

**A Christmas Carol, Stave Four,
The Future
Matthew 2:1-12
December 25, 2022**

Mary asked the angel, "But how can this happen? I am a virgin."

--Luke 1:34

... "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby to be born will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. For nothing is impossible with God." --Luke 1:35 & 37

So when the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, "Lord, has the time come for you to free Israel and restore our kingdom?" He replied, "The Father alone has the authority to set those dates and times, and they are not for you to know. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

--Acts 1:6-9

So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." --Luke 11:13

"I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I'm not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. --Matthew 3:11

"If you love me, obey my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. . . --John 14:15-17

In our Christmases yet to Come we are Promised the _____

But in fact, it is best for you that I go away because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you. --John 16:7

Jesus said "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." --Acts 1:8

In Our Christmases yet to Come we are Promised _____

And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with his love. --Romans 5:5

In our Christmases yet to Come we are Promised _____

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. --John 3:16

"Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."
--John 13:35

Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. --1 Corinthians 13:4-7

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. --1 Corinthians 12:4

In our Christmases yet to Come we are Promised _____

A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.
--1 Corinthians 12:7

But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! --Galatians 5:22-23

In our Christmases yet to Come, we are Promised _____

So letting your sinful nature control your mind leads to death. But letting the Spirit control your mind leads to life and peace. --Romans 8:6