



The
HARBINGER

Newsletter of the Harbinger Bible Conference



H-oly are the Shinning Realms of Glory
A-ngels glisten in ethereal light
R-ugged Shepherds rise and wrapped in wonder
B-ring the story of this longed for night
I-n the little village of King David
N-estled in a manger in the hay
G-od's great gift
E-mmanuel! The Savior!
R-esting, waiting for the shining day!

Earl Waterman, December Harbinger, 1984.



*378 Mountain Road
Dalton, New Hampshire 03598
December, 2010*



HARBINGER BIBLE CONFERENCE

Founded by Revs. Earl and Ethel Waterman, 1969

378 Mountain Road

Dalton, NH 03598

www.LiveForJesus.org/harbinger.htm

*Located in the beautiful White Mountains
off Route 116 between Whitefield and Littleton
On the Mountain Road*

“Come thou with us and we will do thee good!”

There is a song I long to hear about this season of the year
A song of silent, holy night, when all the sky is calm and bright
While little Bethlehem slept, the stars so brightly shone
The shepherds guarded their sheep on the hillsides all alone.
And then the heavens burst with fire and there came a great angelic choir
They sang a song of peace on earth as they proclaimed the Savior's birth

Though our sins are red like crimson Heaven's gift has overwhelmed them
Bethlehem and all it stands for makes us know that the holy Child that came there
Has responded to our heart's prayer, making us poor fallen sinners white as snow

So I say on this occasion, since you're of the same persuasion
Let us lift our voice in bringing Christmas cheer - Jesus is the joy of living
Makes us loving-thoughtful-giving And we wish for all a Godly, bright New year!

Earl Waterman, December Harbinger, 1996





2011 RALLY DATES

May 19-20

July 28-31

September 22-25

We have invited three men to speak to us next year and they are all willing. However, due to our uncertain economic times, they cannot commit to us on our dates. They are still trying to work out the dates and we will publish their names as soon as they are confirmed. Please pray for these men to be able to come and speak to us.

Come to Harbinger for a time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord!



Christmas Gift to Harbinger Bible Conference

Harbinger ministers in some way all year long. On behalf of the Board and the Leaders of the Conference let me say that we are so very grateful for all of you who support this ministry all year long in any way at all. God bless you all, we love you!

“If you have benefited from Harbinger in any way, if you think this is a worthy cause, if you believe in our ministry - we invite you to participate through prayer and support in meeting the needs of Harbinger. And God will repay you in His own coin!” Earl Waterman, Christmas, 1996

If you would like to support Harbinger’s ministry please send all donations to:

*Don Ducharme, Treasurer
Harbinger Bible Conference
PO Box 353
Whitefield, NH 03598*





Message

Grampa Waterman always included a little sermonette in each issue of the Harbinger and they were usually on prophecy. We want to continue that important tradition, although we cannot speak on prophecy as he did. So the message in this issue will be about Christmas.



A Merry Christmas



Too many times I've sat beside weeping believers while their loved one was eaten up with cancer. Too many times at this happy season have I sought to cheer hearts made sad by poignant memories..."My dear one was with me last Christmas."

It will be a merry Christmas for many people and it should be. Little children thumping down the stairs to see what treasures awaited them. Parents who have their family safely under one roof. Boys home from the service, daughters home for the holiday. I look back to such fond scenes. It is not wrong to be happy.

But for the Christian, a better expression would be "Maranatha!" That's the word ancient believers used to greet one another. And it's a word wide enough to include all. For delighted Christians, rejoicing in happy circumstances and for precious believers walking through dark valleys.

The account of the Nativity in Luke 2, is so charming and alluring that it has been judged the most beautiful grouping of words that was ever written. Yet that lovely language clothed a dreary situation.

A brutal decree of a world tax assessment drove an anxious father and an expectant mother from their humble home, over a long weary trip to the town of their birth, and there in a cold, smelly animal shelter, a child was born.

All we've ever seen pictured is the angelic glow that filled the stable. Rich Kings appear, unscriptural, kneeling on the soft, sweet smelling hay.. No cold drafts, no stifling barn smells, the animals are all gold plated and well behaved - all is calm, all is bright.





All wasn't calm and bright. The babe was under sentence of death from the moment he was born. The shepherds went back to sheep tending at starvation wages. Wicked Herod continued his tyrannical rule. Romans still compelled Jews to carry their loads. Nothing had changed. ***WRONG! EVERYTHING HAD CHANGED!***

The common people heard Him gladly, not because he promised pie in the sky. He never promised a Merry Christmas! He promised this: ***“Lo, I am with you.”*** Can you imagine anything better than that?

It's a bit uncomfortable for us soft, spoiled Christians to meditate on Russian Christians looking through barbed wire, and far away from home, their only crime being that they love Jesus. Why do people like Corrie Ten Boom make us feel so shamed? Because many of us have our eyes on our burdens and difficulties, while she got a real handle on the word of Jesus - “Lo, I am with you!”

Now He is Immanuel, which being interpreted is, “God with us.” And we cry “Maranatha!” Which being interpreted is “Our Lord Comes!!!!”



Why December 25th?



It was the belief of the early Church that Jesus was born on the 1st day of Feast of Tabernacles which is September 29th rather than December 25 because:

- 1- Shepherds were not in the fields in December
- 2- The Roman's census always occurred between August and October because that was when the harvest was in and the people actually had the money to pay taxes.
- 3- And because of the date of the birth of John the Baptist as revealed in Scripture.

John the Baptist Father was Zacharias who was a priest. There were so many priests that King David had divided them into 24 courses of service and each course served for 2 non-consecutive weeks of the year with the exception of the three pilgrim feasts when all the priests served together. Zechariah was in the course of Abijah and we know that this course of priests served in the 8th course of service.





The Jewish year begins in Nissan 1 (our March & April) and the first course of priests would serve in this first week of the year. The next week, the second week of the year, the second course of priests would serve. Then the third week of the year was Passover which was a pilgrim feast when all the men of Israel had to go to the Temple. So all courses of the priests would serve in the Temple together. The next week, which was actually the fourth week of the year, the third course of priests would serve and so on until the 8th week of the year when Zechariah's course would serve. This week was in the middle of June.

At this time Zacharias was told, as he was serving in the Temple, by an Angel sent from God, that he and Elizabeth would have a son who would be the forerunner of the Messiah. He would be the Lord's Elijah. Zacharias did not believe the Angel because he was so old at the time, and he was struck mute. However the words of the Angel came true and Elizabeth did conceive.

Later the Angel Gabriel tells Mary she will conceive the Messiah when the Holy Spirit over shadows her. Then Gabriel tells Mary that Elizabeth is six months pregnant and she goes to visit her. So this announcement would have been made to Mary in December (which would be in the month of Kislev according to the Jewish calendar).

Now John is born 3 months later in March around the time of Passover. This is interesting because the Jews – even to this day - look for the Elijah, the forerunner of the Messiah, to come at Passover time. Wouldn't it be just like the Lord, to have John the Baptist, the Elijah or forerunner of Jesus, to be born on Passover just as the Jews were expecting!

This means then, that Jesus would have been born in the fall, 6 months after the birth of John in the month of Tishri which is the feast of Tabernacles. If Jesus was born on 15th day of Tishri, then he would have been circumcised on the 8th day which was the "great day of the feast" of Tabernacles when the Jews pray for God's blessing in the future. This day of Jesus birth then is the equivalent of our September 29th.

Finally the normal gestation period for a human baby is nine months and the ideal time for a complete pregnancy is 278 days. 278 days backwards from September 29th is December 25th. Jesus was not born on Dec. 25th but he could have been conceived on Dec. 25th. And after all, the true miracle was not his birth – which was a normal birth - but rather was his conception – which was supernatural!





When the early church decided to celebrate the birth of Christ, they decided to celebrate the miracle, which was the conception of Jesus. So the chosen date was December 25th.



The Significance of Christmas



It does seem that, in today's world, no one takes Christmas very seriously especially because of all the commercialism, materialism and paganism that accompanies it. However the perversion of the celebration does not mean that it has no value in its true meaning. In the mind of the ancient church Christmas was a necessary celebration because it is the beginning of the story of our redemption. The birth of Christ leads to the ministry and death of Christ which in turn leads to the resurrection of Christ which in turn leads to His second coming at the end of time. It is necessary to begin the story of the resurrection by reminding us that Jesus was born into this world as a human baby taking to Himself a human nature in addition to His divine nature.

In other words, Christmas does not have to be a secular or despised holiday. It was intended by the early church to be part of the story of redemption. The Christian Calendar begins with the birth of Christ, because the church itself begins with Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ created the church, He died for the church, He redeemed the church, He is the King and Head of the church today and, He is coming back for His church. Christmas can be a wonderful season of worship to our Lord and God if we will give it back its true significance.



People come here and say in amazement and how do you do it all? We don't do it all. Harbinger people are not ordinarily camp meeting people. Everyone chips in, finding as much joy building the place as there is in just being here. More in fact. I doubt very much if there is another place like this in New England where it's not "I" but "we." So that's our Christmas present and we praise God for it!. Earl Waterman, 1984

*There's a sweet feeling at Christmas, If from your heart you see
The light that guided the Wise Men, To Bethlehem's first Christmas Eve
Poor we may be, as the shepherds, Little it matters you see
We've seen the Holy Child, Jesus, And down in our hearts we believe
Earl Waterman, 1984*





H-oly are the shining realms of Glory
A-ngels glisten in ethereal light
R-ugged shepherds rise - and wrapped in wonder
B-ring the story of this longed for night
I-n the little village of King David
N-estled in a manger in the hay
G-od's great gift
E-mmanuel! The Savior!

R-esting, waiting for the shining Day
Earl Waterman, Harbinger, December, 1984



2010 Harbinger Staff and Board

President:	Jeff Gilman
Vice-President:	Paul Blake
Treasurer:	Don Ducharme
Secretary:	Marion Blake
Board Members:	Mark Gensamer John Greisner



Contacts

We are continuing to grow our e-mail list. We are seeking to do all our mail by e-mail so we hope you will send us your e-mail. However, if you want to receive the newsletter by regular mail please send us your address at Jeff_Gilman@yahoo.com or you may write to him at 27 Wilson Rd., Kittery, Maine 03904. We are also on Facebook and our website address is www.LiveForJesus.org/harbinger.htm.

