

## The Reality of Christmas

### I. The Reality of 9/11

“The most prominent conspiracy theory is that the collapse of the Twin Towers and 7 World Trade Center were the result of a controlled demolition rather than structural failure due to impact and fire.”<sup>1</sup>

### II. John is Recording Reality!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known. – John 1:1-18

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. - 1 John 1:1-4

“The end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century has been an epoch of fundamental insecurity. Everything is changing; nothing is stable. New social and political patterns are continually evolving.

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<sup>1</sup> Wikipedia

Even the Christian church, which has received a kingdom ‘which cannot be shaken’ and is charged to proclaim him who ‘is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 12:28; 13:8), now often speaks its message softly, shyly and without conviction. There is a widespread distrust of dogmatism and a preference for agnosticism or free thought. Many church members are filled with uncertainty and confusion.”<sup>2</sup>

## II. The “Doctrine” of Christmas

### 1. Christmas is a Real Event!

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us... 1 John 1:1-2

“The verbs correspond to the varieties of witness attestation in an ancient jurisprudence. When John writes, “We have seen it and testify to it” – and then speaks of hearing, seeing, touching – “he’s not making conversation but virtually swearing a disposition.”<sup>3</sup>

### 2. Christmas Means We Can Be Saved and have Fellowship with God!

...that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. – 1 John 1:3

### 3. God Brought Christmas to Bring us Joy!

And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. – 1 John 1:4

**Joy To the World!**

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<sup>2</sup> John Stott, *The Letters of John*, pg. 56

<sup>3</sup> Robert Yarbrough, quoted in *Hidden Christmas*, Tim Keller