

Message Outline

Teaching Tradition:

A Ballet (The Nutcracker)

Is.40:1-5, 9:6, Rev.19



Intro: Exploring traditions of Christmas that teach us the truth about Christ...

- In 2021: a Beat (Handel's *Messiah*), a Ballet (Nutcracker), a Book (Dickens *A Christmas Carol*), a Big Screen (It's a Wonderful Life).

History of *The Nutcracker*

- First a novel written by E.T.A. Hoffman in 1816.
 - Confusing/symbolic, gory, somewhat dark and depressing...
- Edited by French writer Alexandar Dumas...
- Set to ballet by Pyotr Ilich Tchaikovsky...
- Intro to America by William Christensen...

Read: Revelation 12

- Revelation and symbolic language...
- A Nutcracker-like nativity scene showing the battle around the Birth of Jesus...

v.1-2—The symbolism of the woman and the significance of this child's birth...

v.3-4—Another character described in less than glowing terms...evil one (cf. v.9 also)...

v.5-6—Birth and ascension of "child" (Jesus), and new role of the "woman" (church)...

v.7-12—Revelation not written chronological.

- Shows conflict and conquest...
- Victory already won! (cf. v.11-12)

v.13-17—The present day struggle for the woman's offspring (ie. the church), and yet certain victory...

1) _____

2) _____

Closing: The true Christmas ballet: God's Son Jesus comes to life, battles the evil "Mouse King," and rescues His Beloved!

2nd Sunday of Advent: Candle of Peace



⁶⁸ "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel,
because he has visited and redeemed his people.
⁶⁹ He has sent us a mighty Savior
from the royal line of his servant David,
⁷⁰ just as he promised
through his holy prophets long ago.
⁷¹ Now we will be saved from our enemies
and from all who hate us.
⁷² He has been merciful to our ancestors
by remembering his sacred covenant—
⁷³ the covenant he swore with an oath
to our ancestor Abraham.
⁷⁴ We have been rescued from our enemies
so we can serve God without fear,
⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
for as long as we live.
⁷⁶ "And you, my little son,
will be called the prophet of the Most High,
because you will prepare the way for the Lord.
⁷⁷ You will tell his people how to find salvation
through forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸ Because of God's tender mercy,
the morning light from heaven is about to break
upon us,
⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in
the shadow of death,
and to guide us to the path of peace."

-Luke 1:68-79 NLT