Who Stole Christmas?

"Every Who down in Who-Ville liked Christmas a lot... But The Grinch, Who lived just north of Who-ville, Did NOT! " So begins the famous Christmas poem by Dr. Seuss, "The Grinch that Stole Christmas" It explains how the Grinch hated watching and hearing the "who" people celebrate Christmas so much that he decided that he would make Christmas disappear that year. So he stole all the presents, decorations and food, thinking that would stop Christmas and put the Whos in a bad mood. But while he was enjoying a good smirk he heard songs from the village which told him his trick didn't work.

Romans 6:23—While we don't need to worry about a make-believe monster stealing Christmas, Satan like the Grinch has tried many times to steal Christmas by stealing the greatest Christmas present ever, Jesus' salvation.

Matthew 1:18, 19—Satan tried to steal Christmas by preventing His birth through rumor. In those days an adulterous was to be stoned. Joseph thought that Mary had been just that since they hadn't consummated their marriage yet. If Joseph had declared her "unfaithfulness" she would have been killed before Jesus had been born. Even if Joseph had divorced her quietly she would have likely been caught and stoned to death.

Matthew 1:20-25—God sent His angel to Joseph and told him the real scoop on Mary's pregnancy. Joseph had a heart that was willing to obey God so, even though it didn't seem to make sense; he cared for Mary and her Son.

Luke 2:6, 7—Satan the Grinch tried to steal Christmas by making no room for Jesus in Bethlehem. But God showed His humility by being born in a stable/cave.

Matthew 2:16-16—Satan the Grinch tried to use Herod to destroy God's Gift, Jesus before He could fulfill all prophecy and die in our place.

Matthew 2:12-15—God warned Joseph to flee to Egypt, giving Jesus a safe place for His early years and a more well-rounded upbringing; thus the journeys of Israel and Jesus shared many commonalities.

Revelation 12:1-5—The Apocalypse paints a picture of Satan trying to steal our Christmas Gift. All throughout His life Jesus was dogged by Satan trying to get Him to mess up or to kill Him before His time. But the Grinch couldn't steal Christmas and God's plan went ahead full steam!

Revelation 12: 6, 13-16—Once Satan realized he couldn't get rid of God's gift; he tried everything he could to steal Jesus out of people's hearts and destroy all those who held onto His gift. He tried to replace God's truth with error and when God's true church refused to accept His counterfeits he persecuted them. But God provided places of protection so that Satan could not totally wipe out His people and rid the earth of God's Christmas gift.

Revelation 12:17—In these last days, Satan continues to try to steal the gift of Jesus from our hearts. He tries to get us to think of worldly things rather than heavenly things, fills our schedules so full that we have no time for God, and recently he has encouraged many businesses and governments to outlaw the name of Jesus in Christmas celebrations, etc. Yet, as Seuss' Grinch learned, Christmas is not something you can buy in the store and no matter how much you take away from a person you can't remove the real Gift of Christmas.

"He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming! It came! Somehow or other, it came just the same! And the Grinch, with his grinch-feet ice-cold in the snow, stood puzzling and puzzling: "How could it be so? It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!" And he puzzled three hours, `till his puzzler was sore. Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. "Maybe Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more!"

(Dr. Seuss, The Grinch that Stole Christmas)

The only person who can steal your Christmas is you. If you allow the Grinch, Satan to get you thinking about trees and presents and white bearded men with reindeer instead of remembering the One True Gift of Christmas: Jesus. This Christmas Season, hold the Gift of salvation close and don't surrender it to any "holiday hype"!