

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church that makes a difference. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries, our God is the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We make a difference by teaching the Word of God from God's perspective, and not from man's perspective.

Welcome to the Christmas Celebration!

THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
Scripture Reveals and Songs Sing the Truth About Christ

This is always an amazing and festive time of the year. As Christians, we stop to reflect on the Person that saved us...and we celebrate His birth...and even though we have heard the Scriptures we are about to hear over and over for years...even though we have listened to the songs we are about to hear over and over for years...even though we know about the circumstances of and the people involved in Jesus' birth...we never tire of hearing about and learning about our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Every year we get a new and deeper perspective on this Person we love...a Person we are grateful for...and we echo the sentiments of Second Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verse 15...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 9:15

Thanks be to God the Father for His indescribable gift!

Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ...the Lord...the indescribable gift...and the holy day we celebrate is called CHRISTMAS.

It's a celebration in honor of the Christ...The Jewish Messiah.

CHRISTMAS

CHRIST the MASsiah

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

John, Chapter 1, Verse 14...

JOHN 1:14

And the Word (the Lord... God the Son... the Second Person of the Triune Godhead) became flesh (His name is Jesus Christ... a human being)... and He lived among us... and we beheld His manifest glory... the glory of the uniquely born One from the source of God the Father... full of grace... and full of truth.

Welcome to a place where we can sit back, and relax, and meditate on the real Christmas story.

When a child is born it commands our attention. When this child was born He commanded the attention of the whole world... both then and now. And many, throughout the years have asked, just as Martina McBride asks in song... **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord's Praises

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Martina McBride

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth... the Word of God...

Father, thank you for sacrificing Your Son... our Lord... the Savior Jesus Christ... there are many things we can say about Him... He is our Creator... He is our Redeemer... He is the living God... He is everything to us... and His unconditional love for us fills us up to all the fullness you planned for us in eternity past... and we thank you for allowing us to stop for a few moments as the rest of the world is lured into giving meaningless gifts... to recognize and to love the One who is the real gift... Jesus Christ...

As You remind us, Father, of the significance of what we celebrate and whom we celebrate at Christmas, let our hearts be filled with compassion and caring for those who struggle emotionally and financially during this season... for those who feel lonely and alone during this season... remind them that Jesus Christ is with them... and let our faith in Your Son incite us to lead others to a relationship with Him that soothes their souls and guarantees them a spot in eternity, face-to-face with You and with the other members of the Godhead...

...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ's

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

name...Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
Scripture Reveals and Songs Sing the Truth About Christ

At the center of the solar system is a bright and shining sun. At the center of divine history is the Light of life...the real Son...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Is it a coincidence that God the Father gives us the sun to remind us daily about His Son? Hardly. John, Chapter 8, Verse 12...

JOHN 8:12

Then Jesus again spoke to the scribes and the Pharisees, saying, "I am the Light of the world...he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness...but will have the Light of life."

Every time we look at the bright and shining sun we see a reminder of God the Son, and we are comforted because there is warmth at the center of the solar system...a light... a heat...and without this light everything would die. Scientists know this and so do we. As believers in Christ we know the same is true about the real Son (S-O-N)...the Lord Jesus Christ...we know that without HIM and His light all of us would die as well. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 20...

ROMANS 1:20

For since the creation of the world the Lord's invisible attributes, His eternal power and His divine nature, keep on being clearly seen by everyone...being understood even through what has been made (as reflected in the things of nature)...so that all mankind are without excuse (in the matter of knowing of the existence of the Lord).

Today we look back to the beginning of the first century. What was Israel like just before the birth of Jesus? It was a hopeless time. It was a time shrouded in darkness. Israel was under the oppressive rule of evil rulers in Rome. The Word of God had not been paid attention to for years. Israel was a police state with soldiers patrolling the streets. The country was fractured. There was a vacuum of leadership. And in the songs of the day, the words were right...REJOICE...yet the music communicated a feeling of anguish...if you listen to the instruments of the next song, you can feel the pain. It was time for a Savior. Here is Enja with O COME O COME EMMANUEL.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord's Praises

O COME O COME EMMANUEL

Enja

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

The chosen people, The Jewish Race, were looking for a way out of pain and darkness. In Scripture, the prophet Isaiah offered them a hope they could not wrap their heads around...Isaiah, Chapter 7, Verse 14...

ISAIAH 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you (house of David) a sign...behold, a virgin will be with child and will bear a son...and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah, Chapter 9, Verse 6...

ISAIAH 9:6

...a child will be born to us...a son will be given to us...and the government (of the universe) will rest on His shoulders...and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor...Mighty God...Eternal Father...Prince of Peace.

The prophet lets Israel know its suffering is almost over in Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verses 1 to 11...

ISAIAH 40:1

“Comfort, O comfort My people,” says your God.

ISAIAH 40:2

“Speak kindly to Jerusalem...and call out to her...that her warfare has ended...that her iniquity has been removed...that she has received of the Lord’s hand double for all her sins.”

ISAIAH 40:3

A voice is calling, “Clear the way for the Lord in the wilderness...make smooth in the desert a highway for our God.”

ISAIAH 40:4

“Let every valley be lifted up...and let every mountain and hill be made low...and let the rough ground become a plain...and the rugged terrain a broad valley...”

ISAIAH 40:5

“Then the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all flesh will see it together...for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

ISAIAH 40:6

A voice says, “Call out.” Then he answered, “What shall I call out?” All flesh is grass...and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.

ISAIAH 40:7

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

The grass withers...the flower fades...when the breath of the Lord blows upon it...surely the people are grass.

ISAIAH 40:8

The grass withers...the flower fades...but the word of our God stands forever.

ISAIAH 40:9

Get yourself up on a high mountain, O Zion, bearer of good news...lift up your voice mightily, O Jerusalem, bearer of good news...lift it up...do not fear. Say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!"

ISAIAH 40:10

Behold, the Lord God will come with might...with His arm ruling for Him. Behold, His reward is with Him and His recompense before Him.

ISAIAH 40:11

Like a shepherd He will tend His flock...in His arm He will gather the lambs and carry them in His bosom...He will gently lead the nursing ewes.

There was every reason in Scripture for Israel and the world to have hope... yet there was silence in the souls of the people at that time, for most were ignoring God's Word...and it created a desperate and despairing emptiness inside of them.

Scripture predicted a Savior would come. The Old Testament predictions about the coming of the Messiah were 100% correct. The odds of that accuracy are too astronomical to calculate. The Old Testament predicted where the Savior would be born...the family He would be born into...the purpose of His birth...the manner of His birth...and His resurrection from the dead. There was a divine precision to the predictions, like the one in Micah, Chapter 5, Verse 2...

MICAH 5:2

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah (F-RAH-TAH)...too little to be among the clans of Judah...from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago...from the days of eternity."

We witness the predictions...and we celebrate the predictions with awe... including the prediction of a virgin birth. The non-spiritual world has a name for the phenomenon of a virgin birth...it's called...

PARTHENOGENESIS

The development of an egg without fertilization by a male

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

Here's Amy Grant with Michael Smith and the song...ALMOST THERE.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord's Praises

ALMOST THERE

Amy Grant with Michael Smith

Here is Luke's account of the virgin pregnancy...Luke, Chapter 1, Verses 26 to 38...for this passage we use the Wuest Translation of the New Testament...

LUKE 1:26 (Wuest Translation)

Now, in the sixth month of the pregnancy of Mary's relative Elizabeth, the angel Gabriel was sent on a mission from God the Father to a city of Galilee named Nazareth...

LUKE 1:27 (Wuest Translation)

...to a virgin promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary.

LUKE 1:28 (Wuest Translation)

And having come to her, Gabriel said, "Keep on rejoicing Mary, because you have been encompassed with favor as a grace gift from God the Father. The Lord is with you."

The favor bestowed on Mary is absolutely no different than the favor bestowed on each of us as believers in Christ. Each of us has been saved...and each of us has a job to do for the Lord...with the Lord there is no partiality. Mary was no more favored than you.

LUKE 1:29 (Wuest Translation)

But Mary was greatly agitated by the words said by Gabriel, and began reasoning what sort of an exotic greeting this might be.

LUKE 1:30 (Wuest Translation)

And the angel said to her, "Stop fearing, Mary, for you have a grace gift of favor in the presence of God."

LUKE 1:31 (Wuest Translation)

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

“And behold...you shall conceive in your womb...and you shall give birth to a Son...and you shall call His name Jesus.”

Jesus Christ was given five things by God the Father in return for His singular sacrifice...for laying down His life for each and every one of us...here is Gabriel’s prediction about our Messiah...

LUKE 1:32 (Wuest Translation)

(1) “This One, Jesus Christ, shall be great, and (2) He shall be called the Son of the Most High, and (3) God the Father, our Lord, shall give Jesus the throne of David, His father, during Jesus’ Millennial reign...”

LUKE 1:33 (Wuest Translation)

“...and (4) Jesus shall reign as King over the House of Jacob (Israel) forever and (5) of His kingdom there shall not be an end.”

Israel and The Jewish Race will never be destroyed...it is more than just the fact that the Lord made promises to Abraham about The Jewish Race and Israel...it’s that the Lord is not going to allow a kingdom that He will be running to be destroyed by His enemy...nor will He allow the people He loves to be destroyed...a race that He is a part of...The Jewish Race.

LUKE 1:34 (Wuest Translation)

But Mary said to the angel, “How shall this (virgin pregnancy) be possible, since I have not had sexual intercourse with a man?”

LUKE 1:35 (Wuest Translation)

Answering...the angel said to Mary, “The Holy Spirit shall come upon you... and the power of the Most High shall overshadow you...so the Holy One being conceived shall be called Son of God.”

LUKE 1:36 (Wuest Translation)

“And behold...Elizabeth...your relative...also conceived a son in her old age...and this is the sixth month of pregnancy for her who was called sterile...”

LUKE 1:37 (Wuest Translation)

“...for in the presence of God no thing shall be impossible.”

LUKE 1:38

And Mary said, “Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord...may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel Gabriel departed from her.

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

The pregnancy resulted in the birth of a Savior. Here's Josh Groban to sing about it in the song O HOLY NIGHT.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord's Praises

O HOLY NIGHT

Josh Groban

Let's take a five-minute break and then we'll continue with the Christmas story.

BREAK

Five Minutes

THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Scripture Reveals and Songs Sing the Truth About Christ

Matthew, Chapter 1, Verses 18 to 25...

MATTHEW 1:18

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph...before they had sexual intercourse...she was found to be "with child" by the agency of God the Holy Spirit.

MATTHEW 1:19

And Joseph her husband...being a righteous man (a believer in Christ) and not wanting to disgrace her (by having her stoned to death)...planned to divorce her secretly.

As Joseph saw it, Mary had sex with a man that was not her husband, thus defiling their marriage just as it was beginning.

MATTHEW 1:20

But when Joseph had considered this (secret divorce, while pondering the dilemma he was in), behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David (reminding him that he is nobility from the lineage of a king), do not be afraid...because it's not a problem to take Mary as your wife...for the Child who has been conceived in her is from the source of God the Holy Spirit."

MATTHEW 1:21

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

“(Mary) will bear a Son...and you shall call His name Jesus...for He (and no other...according to ACTS 4:12) will save His people from their sins.”

MATTHEW 1:22

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet (in Isaiah 7:14)...

MATTHEW 1:23

“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND JOSEPH SHALL CALL THE SON’S NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.”

MATTHEW 1:24

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him...and took Mary as his wife...

MATTHEW 1:25

...but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son...and Joseph called His son’s name Jesus.

Here’s Amy Grant to sing HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord’s Praises

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Amy Grant

In Luke, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 20, we see the oppressive Romans government in action...and the fist threat on the life of the newborn King...

LUKE 2:1

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

LUKE 2:2

This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

LUKE 2:3

And everyone was on his way to register for the census...each to his own city.

LUKE 2:4

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

Joseph also went up from the region called Galilee...up from the city of Nazareth, to Judea...to the city of David...which is called Bethlehem... because he was of the house and family of David...

LUKE 2:5

...in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was pregnant with a child.

LUKE 2:6

While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

LUKE 2:7

And she gave birth to her firstborn son...and she wrapped Him in cloths (esparganōsen is the Greek word...the cloths that hold together a mangled corpse) and laid Him in a manger (a feeding trough for cattle)...because there was no room for them in the inn.

LUKE 2:8

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

LUKE 2:9

And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them...and the glory of the Lord shone around them...and they were terribly frightened.

LUKE 2:10

But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid...for behold...I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people...”

LUKE 2:11

“...for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”

LUKE 2:12

“This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

LUKE 2:13

And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying...

LUKE 2:14

“Glory to God in the highest...and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

LUKE 2:15

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.”

LUKE 2:16

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph...and to the baby as He lay in the manger.

LUKE 2:17

When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

LUKE 2:18

And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

LUKE 2:19

But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

LUKE 2:20

The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

Let’s reflect on the praises of the shepherds as we listen to the song ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord’s Praises

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Christendom College Choir & Schola Gregoriana

No story is complete, especially not the Lord’s story, without God’s enemy, Satan, rearing his ugly head to ruin things. Matthew, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 12...

MATTHEW 2:1

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, Magi (astronomers) from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying...

MATTHEW 2:2

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

MATTHEW 2:3

When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled (meaning jealous), and all Jerusalem was troubled with him.

Jerusalem knew what “troubled” and evil leaders do.

MATTHEW 2:4

Gathering together all the chief priests and all the scribes (the teachers of the Law) of the people (Israel), Herod inquired of them where the (Jewish) Messiah (the King of the Jews) was to be born.

Isn't it funny that many unbelievers claim there is no God, yet when issues of God come up they seem to know everything about Him...Herod knew of the Messiah and knew how to find out where He would be born.

MATTHEW 2:5

The chief priests and scribes said to Herod, “The Messiah is to be born in Bethlehem of Judea...for this is what has been written by the prophet Micah...

MATTHEW 2:6

‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH...FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

MATTHEW 2:7

Then Herod secretly called the Magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

Why “secretly?” Herod was already hatching a plot to assassinate the Messiah.

MATTHEW 2:8

And Herod sent the Magi to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child...and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

MATTHEW 2:9

After hearing the king, the Magi went their way...and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

MATTHEW 2:10

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

MATTHEW 2:11

After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother...and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts fit for a King...gold (for His Deity), frankincense (for His life), and myrrh (for His humanity, a fragrance identifying Him with His death).

MATTHEW 2:12

And having been warned by God the Father in a dream not to return to Herod, the Magi left for their own country by another way.

Because of God's enemy...the birth of Christ brought with it a negative impact...Matthew, Chapter 2, Verses 16 to 18...

MATTHEW 2:16

And when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the Magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, using the time frame which he had determined from the Magi.

MATTHEW 2:17

Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled...

MATTHEW 2:18

“A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN...AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE HER CHILDREN WERE NO MORE.”

And so in this beautiful season...Christmas...we celebrate Christ...He is our King...He is our resurrection life...He is a sacrifice for us...He is the One who took care of the sin problem in the world.

Let's listen to the song about the Magi...WE THREE KINGS.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Enjoy the Singing of the Lord's Praises

WE THREE KINGS

Clamavi De Profundis

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

Thank you for celebrating with us. Today and always, as believers in Christ, we are grateful for the Lord...Second Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verse 15...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 9:15

Thanks be to God the Father for His indescribable gift!

Along with the apostle Paul, we are witnesses to the Lord's greatness...First Timothy, Chapter 1, Verses 15 to 17...

FIRST TIMOTHY 1:15

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving of full acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, among whom I (Paul) am the foremost sinner of all.

FIRST TIMOTHY 1:16

Yet BECAUSE I was the foremost of all sinners...I found mercy from God the Father...so that in me as the foremost sinner...Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience with sinners as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life (the resurrection life).

FIRST TIMOTHY 1:17

Now to the King of kings and Lord of lords...the Lord Jesus Christ...to the eternal, immortal, invisible One...to the One and Only God...be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8...

ROMANS 5:8

God the Father demonstrates His own unconditional love toward all creatures, in that while we were yet sinners (as ungodly, unrighteous unbelievers), Jesus Christ died instead of us.

John, Chapter 1, Verse 12...

JOHN 1:12

But whosoever received Him, to them the Lord Jesus Christ gave the right to become children of God the Father, even to those who believe in Jesus Christ's name...

Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

JOHN 3:36

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life (right at that moment) ...but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life, but instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”

John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

JOHN 3:17

For God the Father did not send God the Son (the Lord) into the world to judge the world, but instead that the world might be saved through believing in Him.

Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 12 says...

ACTS 4:12

“And there is salvation in no one else...for there is no other name under heaven that has been given to mankind by which we must be saved except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Once you have God’s salvation, you cannot lose it...in John, Chapter 10, Verses 27 and 28...Jesus Christ Himself says...

JOHN 10:27

My sheep hear My voice, and I (the Lord Jesus Christ) know them, and they follow Me...

JOHN 10:28

...and I give eternal life to my sheep (believers in Christ)...and they will never perish...and no one will snatch them out of My hand.

From His manger, the Lord is a talking baby, as outlined in Hebrews, Chapter 10, Verses 5 to 7...

HEBREWS 10:5

Therefore, when Christ comes into the world, He says, “Sacrifice and offering You have not desired My God and Father...but a body You have prepared for Me...”

HEBREWS 10:6

“...in whole burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You have taken no pleasure, Father.”

HEBREWS 10:7

ROMANS
Lesson 446–December 23, 2018

“Then I (the Lord Jesus Christ) said, ‘Behold, I have come (in the scroll of the book it is written of Me)...to do Your will, O God the Father.’”

Here’s June Murphy to put the cherry on top of our celebration by singing about the Jesus...A
BABY CHANGES EVERYTHING.

CLOSING SONG

A BABY CHANGES EVERYTHING

June

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the indescribable gift of Your Son...our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ...as we spend our time around our unbelieving family and friends this holiday season, encourage us to help them to pray this prayer...

God the Father, I am a sinner and I need a Savior...I know I can’t do anything to save myself...I thank you for letting the Lord Jesus Christ, Your beloved Son, do the work of salvation for me...and right now, Father, I believe in Christ...and I want to live with You and Him forever...

Then let us celebrate with them the indescribable gift of salvation through the agency of the indescribable gift we celebrate today...the Lord Jesus Christ. We ask this through the convicting power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ’s name...Amen!

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com