



"Visions of Christmas"

Jn. 1:14

"The Vision of God's Glory."

Jn. 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,**) full of grace and truth.

Review

We are down to the last month of a very challenging year. How do we finish strong? Hopefully, “*Visions of Christmas*” will assist us in finishing the year with encouragement.



Our theme this year is...

VISION 20/20
HIS VISION. OUR FOCUS.

Last week we began by looking at the earthly perspective of "*The Vision of Glory.*" The week, we will consider the heavenly perspective, "*The Vision of God's Glory.*" As we focus upon these perspectives, we should have a wonderful vision of Christmas.

This morning we begin with the heavenly perspective, the...

"The Vision of God's Glory."



I. THE PROPHETIC PROMISE OF THE MESSIAH

A. God Saw a Time to Prove Mankind.

Mt. 1:17 So all the generations **from Abraham to David** are fourteen generations; and **from David until the carrying away into Babylon** are fourteen generations; and **from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ** are fourteen generations.

Gen. 6:8 But **Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.**



2 Chron. 16:9 For **the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth**, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

Psa. 33:18 **Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him**, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Psa. 34:15 **The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous**, and his ears *are open* unto their cry.



Prov. 5:21 For the ways of man *are* **before the eyes of the LORD**, and he pondereth all his goings.

Prov. 15:3 **The eyes of the LORD are in every place**, beholding the evil and the good.

- From the heavenly perspective, God's eyes sees all.
- From the heavenly perspective, God saw that mankind needed a Savior.

B. God Saw a Time to Prepare Mankind.

He Would Be Human, Born Of A Woman

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Gal. 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law,
5 To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.

Mt. 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.

He Would Crush Evil At His Own Expense

Gen. 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; **it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

Mt. 27:35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

Luke 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

40 And when he had thus spoken, **he shewed them his hands and his feet.**

He Would Be Born In Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 But **thou, Bethlehem Ephratah,** *though* thou be little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of thee shall he come forth unto me *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting.



Mt. 2:1 Now when **Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea** in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard *these things*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, **he demanded of them where Christ should be born.**

5 And **they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea:** for thus it is written by the prophet,

Isaiah Foreshadowed The Virgin Birth Of Jesus

Isa. 7:13 And he said, Hear ye now, O house of David; *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will ye weary my God also?

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; **Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

Luke 1:35 And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be **born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**

He Would Be Called Immanuel (God With Us)

Isa. 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Mt. 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.



King David's Offspring Would Have An Eternal Kingdom.

2 Sam. 7:12 And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, **I will set up thy seed after thee**, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and **I will establish his kingdom.**

13 He shall build an house for my name, and **I will stablish the throne of his kingdom for ever.**

Luke 1:32 He shall be great, and shall be called **the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:**

Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.**

King David's Throne Would Be Established Forever.

2 Sam. 7:16 And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever before thee: **thy throne shall be established for ever.**

Luke 3:31 Which was *the son* of Melea, which was *the son* of Menan, which was *the son* of Mattatha, which was *the son* of Nathan, which was ***the son of David,***

Rev. 22:16 I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. **I am the root and the offspring of David,** *and* the bright and morning star.



The Son Of Man Would Have an Everlasting Throne

Dan. 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like **the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to **the Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him.

14 And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: **his dominion is an everlasting dominion**, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed.



Luke 1:31 And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name **JESUS**.

32 He shall be great, and shall be called **the Son of the Highest**: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David:

33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and **of his kingdom there shall be no end**.



He Would Be A Light To People Around The World

Isa. 42:6 the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for **a light of the Gentiles**;

Luke 2:32 **A light to lighten the Gentiles**, and the glory of thy people Israel.

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and **should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles**.

- From the heavenly perspective, God's prophecies included His gift of the "suffering Messiah."

II. THE PROPITIATION PROVISION BY THE MESSIAH

A. God Saw a Problem of Eternal Magnitude

Rom. 3:23 For **all have sinned**, and come short of the glory of God;

Rom. 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that **all have sinned**:



Rom. 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ...

20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that **they are without excuse**:

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Psa. 7:11 God judgeth the righteous, and **God is angry with the wicked every day.**

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and **he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.**

- From the heavenly perspective, God saw the magnitude of mankind's dilemma, a way to satisfy His standard of holiness – a propitiation for sins.

B. God Sent a Provision of Eternal Magnitude

1 Jn. 4:10 Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and **sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

Rom. 3:25 Whom God hath set forth *to be a propitiation through faith in his blood*, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;

1 Jn. 2:2 And *he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

- From the heavenly perspective, God saw the only way for mankind to enter into His presence.

Ep.h 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: ...

6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein *he hath made us accepted in the beloved.*

III. THE PERSONAL PRESENTATION TO THE MESSIAH

A. The Design of the Creator

1. The Plan – Glorify God

Isa. 43:7 *Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.*

2. The Problem – coming short of the glory of God

Rom. 3:23 For all have sinned, and **come short of the glory of God;**



3. The Provision – The Incarnation and salvation!

Phl 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the form of God, **thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

8 And **being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That **at the name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* **every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

B. The Desire of the Creator

Prov. 23:26 **My son, give me thine heart**, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

2 Pet. 3:9 **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise**, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, **not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**

Conclusion

- From the heavenly perspective, the Lord sees and knows all.

1 Pet. 3:12 For **the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous**, and his ears *are open* unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord *is* against them that do evil.

- The Lord is watching over His children.

Psa. 116:15 Precious in **the sight of the LORD** *is* the death of his saints.



- The Lord requires His children to present themselves unto Him – for our benefit!

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.**

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

