

CHRISTMAS AT HARVEST: THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IN 5 ACTS

1. Act I: God created us to love us.

“Even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ...” Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)

“God saw all that He had made, and it was very good...” Genesis 1:32 (NIV)

“Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment.” 1 Timothy 6:17 (NLT)

2. Act II: Humans break everything!

“All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him [Jesus] the sins of us all.” Isaiah 53:6 (NLT)

“Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.” Colossians 1:21 (NIV)

3. Act III: (First Christmas): Jesus enters the scene to woo us back to God.

“God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him.” 1 John 4:9 (NLT)

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 (KJV)

“For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him.” John 3:17 (NIV)

4. Act IV: (Where we are now.): A choice is set before us...accept or reject God’s offer.

“God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. This is what He wanted to do, and it gave Him great pleasure.” Ephesians 1:5 (NLT)

“So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.” Romans 5:11 (NLT)

[Jesus] “Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear My voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.” Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

5. Act V: (Sometime in the future): God fully restores relationship with a New Heaven and Earth.

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the old heaven and the old earth had disappeared...I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, God’s home is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.’” Revelation 21:1,3-4 (NLT)

“The Lord isn’t really being slow about His promise, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)