

Fourth Sunday in Advent – 2024

Saturday, 12/21 at 4 pm and Sunday, 12/22 at 9 am



Text: Genesis 1; Exodus 20; Luke 24 NAS 1995

**Introduction:** Dear friends in Christ: Here at Bethlehem Parma, we are working our way through **The 12 Days of Christmas**, going from Day 12 to Day 1. This is **Part 4** of a **6-Part Series**.

What is **The 12 Days of Christmas**? It began as a poem way back in **1558**, then became a song in **1909**.

What was the purpose of the poem? To **secretly** identify **12 important parts of the Bible**. The reason for *secrecy* was due to *severe persecution* (for more info, see parts 1 and 2).

What is going on in the song? **People who trust in Jesus as Savior and Lord** are singing about **God the Father, their True Love**, who is giving them **12 Bible gifts** – *one for each of The 12 Days of Christmas (12/25 through 1/5)!*

What are those gifts? So far in this series we have covered these days of **The 12 Days of Christmas**:

- **Day 12** – **Twelve Drummers Drumming**, which point to **The 12 points of belief in the Apostles' Creed**.

- **Day 11 – Eleven Pipers Piping**, which point to **The 11 faithful disciples**.
  - **Day 10 – Ten Lords A-Leaping**, which point to **The 10 Commandments**.
  - **Day 9 – Nine Ladies Dancing**, which point to **The 9 Parts of the Fruit of the Spirit**.
  - **Day 8 – Eight Maids A-Milking**, which point to **The 8 Beatitudes**, which begin the Sermon on the Mount.
  - **Day 7 – Seven Swans A-Swimming**, which point to **The 7 Gifts of the Spirit** (see parts 1, 2, and 3 to benefit).
1. **Day 6 – Six Geese A-Laying: The Six Days of Creation.**  
 God ★ made us, ★ loves us, ★ sustains us, and ★ saved us; **therefore**, He is worthy of our love, trust, honor, obedience, and praise!
- a. Important Facts: The Bible is true ([Ps. 119:160](#)), and God created in six days!
    - i. When those things are **known** and **believed**, *the Bible and the world will make sense, and we will eternally benefit.*
    - ii. However, for the many who **deny** the Bible being true **and/or** God creating in six days, *confusion and doubt will reign.*
  - b. Genesis Chapter 1: *The six days of creation*:
    - i. **Day 1 – 1:1-5** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth... Light [and much more].

- ii. **Day 2 – 1:6-8** ...God said, “Let there be an expanse in the midst of the waters...” In other words, God created the sky.
  - iii. **Day 3 – 1:9-13** ...God said, “Let the waters below the heavens be gathered into one place, and let the dry land appear” ... [And then:] “Let the earth sprout vegetation...”
  - iv. **Day 4 – 1:14-19** ...God said, “Let there be lights in the expanse of the heavens to separate the day from the night...” In other words, God created the sun, the moon, and the stars.
  - v. **Day 5 – 1:20-23** ...God said, “Let the waters teem with swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth...” So, He made the fish and birds.
  - vi. **Day 6 – 1:24-31** ...God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures...” [And then:] God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...”
- c. **Exodus 20:9 & 11** “Six days you shall labor and do all your work... For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them...” *Those words confirm the fact that God created all things in six 24-hour days!*
- d. **Application:** As we live in the middle of God’s ongoing 6-day creation miracle, let us ✦see it, ✦be in awe of His greatness, ✦gladly trust in Him, and ✦give Him thanks!

2. **Day 5 – Five Golden Rings: *The Torah / Pentateuch – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy – The First Five Books of the Bible.***

- a. The First Five Books of the OT: They tell us about  
♦creation, ♦marriage, ♦the fall, ♦the Promised Messiah, ♦sacrifice, ♦judgment (flood),  
♦languages, and ♦a people through whom the Savior would come into the world!
- b. Jesus' Pre-Ascension Statement: He said this to His disciples: **Luke 24:44, 46-47** "...all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses [that is, the first five books of the OT] and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." [Then He said:] "...it is written that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem."
- c. Application: On The Fifth Day of Christmas, *if you haven't done so lately*, create a plan and begin reading through the first five books of the OT. The better we understand those books, ★the better we will understand the NT and ★the more we will rejoice in the Christ of Christmas!

**Let Us Pray**: Father in heaven, You are SO AMAZING – ★creating in six days, ★providing all we need, ★moving men to write Your word, and ★gifting us with Your Son, our Savior! Fill us with love, trust, thanksgiving, and joy!

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