

Sunday, December 3, 2023  
BEFORE THE CREATION OF THE WORLD  
PART 1: SACRIFICE AS AN ACT OF CREATION

It is officially the Christmas season and today we're starting a series called "Before the Creation of the World". This is a different type of Christmas series, but we're trusting that the Spirit will minister to you in it.

At Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus. The interesting thing is that we are never told in the Bible to remember Christ's birth. Nevertheless, it is celebrated worldwide. Now, while the Bible never tells us to celebrate Jesus' birth, it does tell us to remember His death. Jesus' birth brought no discernible change to our spiritual condition, but His death did. It is impossible to look at the Baby in the manger and forget that that sweet Child was born to die.

**The Advent or birth of Jesus into the world was not a reaction to sin it was an act of creation.**

Revelation 13:8 tells us that Jesus was the Lamb that was slain from the creation of the world. What does that mean? It means that Jesus' sacrifice was a part of creation – it was set in motion not on the day that Adam sinned but at the moment God created the world. No matter how beautiful God created the world the creation of man had to include the provision for sacrifice for sin. If it was in God's heart to reject man, He would have done so at the beginning.

**Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. /// Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)**

**God saw your greatest failure and created a way to raise you above it all before you were ever born!**

He planned His interjection into the world as part of its creation – redemption was an act of creation. Silent Night, We Three Kings, Angels We Have Heard on High – all pointing toward a sacrifice to save us. Jesus was wrapped in clean, linen swaddling cloths in the same way newborn lambs destined for sacrifice in the Holy Temple were wrapped at birth. They were wrapped in cloth held by strips of cloth. The swaddling was intended to keep the lambs protected, unblemished, and unharmed. Jesus was wrapped in linen another time in His life. That was in His death. The prophetic picture is hard to miss. See the Baby in the manger. Born to die, to rise again, to crush the power of Satan's sin.

**For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God. /// 1 Peter 3:18**

God's plan for you didn't start on the day you were born. It is written in creation, fulfilled in the birth of a baby; born as a sacrifice for your sins and raised as the guarantee of God's love.

Today's Scriptures:

- Ephesians 1:4 (NLT)
- 1 Peter 3:18