

# Hanukkah and Christmas

Wildpine 2022

And a woman holding a babe against her bosom said,  
Speak to us of children.

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

They are the sons and daughters of life's longing for itself.

They come through you but not from you,

And though they are with you, yet they belong not to you.

You may give them your love but not your thoughts,

They have their own thoughts.<sup>1</sup>

....

When his parents saw Jesus, they were astonished.

His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this?

Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."<sup>2</sup>

"Why were you searching for me?" asked Jesus. "Did you not know I had to be in my Father's house?" They didn't understand what he was saying to them.



An aboriginal saying states: "We borrow the future from our children." When I first learned this sentiment many years ago, I was taken aback by its profundity. Imagine! We help in the initial shaping of their *seeing*. We don't control them. We walk with them as they *lean into* their future. The words of the *Prophet* and St. Luke are very powerful. At this year's Hanukkah and Christmas I suggest we need to meditate on them – for their profundity. The future of children will open before us. Of course, we need as parents to be their guides and provide structure. Yet as Gibran writes, "seek not to make them like you." Be with them as they stretch and grow; guide them and protect them. As is often said, we may need the wisdom of Solomon! Pray for it.

Blessings to all for a Happy Hanukkah (December 18-December 26)<sup>3</sup> and  
a Joyous Christmas (December 25).<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Kahil Gibran. *The Prophet*. First published in Great Britain in 1926 by William Heinemann Ltd. Reprinted in 2004. Surrey: The Merchant Book Company Ltd, P.O. Box 10, West Molesey, KT8 2WZ, UK, 2004, pp. 20, 21. Gibran was a Lebanese American poet, painter, and philosopher (January 6, 1883-April 10, 1931). *Minimum editing*.

<sup>2</sup> Luke 2:48. Jesus' parents had been walking in a caravan for over a day and figured he was with everyone, but he was in the temple, age 12, sitting among the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

<sup>3</sup> Hanukkah, today often referred to as the Festival of Lights, is a Jewish festival commemorating the recovery of Jerusalem and subsequent rededication of the Second Temple at the beginning of the Maccabean revolt against the Seleucid Empire in the 2nd century BCE.

<sup>4</sup> The children's picture above is in the public domain.