

Christmas Blessings

Alas, that these evil days should be mine. *The Two Towers, 2002*

“Um... Can I go to the boat show? You can come too.” *Patrick Keener, January 10, 2001*

Even though we had been married a scant two and a half months I was anticipating coming home from the boat show with something quite special... we ended buying a home pregnancy test.

Nine months later September 14, 2001 Noah was born into a world in chaos.

In the time leading up to our wedding Kris and I discussed many things including baby names. We settled on, after surprising little debate; Noah Alfred and Kaara Patricia. My greatest pride comes from watching them grow in their relationship with Jesus and learning how to serve Him. They are the joy of my life.

Like the patriarch from whom Noah gets his name, we live in evil days.

The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. So God looked upon the earth, and indeed it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted their way on the earth. *Genesis 6:11-12 NKJV*

One cannot open a newspaper and imagine how much worse than now the corruption in Noah's day that would provoke God. How much longer will He tolerate?

It is among my deepest beliefs that my children (if not me personally) will live to see Christ return.

“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.” *Matthew 24:29-31 NKJV*

I suppose it is, if not historically accurate, appropriate that we celebrate Christ's birth at the darkest time of the year. As our world descends further and further into darkness; it is to that dark world Christ will come again.

The time is now to decide, when “every knee bows” and “every tongue confesses” will you do so in worship? Or regret?

I choose not to live in fear, nor will I cultivate it in my home. I will use the current events of our time to build an urgency in all those that I encounter that Christ is coming soon. I do not look to an ancient calendar as the harbinger of doom but to the Eastern sky for a trumpet blast of rapture.

Merry Christmas from the Keener Family to you and yours. May it be a time of joy and of hope, a time to remember the Baby in a manger and a time to eagerly anticipate the triumphant return of our King!

Kaara, Noah, Kris and Pat

