

CHRISTMAS 2018
CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST
God's Predetermined Plan
Isaiah 7:14; Galatians 4:4-5; Philippians 2:6-8
Luke 2:1-38

The *God* is *glorified* when a Christian believer begins to *grow* and *mature* into the very *likeness* and *image* of Christ. Over the next couple of weeks, we are going to see how God planned His glory to be *revealed* to the world today...through the *transforming power of God's grace* in those *redeemed* by His Son, Jesus Christ. This is God's Christmas gift to man.

Let's see how God's *predetermined plan* was *revealed*:

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

~Isaiah 7:14

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

~Galatians 4:4-5

"Although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

~Philippians 2:6-8

I. GOD'S PURPOSE:

- **Redemption**...Christ's *saving work*...the *payment for the sinner's debt*.

*"For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is **eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**."*

~Romans 6:23

Redemption is a *ransom* for the sinner to be *released* from their *bondage* to sin and to Satan.

*"...Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying, 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has visited us and accomplished **redemption for His people**, and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of David His servant'."*

~Luke 1:67-69

*"(Anna) at that very moment...came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the **redemption of Jerusalem**."*

~Luke 2:38

*"In Him we have **redemption** through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace."*

~Ephesians 1:7

- **Reconciliation**...The *removal of enmity* (hostility, antagonism, and rebellion) *and the restoration of fellowship between man and God*. Man is no longer *separated* from God by sin, but completely *restored* and *reconciled* back to God.

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. Now all these things are from God, who **reconciled** us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of **reconciliation**, namely, that*

*God was in Christ **reconciling** the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of **reconciliation**.*”

~II Corinthians 5:17-19

- **Resurrection**...Victory over *sin* and *death*.

Luke 24:1-12

I Corinthians 15:12-19

*“...I am the **resurrection** and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.”*

~John 11:25

Redemption and **reconciliation** were only possible through Christ’s **resurrection**...*victory* over *sin* and *death*.

II. GOD’S PROCLAMATION: God *announcing* and *declaring* His *predetermined plan*.

Three titles are given to Jesus...**Luke 2:11**

- **Savior**...

*“For my eyes have seen **Your salvation**.”*

~Luke 2:30

*“...Behold, the Lamb of God who **takes away the sin of the world!**”*

~John 1:29

*“There is **salvation** in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which **we must be saved**.”*

~Acts 4:12

*“Jesus said... ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but **through Me**.’”*

~John 14:6

*“For by grace you have been **saved** through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God;”*

~Ephesians 2:8

- **Christ**...Messiah, the anointed One.

*“And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon...And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen **the Lord’s Christ**.”*

~Luke 2:25a-26

*“Simon Peter answered, ‘You are **the Christ**, the Son of the living God.’”*

~Matthew 16:16

- **Lord**...Yahweh, or God.

*“Jesus said, ‘Do you believe in the Son of Man?’ (The blind man who healed) answered, ‘Who is He, **Lord**, that I may believe in Him?’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.’ And he said, ‘**Lord**, I believe.’ And he worshiped Him.”*

~John 9:35b-38

*“To the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our **Lord**, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.”*

~Jude 24

This is an *incredible statement* considering that **Jude** was the *half-brother* of Jesus.

*“And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, ‘**KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS**’.”*

~Revelation 19:16

III. GOD'S PRESENCE: The *omnipresence* of God. Now, the *third person* of the Trinity *dwells* with believers *continually*.

“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.”

~I Corinthians 6:19-20

- **Immanuel...God with us.** (**Isaiah 7:14**; **Matthew 1:23**)

*“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name **Immanuel**.”*

~Isaiah 7:14

*“Behold, the virgin shall be with child and shall bear a Son, they shall call His name **Immanuel**, which translated means, **God with us**.”*

~Matthew 1:23

- **Revelation...God revealed Himself to man.**

*“It had been **revealed** to him (Simeon) by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.”*

~Luke 2:26

*“A Light of **revelation** to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.”*

~Luke 2:32

- **Sustainment...God's promises to be present.**

*“...I will be with you; I will not **fail you or forsake you**.”*

~Joshua 1:5

*“He Himself has said, ‘I will never **desert you, nor will I ever forsake you**’...”*

~Hebrews 13:5

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN:

- For every one who belongs to Jesus, Christmas is a wonderful time to express our gratitude for the **“unspeakable gift”** of His Son (**II Corinthians 9:15**). If we will make this the standard by which we measure every celebration opportunity this holiday season, we will find a profound measure of Godly joy and satisfaction.
- The Christmas story is more than a story of Jesus' birth. It's also the story of His **death** and **resurrection**. After all, He didn't come simply to make us feel good...nor did He come as a political figure; Jesus came to conquer sin and evil itself!

“...Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!”

~John 1:29

“Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

~Philippians 2:5-8

- There is much lostness and darkness in this world...we need to proclaim the joyous Good News to a lost and dying world this Christmas. **Joy to the World...Jesus came**, and He is **coming again!**