



December 12, 2011

Excitement and Anticipation

By Teresa Hampton

Holidays invariably bring a flood of childhood memories. In one of the Christmas photos taken when I was about four or five, our beautifully decorated tree was adorned with many presents underneath. Even now, I can readily identify my presents. The ends are taped, re-taped, triple taped, and then S&H green stamped, because Mom ran out of tape. The mystery, excitement, and anticipation were just too much.

The apostle Peter wrote about a gift that many people waited for with excitement (1 Peter 1:10-12). The prophets of old had great anticipation for God's gift of the Messiah. Even though they spoke by inspiration about His coming, they were unaware of the person, the time, and way that God would use to reveal this gift. They inquired and searched carefully. They *longed* to understand their own words about the sufferings of the Christ and the glories that would follow, but there was a reason God did not reveal it.

Peter said that the prophets were ministering to *us* about the events surrounding Jesus. The fulfillment of their divine prophecies gives us irrefutable evidence of God's extraordinary sacrifice. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah wrote that a virgin would conceive and bear a son, and call His name Immanuel (7:14). Micah said that out of Bethlehem would come a Ruler (5:2). The Psalmist wrote in detail about Jesus' death, resurrection, and ascension (22, 16:10, 110:1). There are hundreds more fulfilled prophecies of the Christ in scripture.

When the time was right, God revealed the long anticipated mystery. Today we have the unique privilege to be recipients of this precious gift, but one question lingers. Will we hold on to it selfishly, or will we share this amazing gift with others?

Today's Verse: *And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places (Eph. 3:9-10).*

If you would like to subscribe to **Wellspring**, send e-mail to wellspringforwomen@hotmail.com and type the word subscribe in the subject line.

Previous **Wellspring** articles have been archived at <http://www.TheBible.net/wellspring> and <http://karnsco.org/biblical-teachings/publications/wellspring-for-women/>