

Christmas 2019

12/22/19

Sunday Morning

1. This is Christmas & we are going to look at the purpose of the Christmas story
  - a. We will also see another example of how the entire Bible ties together
2. You are going to have to stay with me to not get lost

Genesis 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden'?"

V.2 The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;

V.3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.'"

V.4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die!

V.5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

V.6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

1. "she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate"
  - a. We no longer have just 2 people in the garden – we have 2 sinners in the garden
    - i. Who they were, as people, changed

V.7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

1. "they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings"
  - a. That doesn't resolve their sin problem

V.8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

V.9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

V.10 He said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself."

1. "so I hid myself"
  - a. Now they're running from God
  - b. God is going to have to go after them if He wants a relationship w/ them
  - c. The Christmas story is God going to man
    - i. Man never goes looking for God

**Psalm 14:2** The LORD has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men To see if there are any who understand, Who seek after God.

<sup>3</sup> They have all turned aside, together they have become corrupt; There is no one who does good, not even one.

**Romans 3:10** as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;

<sup>11</sup> THERE IS NONE WHO UNDERSTANDS, THERE IS NONE WHO SEEKS FOR GOD;

<sup>12</sup> ALL HAVE TURNED ASIDE, TOGETHER THEY HAVE BECOME USELESS; THERE IS NONE WHO DOES GOOD, THERE IS NOT EVEN ONE."

ii.

V.11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

V.12 The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate."

1. "The woman whom You gave to be with me"
  - a. Adam blames God for his sin

V.13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" And the woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

1. "The serpent deceived me, and I ate"
  - a. The woman blames the serpent

V.14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;

V.15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

1. "He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel"
  - a. God predicts that a Man would come who could deal w/ the sin issue
  - b. For next 4000 years God interacted w/ man but the sin issue had never really been dealt w/
    - i. Over & over – year after year – man was reminded that he was a sinner & that his sins were never very far away
    - ii. Scripture says it this way:
 

**Hebrews 10:1** For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near.

**V.3** But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year.
  - c. Finally we come to the end of the O.T. & then silence – for 400 years God was silent
    - i. It is as if God has forgotten about the man He made
    - ii. Then God breaks thru the silence – Dr. Luke fill us in

**Luke 1:1** Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us,

V.2 just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,

V.3 it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; <sup>(friend of God)</sup>

V.4 so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

V.5 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zacharias, of the division of Abijah; and he had a wife from the daughters of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth.

1. "Zacharias, of the division of Abijah"
  - a. We see God's hand at work here
  - b. There were 24 divisions of priest and as many as 20,000 priest

- i. Each of these divisions served for eight days, once every six months
- c. There weren't that many temple rituals to be involved in
  - i. So, when a priest drew a lot to perform a task it was the only time in his life he ever performed that task
- d. Why is the birth of John the Baptist considered part of the Christmas story?
- e. First – he is the forerunner of Christ who will go ahead of Him announcing His coming
- f. Second – John's father was "Zacharias" – means "God remembers"
- g. John's mother was named "Elizabeth"
- h. Elizabeth – means "My God has sworn" or "His oath"
- i. If you put both names together it says "**God remembers His oath**"
- j. What was the first oath He made

**Genesis 3:15** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

V.6 They were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.

V.7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both advanced in years.

V.8 Now it happened that while he was performing his priestly service before God in the appointed order of his division,

V.9 according to the custom of the priestly office, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense.

1. "he was chosen by lot to...burn incense"
  - a. Burning of incense was symbolic of praying
  - b. Incense was offered morning & evening
    - i. This was a picture of the priest praying for Israel
    - ii. What do you think Zacharias was praying for?
  - c. It took 3 priest to burn incense
    - i. One to carry out old ashes
    - ii. One to bring in new hot coals from brazen altar which was outside the temple

- iii. One to sprinkle the incense on the hot coals
- iv. This would be Zacharias b/c he is mentioned & the others wouldn't be

V.10 And the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside at the hour of the incense offering.

- 1. "the whole multitude of the people were in prayer outside"
  - a. The people are outside praying while the priest is inside offering incense & praying

V.11 And an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the altar of incense.

V.12 Zacharias was troubled when he saw the angel, and fear gripped him.

V.13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your petition has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will give him the name John.

- 1. "your petition has been heard"
  - a. Now we know what Zacharias was praying about
    - i. This was the only time in his entire life to ever get to pray from inside the Holy Place while burning incense
  - b. He would be praying about that which burdened him the most – he wanted a son!

**V.15** "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit while yet in his mother's womb.

V.16 "And he will turn many of the sons of Israel back to the Lord their God.

V.17 "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

V.18 Zacharias said to the angel, "How will I know this for certain? For I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years."

V.19 The angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news.

V.20 "And behold, you shall be silent and unable to speak until the day when these things take place, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their proper time."

1. "How shall I know...**For** I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years"
  - a. He doesn't believe God!
  - b. How small is man's faith
    - i. Do you ever wonder what you might have missed b/c of small faith?

**V.23** When the days of his priestly service were ended, he went back home.

V.24 After these days Elizabeth his wife became pregnant, and she kept herself in seclusion for five months, saying,

V.25 "This is the way the Lord has dealt with me in the days when He looked with favor upon me, to take away my disgrace among men."

V.26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

V.27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

V.28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

V.29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.

V.30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

V.31 "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

V.32 "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

V.33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

V.34 Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

1. "How can this be, since I am a virgin"
  - a. That's a legitimate question
    - i. And the answer to that question answers another question
  - b. The bigger question is:
    - i. Since Adam & Eve were both sinners that means – all their offspring are sinners
    - ii. That means the entire human race is made of only sinners
    - iii. What man can deal w/ the sin issue?
  - c. No human being can rise above the sin issue b/c he is the issue

**Romans 5:12** Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

d.

V.35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

1. "the power of the Most High will overshadow you...for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God"
  - a. That is how a man will rise above the sin issue
  - b. A virgin birth! – Someone can be born who isn't a sinner by birth
    - i. God will be His Father – not Adam
    - ii. Jesus Christ is the Son of God – not the son of Adam
  - c. The virgin birth as absolutely imperative to salvation
    - i. Without a virgin birth there is no salvation

V.36 "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

V.37 "For nothing will be impossible with God."

V.38 And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Luke 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

V.2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

V.3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

V.4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

V.5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

V.6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

V.7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

V.8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

V.9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

V.10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

V.11 for today in the city of David *there has been born for you a Savior*, who is Christ the Lord.

**V.13** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

V.14 "Glory to God in the highest, And *on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.*"

1. "on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased"

a. Finally, Someone who can make peace w/ God for man

i. That is why Jesus was born into the world

**Romans 5:1** Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

b. Few believers have the peace of God – even though it's ours

**John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

V.15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

V.16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

V.17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

V.18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

V.19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.

**V.22** And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the

**V.25** And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

**V.27** And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

V.28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

V.29 "Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace,  
According to Your word;

V.30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

**V.32** A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel."

1. "A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES"

- a. The world had no idea of who God was
- b. They worshipped gods of every description
- c. Christ not only came to save but came to reveal who God is

**John 14:9** Jesus said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and *yet* you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how *can* you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

**Colossians 1:15** He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

- d. Now the world knows who God is

**V.34** And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed—

V.35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul—to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

1. "to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed"

- a. Many will accept Christ as Savior – many will not
  - i. **Now** the world must decide who Christ is for himself
  - ii. Some won't accept Him

**John 3:19** "This is the judgment, that the Light has come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.

<sup>20</sup> "For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.

- iii. Some will accept Him

**John 3:21** "But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God."

iv. Today we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ

**Isaiah 9:6** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!**