**400 years ago today ... the Pilgrims were in the middle
of the Atlantic Ocean...**

1620: The Mayflower sailed from Plymouth Harbor on **Wednesday, September 6, 1620**, and the voyage to America felt like a nightmare. The ship was about the length of a tennis court, and it hadn't been designed for passengers, only for **cargo**. As a result, all **102 passengers** and the 25 or so crew members were crammed into tight spaces. The passengers spent most of their time in the darkness of the gun deck, which measured 25 by 15 feet at its broadest point and was **barely over five feet high**. The children could stand up, but everyone else was forced to crawl on hands and knees. The ship rolled and pitched and made slow progress—the voyage lasted sixty-six days.¹

On September 22, they read Psalm 107, a glorious psalm of thanksgiving.

Psa. 107:1 Oh **give thanks** to the LORD, for he is **good**, for his **steadfast love endures forever!**

2 Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

4 Some **wandered in desert wastes, finding no way to a city to dwell in**

10 **Some sat in darkness** and in the shadow of death,

¹ Robert J. Morgan, *100 Bible Verses That Made America* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2020), 13. Kindle Edition.

- 23 **Some went down to the sea in ships,**
- 28 Then they **cried to the LORD in their trouble**, and he **delivered** them from their distress.
- 29 He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.
- 30 Then they were glad that the waters were quiet, and **he brought them to their desired haven.**
- 31 Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wondrous works to the children of man!

When the Mayflower finally sailed into its “desired haven” of Cape Cod, the Pilgrims hammered out a formal and binding agreement, which is known as the Mayflower Compact and was signed aboard ship on **November 11, 1620:**

In the **Name of God**, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten . . . having undertaken **for the Glory of God**, and the **Advancement of the Christian Faith**, and the Honor of King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, **in the Presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine ourselves together** into a civil Body Politick.

II. Basis of our warfare -

1. blessing,

Eph. 1:3 **Blessed** be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed** us in Christ with **every** spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,

2. grace,

[SLIDE 1] 6 to the **praise** of his **glorious grace**, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.

3. redemption,

[SLIDE 2] 7 In him we have **redemption** through his **blood**, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ...

4. inheritance

[SLIDE 3] 11 In him we have obtained an **inheritance**, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ...

5. Rich mercy... great love... in Christ!

Eph. 2:4 But God, being **rich in mercy**, because of the **great love** with which he loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive** together with Christ—... 6 and **raised us up** .. and **seated us with him in the heavenly places** in Christ Jesus,

6. Imitate God... in Love & Light

Eph. 4:1 I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk in a manner worthy of the calling** to which you have been called, 2 with **all humility** and **gentleness**, with **patience, bearing with** one another **in love**, 3 eager to **maintain the unity** of the Spirit in the **bond of peace**. 4 There is **one** body ... Spirit—... hope... 5 **one** Lord, **one** faith, **one** baptism, 6 **one** God and Father of all, who is **over** all and **through** all and **in** all.

[SLIDE 4]

Eph. 5:1 Therefore be **imitators of God**, as **beloved children**. 2 And **walk in love**, as Christ **loved** us and **gave** himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

3 But sexual **immorality** and all **impurity** or **covetousness** must **not even be named** among you, ...

4 Let there be **no filthiness** nor **foolish talk** nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead **let there be thanksgiving**. 5 For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is **sexually immoral** or impure, or who is **covetous** (that is, an idolater), has **no inheritance** ...

[SLIDE 5]

7 Therefore do not become partners with them; 8 for at one time you were darkness, but **now you are light** in the Lord. **Walk as children of light** 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord.

[SLIDE 6]

1Jn 1:5 This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that **God is light**, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we **walk in the light**, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.

III. THANKSGIVING

Jehoshaphat 2 Chron 20

2Chr. 20:1 **After this** the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A **great multitude is coming against you** from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). 3 **Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.** 4 And **Judah assembled**

to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

- 5 And **Jehoshaphat stood** in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, 6 and said, “**O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.**
- 7 Did you not, our God, **drive out the inhabitants of this land** before your people Israel, and **give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?**
- 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it **a sanctuary for your name**, saying, 9 **‘If disaster comes upon us, ... we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’** 10 And now behold, ... 11 [they are] coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit.

[SLIDE 7]

12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them?

For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

- 13 Meanwhile **all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.** 14 And the **Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel** the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: **Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s.** 16 Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 **You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold**

your position, and see the salvation of the LORD on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the LORD will be with you.”

- 18 Then **Jehoshaphat bowed his head** with his face to the ground, and **all Judah** and the inhabitants of Jerusalem **fell down** before the LORD, **worshiping the LORD.** 19 And **the Levites**, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, **stood up to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.**
- 20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, **Jehoshaphat** stood and said, **“Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”** 21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he **appointed those who were to sing to the LORD and praise him in holy attire**, as they went before the army, and say, **“Give thanks to the LORD, for his steadfast love endures forever.”**
- 22 And **when they began to sing and praise, the LORD set an ambush** against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that **they were routed.** 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

What can we do?

**Put on the Beauty of Holiness...Give Thanks...
Sing and Praise...**

B. A HIGHER PLACE of joy!

We enter his gates...

C. A HIGHER PLACE of family privilege!

Ps 2:7... "You are **my Son**;
today I have begotten you.

8 Ask of me, and **I will make** the nations your heritage,
and the ends of the earth your possession.

IV. LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

The gospel is not acceptable to the fallen mind, blinded by
falleness, the gospel and all it contains does not seem
rational or acceptable.

We believe in a God who became a man.

We believe the eternal God who died and by dying provided
eternal life to those who were dead.

We believe in a King who became a slave.

We believe in a Sovereign who exchanged the crown of glory
in heaven for a crown of thorns on earth.

We believe in a righteous Judge who became a criminal,
a Holy God who became the sinner's defender.

We believe in a just executioner of sinners who became their
Savior by taking their execution.

Christians believe in a holy law which provides complete and
joyful freedom which is slavery to righteousness.

Christians believe in a kingdom on earth with a capital in
heaven.

Christians believe in a little flock of innumerable saints.

Christians believe they are wretched sinners who became saints.

... enemies who became sons.

... slaves who became kings.

... poor who became wealthy.

... bankrupt souls who are given eternal riches.

... rebels who became friends.

... haters who became lovers and even lovers of those who hate them.

Christians believe they are victims who became victors.

They are strong who rejoice in their weakness.

They are the despised who receive honor.

... souls who die once but live twice.

... mortals who become immortal.

... the corrupt who become incorruptible.

... the sorrowful who have eternal joy.

And all of these realities have come to us because the Giver of life gave up His life so that those dead in sin would live forever.

The glory of the gospel escapes the mind of natural man.

But **we have the mind of Christ!**

These are the truths in which we rejoice, and for which we worship. We're different. Jesus put it this way: "My kingdom is not of this world."

We're in the world, we're not of the world.

We have a King and a Lord and His name is Jesus Christ.

Rev 11:15 Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “**The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.**”

It May Look Like I'm Surrounded

CHURCH Open its eyes and **RAISE** its voice.

In All Circumstances What Shall We Say?

To bad news?

Ro 8:31 What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? **32** He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, **how will he not** also ***with him*** graciously ***give us all things***?

34 Who is to **condemn**? Christ **Jesus** is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is **interceding for us**. **[SL 9]**

35 Who shall **separate us from the love** of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or **persecution**, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

DECLARE and DECREE

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.

[SL 10] **38** For **I am sure** that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor

powers, **39** nor height nor depth, **nor anything else in all creation**, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

NOVEMBER 3— President & VP (Policies)

435 Representatives; **33** Senators

7,383 State Legislators

87,000 State and Local governments — **511,000 offices**

SHOUT in the DARK

PRAY from PEACE AND VOTE from Wisdom!!!

PRAY! Gather in homes.

National Healing and Renewal

Racism will be replaced by Righteousness

FAMILIES STRENGTHENED

GOD OF HOPE!!