

Appreciating Christmas

Christmas is about Revealing Jesus Christ

Jesus is about Revealing the Father's Heart

Big Picture – History of Mankind

(Ge 1:26) ²⁶Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness;”

(Ge 1:31) ³¹Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good.

(Ge 2:18) ¹⁸And the LORD God said, “It is not good that man should be alone; I will make him a helper comparable to him.”

Adam & Eve: made for Fellowship with God

(Ge 3:8) ⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day,

Garden: Dwelling Place of God and Man (purpose)

(Ge 1:28) ²⁸Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it;”

Two Jobs ~ extend the garden (place of fellowship) and the family

The Fall: Corruption enters Creation

(Ro 8:19-22) ¹⁹For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; ²¹because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.

Consequences: Job got more Difficult (Gen 3:16-19)

Lost Dwelling Place (Gen 3:23-24)

Retained God's Love, Care, Desire for Fellowship (Gen 3:21)

Contrast: Noah and Fallen Mankind

(Ge 6:5-8) ⁵Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. ⁶And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. ⁷So the LORD said, “I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.” ⁸But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

(Ge 7:1) ¹Then the LORD said to Noah, “Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation.

Righteousness is Prerequisite for Fellowship with a Holy God (problem of sin)

Fallen Man had lost sight of God; His Works, His Ways, His desire for fellowship

Flood – God's only option to deal with cancerous sin

(Harsh? Mercy, Patience ~ Methuselah, Gen 15:16)

Tower of Babel: Man's Pride, Independence from God (Gen 11:1-9)

Abraham: Chosen to make a Special People (Gen 12:1-3)

God made a Covenant with Abraham for Blessing (Gen 15, 17)

God prepared His people through slavery (Humility)

Moses: God's Prophetic Preparation

the Exodus – God's Mighty Works

the Law – God's Holy Ways

the Tabernacle – God's Dwelling Place with man (Father's Heart - Fellowship)

Moses understood (Ex 33:15)

Captivity: none of these men/solutions are perfect

Fallen man always ends up in Captivity

Final Lesson prepares His people to receive His Perfect Solution

Galatians 3:16-24 says (paraphrased)

God Promised Abraham the perfect solution – Christ

the Law (430 years later) doesn't replace the earlier Covenant

the Purpose of the Law was to make us aware of sin

so we would appreciate our need of Christ (justification by faith)

Christmas:

(Lk 2:8-14) ⁸Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. ¹⁰Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. ¹¹"For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²"And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

Christmas is the Fulfillment of God's Intentions (Father's Heart) (Jn 3:16, Rom 5:8)

(Mt 1:23) ²³"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

Christmas is the Restoration of Fellowship

We didn't qualify for His dwelling place so He came to ours.

He made a way for us to become His dwelling place!!! (garden ~ 1 Cor 3:16)

(Lk 1:31-33) ³¹"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³²"He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³"And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Christmas Announces the Great Re-Commission...extend the Garden;

be Fruitful, Multiply, Subdue the Earth