

8 Days Later

(The movie is over and the angels are gone)

In 1843 there were no Christmas cards, trees weren't cut or decorated, there weren't any turkey feasts, gift-giving was not mainstream, business parties didn't exist, and the Anglican church frowned on any type of Christmas celebrations because it smacked of paganism.

I have endeavoured in this Ghostly little book, to raise the Ghost of an Idea, which shall not put my readers out of humour with themselves, with each other, with the season, or with me. May it haunt their houses pleasantly, and no one wish to lay it.

Their faithful Friend and Servant,

C. D.

December, 1843

Luke 2:21-40 (NIV)

²¹On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise Him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given Him before He had been conceived. ²²When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took Him to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), ²⁴and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons."²⁵ Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the Child Jesus to do for Him what the custom of the Law required, ²⁸Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God, saying: ²⁹"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,

you now dismiss your servant in peace.

³⁰For my eyes have seen your Salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the sight of all people,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

3 Jewish Ceremonies

The ceremony of _____

The _____ of the firstborn.

The _____ after childbirth

Jesus would cause the rising and falling of many in Israel. (Romans 9:33)

Jesus would be a sign spoken against.

Because of Jesus a sword will pierce Mary's heart.

Because of Jesus the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed.

Jesus revealed Joseph's and Mary's _____

"The only part of your Bible that you truly believe is the part you obey."

"...So what kind of people should you be? You should live holy lives and serve God..." 2 Peter 3:11 (NCV)

Jesus revealed Simeon's _____

"Live fast, die young, have a beautiful corpse."

James Dean

In the morning Ben Franklin would ask, "What good shall I do today?" This was followed up by his evening question, "What good have I done today?"

"The unexamined life is not worth living"

Socrates

Jesus revealed the _____

"What you say flows from what is in your heart."

Luke 6:45 (NLT)

When you look back at 2009 - what does Jesus reveal about your year?

When we come to the end of 2010 - what do you want Jesus to have revealed about you?