



# FBC CHRONICLE



SPECIAL DECEMBER  
2020 EDITION

Using Everything to Win the Battle  
By Dr. Timothy F. Brown

XMAS AMID COVID-19  
**“A MESSAGE OF HOPE TO THE  
PEOPLE OF GOD”**

The Place, The Promise, The Victory

OPENING: - Currently we are facing unprecedented times. The entire planet is facing a **Pandemic called “COVID-19” or a.k.a. the Coronavirus**. Fear, uncertainty, panic and desperation is spreading faster than the virus itself. States have been put on lock down and people are being told to shelter in place. Schools have closed, churches have cancelled worship services and unlike anytime in modern history people are perplexed and **wondering what to do. “For those that are called according to His purpose” understand** that this is the beginning of sorrows to come. We can rest assure in knowing that God has everything under control, and this will eventually pass also.

Jesus said in Matthew 24:7-8 **“For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places All these are the beginning of sorrows.”**

NOTE HERE- **According to Strong’s Greek Concordance “PESTILENCE (s) Greek = loimos** is a plague, the disease. The Covid-19 is just that! a disease, hence the name Coronavirus Disease. We must first understand that this must happen for it is the beginning of sorrows and most of all a pre-requisite to the return of Jesus Christ.

We as Children of God, Christians, Believers, Chosen People understand that The Bible is inundated with scripture that helps us to be able to endure during times like this. Several scriptures we can quote to give comfort such as **“If my people who are called by my name shall humble themselves and pray, seek my face and turn from their wicked ways. Then shall I hear from heaven forgive their sins and heal their land – 2 Chronicles 7:14.”**

However, today I feel that God is leading me to expound a little bit during this time of crisis and pandemic on what is often called the Rescue Scripture and that is Psalms 91.

Psalms 91 is a powerful scripture; one of encouragement, promise, security, healing, and understanding during uncertain times.



I know that I have been comforted and given peace that pass all understanding by reading this scripture and having God reveal so many great truths through it time and time again.

Psalms 91:1 **says, “He that dwells in the secret place of the Highest shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty”.**

NOTE HERE: - He that dwells – *this means to abide, to stay in, to live.* It is not the time to go outside of the will of God. The world is panicking wondering what to do, buying toilet tissue like there is no tomorrow, living like they do not have really a care in the world. But we must  **dwell, we must “stay steadfast and unmovable always abounding in the work of the Lord.” We must stand on and in His word.** We cannot be wavering with uncertainty deceived by news reports rather they be true or false, but we must dwell, abide steadfast in the secret place of the Most-High under the shadow of the Almighty .

Question: - What is the secret place? The secret place is best understood if we turn to John 10:28 **which says: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.” The secret place is in the Hands of God.** We must understand regardless of any pestilences any plagues that we are His sheep (people) and we are safe in His hands, **when we do what He tells us to do, that’s the secret place.** Allstate has the slogan of the good hands people, but I am reminded of a song we used to sing which

**said, “He has the whole world in His hands, you and me brother, and you and me sister, in His hands.” If we stay in His hands, no man, no pestilence, no virus shall be able to pluck us out. But that doesn’t mean we will not be affected; it means even if we are affected, we are still in His care. In His hands we have peace that passes all understanding even during a pandemic like the coronavirus a.k.a. Covid-19.**

In His hands, the secret place, we have **some promises verse #3 says “Surely he shall deliver us from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.”**

NOTE HERE: - The word noisome means rushing upon, by implication of ruin, calamity, mischief, and perverse.

This is exactly what the Covid-19 is doing, it is spreading rapidly trying to ruin our normal way of living, causing calamity in its wakes over the entire planet. It has traveled between continents extremely quick causing fear and panic among the people and uncertainty of what lies ahead is plaguing the minds of the people and leaders of government. But it is according to Psalm 91 a noisome pestilence.

**Verse #4 says “He shall cover us with his feathers, and under his wings shall we trust: His truth shall be our shield and buckler.” However, in the secret place, in His hands He shall cover us His truth shall be our shield and buckler.** Shield and buckler are instruments of protection and defense, so we are protected and defended by His truth.

QUESTION: What is Truth? Jesus said in John 14:6 **“Jesus saith unto him, I am the way the TRUTH and the life and no man comes unto the father but by me.” I cannot think of any better protection than the Son of God Himself, Jesus Christ.**

Verses #5-6 **says, “We shall not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that fly’s by day nor for the pestilence that walks in darkness; nor for the destruction that waste at noonday.” Sure, uncertainty holds in it a sense of what lies ahead. No doubt we all have questions of How will this change how we live from this point**

*(Continued on back page)*

## WHAT IS THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

Christmas is one of the most important Christian and cultural holidays of the year, but what is the true meaning of Christmas? For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ.

The Christmas season, especially in the West, is a mix of pre-**Christian, Christian, and secular traditions**. **What's interesting is the etymology of the word Christmas. It literally means Christian Mass. It's a shortened form of Christ's Mass. Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It's also a celebration. It's when Christians celebrate God's love for the world through the birth of the Christ child: Jesus. The Bible tells of his birth hundreds of years before, fulfilling prophecies.**

### THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN THE BIBLE

The Christmas story is recorded in [Luke 2:4-19](#).

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

**"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'**

**"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel,**

**praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'**

When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart." ([Luke 2:4-19](#))

### THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS - CELEBRATING THE SAVIOR

Jesus was born in order to pay the price for the things we have done wrong: sin. God sent his only son to be the atonement for all our sins so that we would not be separated from God. Without Jesus, we would all die for our sins. We inherited our sin nature from the first human beings God created, Adam and Eve. While being fully God and yet fully man, Jesus came into the world as an infant to save us all.

Most Christmas traditions vary in significance and symbolic meaning. For example, we exchange gifts because God sent us the most precious gift: his only Son. Also, three wisemen visited Jesus and brought gifts as well. A poem titled *A Visit from St. Nicholas* penned in 1822 popularized the tradition of exchanging gifts too.

Although people worldwide celebrate **Christ's birth on December 25th, it was likely that he was born on in a different month and date. The church in the 4th century chose December 25th as it coordinated with the Solstice on the Roman Calendar.**

For Christians, the true meaning of Christmas is the celebration of the Savior, Jesus Christ. We know that through belief in the Christ we are daughters and sons of God. Heaven will one day be our home. Perhaps this will help you look at the Christmas season differently this year. A chance to truly take in the wonder and awe of the season.

*Resources:*

[www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com);  
[www.christianity.com](http://www.christianity.com)



## The 12 Days of Christmas - True Meaning

*On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.*

The partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus, the Son of God, whose birthday we celebrate on the first day of Christmas. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

*On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtledoves.*

These twin birds represent the Old and New Testaments. So in this gift, the singer finds the complete story of Judeo-Christian **faith and God's plan for the world. The doves are the biblical roadmap that is available to everyone.**

*On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens.*

These birds represent faith, hope, and love. This gift hearkens back to [1 Corinthians 13](#), the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

*On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds.* **One of the easiest facets of the song's code to figure out, these fowl are the four Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.**

*On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings.* The gift of the rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

*On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying.* These lyrics can be traced back to the first story found in the [Bible](#). **Each egg is a day in creation, a time when the world was "hatched" or formed by God.**

*On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming.* It would take someone quite familiar with the Bible to identify this gift. Hidden in the code are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, and compassion. As swans are one of the most beautiful and graceful creatures on earth, they would seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

*On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking.* As Christ came to save even the lowest of the low, this gift represents the ones who would receive his word and accept his grace. Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this code conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. The eight who were blessed included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and **thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, and those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake.**

*On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing.* These nine dancers were really the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

*On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping.* This is probably the easiest gift to understand. As lords were judges and in charge of the law, this code for the Ten Commandments was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

*On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping.* This is almost a trick question, as most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen. But when Judas betrayed Jesus and committed suicide, there were only eleven men who carried out the gospel message.

*On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming.*

**The final gift is tied directly to the Catholic Church. The drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the [communion](#) of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting."**

Resource: [www.crosswalk.com](http://www.crosswalk.com)



# HOLIDAYS IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

## DIWALI

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Diwali>

Diwali, Divali, Deepavali is the Hindu festival of lights, usually lasting five days and celebrated during the Hindu Lunisolar month Kartika (between mid-October and mid-November). One of the most popular festivals of Hinduism, Diwali symbolizes the spiritual "victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance". The festival is widely associated with Lakshmi, goddess of prosperity, but regional traditions connect it to Sita and Rama, Vishnu, Krishna, Yama, Yami, Durga, Kali, Dhanvantari, or Vishvakarman.

## THREE KINGS' DAY

<https://www.newsweek.com>

For many Christians in Spain and Latin America, the holiday season officially ends on January 6, which is the 12th day of Christmas known as the Feast of the Epiphany, or Three Kings' Day.



The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili. Each family celebrates Kwanzaa in its own way, but celebrations often include songs and... an African American and Pan-African holiday celebrated by millions throughout the world African community, *Kwanzaa* brings a cultural message which speaks to the best of what it means to be African and human in the fullest sense. (Dec. 26—Jan 1).

## HANUKKAH

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Hanukkah is a Jewish festival commemorating the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt against the Seleucid Empire. It is also known as the Festival of Lights (Hebrew: חג המנוחות, *hag ha'minot*). Hanukkah is observed for eight nights and days, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, which may occur at any time from late November to late December in the Gregorian calendar. The festival is observed by lighting the candles of a candelabrum with nine branches, called a menorah (or hanukkah).

## EPIPHANY

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Epiphany is celebrated with a wide array of customs around the world. In some cultures, the greenery and nativity scenes put up at Christmas are taken down at Epiphany. In other cultures these remain up until Candlemas on February 2. In countries historically shaped by Western Christianity (Roman Catholicism, Protestantism) these customs often involve gift giving, "king cakes" and a celebratory close to the Christmas season. In traditionally Orthodox nations, water, baptismal rites and house blessings are typical.

## KWANZAA

<https://www.history.com/topics/holidays>

### THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA

- Unity  
Unity of family, community, nation and race.
- Self-Determination  
To be responsible for ourselves.
- Collective work and responsibility  
To build and maintain our community together.
- Collective economics  
To build, maintain, and support our own stores and businesses

## OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wik>

Our Lady of Guadalupe (Spanish: Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe), also known as the Virgin of Guadalupe (Spanish: Virgen de Guadalupe), is a Catholic title of the Blessed Virgin Mary associated with a series of five Marian apparitions in December 1531, and a venerated image on a cloak enshrined within the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City. The basilica is the most visited Catholic pilgrimage site in the world, and the world's third most-visited sacred site. Celebrations, or fiestas, are held in honor of Mary, the Virgin of Guadalupe, on December 12.

## BOXING DAY

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>

Boxing Day is a holiday celebrated the day after Christmas Day, thus being the second day of Christmastide. It originated in the United Kingdom and is celebrated in a number of countries that previously formed part of the British Empire. Boxing Day is on 26 December, although the attached bank holiday or public holiday may take place either on that day or one or two days later. (In parts of Europe, such as Romania, Hungary, Germany, Poland, the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, and Scandinavia, 26 December is celebrated as a second Christmas Day).

- Purpose  
To restore African American people to their traditional greatness.
- Creativity  
Using creativity and imagination to make your communities better than what you inherited.
- Faith  
Believing in our people, our families, our educators, our leaders, and the righteousness of the African American struggle.

## CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS WORLDWIDE

<https://www.history.com/topics/Christmas/christmas-traditions-worldwide>



Christmas traditions around the world are diverse, but share key traits that often involve themes of light, evergreen and hope. Probably the most celebrated holiday in the world, our modern Christmas is a product of hundreds of years of both secular and religious traditions from around the globe, many of them centered on the [winter solstice](#).

**SWEDEN: 'God Jul!'** - Most people in Scandinavian countries honor St. Lucia (also known as St. Lucy) each year on December 13. The celebration of St. Lucia Day began in Sweden, but had spread to Denmark and Finland by the mid-19th century.

**FINLAND: 'Hyvää Joulua!'** - Many Finns visit the sauna on Christmas Eve. Families gather and listen to the national "Peace of Christmas" radio broadcast. It is customary to visit the gravesites of departed family members.

**NORWAY: 'Gledelig Jul!'** - Norway is the birthplace of the [Yule log](#). The ancient Norse used the Yule log in their celebration of the return of the sun at winter solstice. "Yule" came from the Norse word *hweol*, meaning wheel. The Norse believed that the sun was a great wheel of fire that rolled towards and then away from the earth. Ever wonder why the family fireplace is such a central part of the typical Christmas scene? This tradition dates back to the Norse Yule log. It is probably also responsible for the popularity of log-shaped cheese, cakes and desserts during the holidays.

**GERMANY: 'Froehliche Weihnachten!'** - The tradition of decorating [Christmas trees](#) comes from Germany. Decorating evergreen trees had always been a part of the German winter solstice tradition. The first "Christmas trees" explicitly decorated and named after the Christian holiday appeared in Strasbourg (part of Alsace) in the beginning of the 17th century.

**MEXICO 'Feliz Navidad!'** - In 1828, the American minister to Mexico, Joel R. Poinsett, brought a red-and-green plant from Mexico to America. As its coloring seemed perfect for the new holiday, the plants, which were called *poinsettias* after Poinsett, began appearing in greenhouses as early as 1830. In 1870, [New York](#) stores began to sell them at Christmas. By 1900, they were a universal symbol of the holiday.

**ENGLAND: 'Merry Christmas!'** - Christmas cards can be traced back to England. An Englishman named John Calcott Horsley helped to popularize the tradition of sending Christmas greeting cards when he began producing small cards featuring festive scenes and a pre-written holiday greeting in the late 1830s. Newly efficient [post offices](#) in England and the United States made the cards nearly overnight sensations.

**FRANCE 'Joyeux Noël!'** - In France, Christmas is called Noel. This comes from the French phrase *les bonnes nouvelles*, which means "the good news" and refers to the gospel. In southern France, some people burn a log in their homes from Christmas Eve until New Year's Day. This stems from an ancient tradition in which farmers would use part of the log to ensure good luck for the next year's harvest.

**ITALY: 'Buon Natale!'** - Italians call Christmas *Il Natale*, meaning "the birthday."

**AUSTRALIA** - In Australia, the holiday comes in the middle of summer and it's not unusual for some parts of Australia to hit 100 degrees Fahrenheit on Christmas day. During the warm and sunny Australian Christmas season, beach time and outdoor barbecues are common. Traditional Christmas day celebrations include family gatherings, exchanging gifts and either a hot meal with ham, turkey, pork or seafood or barbecues.

**GREECE: 'Kala Christouyenna!'** - In Greece, many people believe in *kallikantzeri*, goblins that appear to cause mischief during the 12 days of Christmas. Gifts are usually exchanged on January 1, St. Basil's Day.

**CANADA** - Most Canadian Christmas traditions are very similar to those practiced in the United States. In the far north of the country, the Eskimos celebrate a winter festival called sinck tuck, which features parties with dancing and the exchanging of gifts.

**JAMESTOWN, VIRGINIA** - According to reports by Captain John Smith, the first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in his 1607 Jamestown settlement. Nog comes from the word grog, which refers to any drink made with rum.

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FBC Weekly Ministries / Meetings

Wednesdays—5:30 PM ..... Power Prayer Service

Wednesdays—6:00 PM .....Adult Sacred Word Bible Study

Wednesdays—6:00 PM ..... Youth Community Bible Study

Thursdays — 12:00 (Noon) .... Noon Day Sacred Word Bible Study

Saturdays — 9:30 AM .....Evangelism Ministry (every 2nd & 4th)

Saturdays — 9:30 AM ..... MIME Ministry

Saturdays - 10:00 AM ..... Karate Lessons (Self Defense) —FREE

Sundays - 9:15 AM ..... Sunday School

Sundays - 10:45 AM .....Morning Worship

(All services & activities suspended until further notice, due to COVID 19)

*(Continued from front page )*

**forward? What changes are we going to face after this is all over. But “God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of love, power and a sound mind.” As long as we stay in His hands, we can have peace that passes all understanding regardless of what else is going on in and to the world.**

**Verses #7 says “A thousand shall fall at your side, and ten thousand at your right hand; but it shall not come near you.” A thousand plagues, diseases, enemies shall fall at your side.** This gives us the assurance that this Covid-19 is going to fall if we stay in His hands. It is not going to come near the spirit. Let me pause here for just a moment because we can easily go off track if we are not careful. I have faith and I believe what the Bible says ALL of it and not just parts. The Bible tells us to obey those that have rule over us, this means those that are heading the Health portion of the Government the security and other aspects of Government that head this country and others. Common sense tells us to wash our hands, we have been told to manage social distancing and cover our faces with mask if possible. We can have faith, but we must also have obedience to God and the Laws that are being put in place to help protect from the Covid-19. It is wonderful and a Godly privilege to understand that A thousand shall fall at our side but let us not become so comfortable that we fail to be obedient.

Verses #9-16 talk about the promises that we who dwell in the secret place have. **The verses read as follows “Because you have made the LORD, which is your refuge, even the Highest, our habitation; There shall no evil befall you, neither shall any plague come near your dwelling. For he shall give his angels charge over you, to keep you in all thy ways. They shall bear you up in their hands, lest you dash your foot against a stone. You shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt you trample under feet. Because he has set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he has known my name. He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him and honor him. With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation”.**

We have some great promises here, but it requires that we stay in His Hands. And FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD: Faith is trusting Him; Works is trusting Him through Science and Following it.

The one thing that encouraged me was this. Understanding that Jesus has a name above all names and Covid-19, coronavirus, or whatever other name there is out there must bow down to the name of Jesus.

So, although the times ahead are uncertain, although states have shut down, although churches had to cancel worship services, we can rest assured that at the Name of Jesus this pandemic must cease. At the Name of Jesus demons must flee. Tell me who can stand against us when we call on His Great Name Jesus, Jesus, precious Savior. We Have the Victory.



SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT!

Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant, tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night  
Shepherds quake, at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven above  
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.