

Christmas Above The Clouds.

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The meaning of Christmas includes the manger but it also must bring us to Calvary. And as we gaze upon our Suffering Servant hanging on the cross, becoming our curse and atoning for our sin, we must go to the empty tomb. But still, the story of Christmas must carry us from the empty tomb to the ascension of Jesus Christ back to His Father in heaven. Christmas must take us to heaven, to marvel at Christ seated at the right hand of the Father. Let this Christmas be one that lifts you above the clouds to see Christ in His exalted beauty and in His efficacious intercession for each of His redeemed children. Have Christmas above the clouds. *Here are some ways to think about and reasons to ponder this.*

1. Having Christmas above the clouds **will quiet your heart with the Priestly glory of Jesus.**

The church historically has affirmed and glorified in the Offices of Jesus Christ: Prophet, Priest, and King. To consider Jesus as Priest means that He has provided access to the Father as well as a wondrous introduction into this place of grace. It also includes the wondrous reality that Christ, our Lamb, shed His blood to pay for our sins. His blood has washed our sins away and His perfect work has satisfied justice so that all of God's wrath was infinitely and exhaustively poured out on Him who absorbed it all. He did this not for His own sins but for the sins of His people. And then, He triumphantly said: "IT IS FINISHED" meaning that the debt is paid in full. The Priesthood of Jesus Christ continues even to the present. He now sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven making continual intercession for us. He is right now, at this very moment, appearing in the presence of God for *you*. He is pleading His merits on your behalf. He is protecting you, praying for you, tenderly caring for you, preparing a place for you, and appearing in God's presence for you. This Christmas, let your heart soar high above the clouds as you look up to your great high Priest and let your heart be quieted by your heavenly Savior. Let all fears be swallowed up in the sovereign intercessions, satisfying watchcare and perfect glory of Christ.

2. Having Christmas above the clouds **will refocus you on the triumphant victory of Jesus.**

The Apostle Paul tells us that Jesus has been raised from the dead and is seated at the right hand of God in the heavenly places (Eph 1.20). This present position of our resurrected Christ is "far above all rule and authority and power and dominion" (Eph 1.21). Consider that all things have been put in subjection under the triumphant feet of Jesus Christ. He is Lord over all. He is preeminent over all things. He has disarmed the rulers and the authorities by triumphing over them through the cross (Col 2.15). This Christmas season, let your heart gaze upon Christ who is seated in heaven as the triumphant Victor over all His enemies. Peter affirms that Jesus is at the right hand of God, having ascended into heaven, and angels, and authorities, and all powers have been subjected to Him (1 Pet 3.22). Refocus your heart on your triumphant King, your sovereign Victor, your loving Monarch, and your Fatherlike Protector. Go high and soar above the clouds and let your heart refocus and rejoice in Christ, your victorious Warrior!

3. Having Christmas above the clouds **will remind you of the soon-return of Jesus.**

Soar high above the clouds this Christmas season by remembering that Jesus, who right now sits at the Father's right hand, is soon to come to gather you up to be with Him. Be reminded: the Lord is near. The Judge is right at the door. The King is soon-coming. This Jesus who has been taken up into heaven "will come in just the same way" (Acts 1.11). With all that can swell in your hearts and occupy your minds this time of the year, do not forget the hope that soon His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives (Zech 14.4). Yes, the LORD will come with all His holy ones with Him! He made the promise to His people that He will come again and receive His own to Himself, so that where He is, there all of His people may be also (John 14.3). Whatever happens today or tomorrow, ensure that your heart is lifted up above the clouds to gaze upon and glory in Jesus Christ who is soon to return for you! Jesus said to His church: I am coming quickly! Hold fast to what you have so that no one will take your crown (Rev 3.11). Sweeten your soul this season of the year as you find hope in your King who now lives in heaven for you and He is soon to return to for you and He will gather you unto Himself so you will be forever with your Lord!