

# **How Christmas Saved the World**



Christ's birth was prophesied for four thousand years. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God, even while punishing them, told them that He would send them a savior—the seed of the woman—who would defeat Satan.

God was talking to Satan in the following verse. The seed of the woman, Jesus Christ, would bruise the head of Satan's seed, antichrist.

Genesis 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.**

From that time on, Satan knew that a descendant of Adam & Eve's would conquer him and his followers. Man could count on a savior to save him from the sin which had entered the world.

About 2 thousand years later, God gave information about the coming savior to Abraham. God entered into an everlasting covenant with Abraham and *his seed* after him. The redeemer that would save man would be of the seed of Abraham.

### Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: And **I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**

God continued His covenant with Abraham through Isaac and his seed.

### Genesis 17:19

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and **thou shalt call his name Isaac:** and I will establish my covenant with him for **an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.**

Isaac had 2 sons, Esau and Jacob. The covenant continued through Jacob.

### Exodus 2:24

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered **his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.**

So the seed of the woman, the savior, would come following the Abraham-Isaac-Jacob (known as “the fathers”) line according to the flesh.

Jacob had 12 sons, and each became the head of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jacob’s 4<sup>th</sup> son, Judah, was chosen to be the tribe of Israel’s kings. King David wrote:

1 Chronicles 28:4-5

**Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel: And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.**

This is a very important part of the story because kings need heirs. God had promised King David (from the line of Judah) that as long as his children would keep the covenant and the testimony with God, David’s children and then, their children, would reign from David’s throne forever.

Psalm 132

**The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.** If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, **their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.**

So the promised savior (seed of the woman first promised to Adam and Eve) would come from the tribe of Judah, through the line of David.

Romans 1:3-4

Concerning his Son **Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power,** according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

The first of David's sons (his seed) to sit on the throne was Solomon. He did not keep the covenant and the testimony with God.

1 Kings 11:4

For it came to pass, **when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God,** as was the heart of David his father.

Because of his disobedience, God took the kingdom away from Solomon's children. (This didn't happen all at once. God first allowed Solomon's son to rule 2 of the 12 tribes, and then finally allowed everyone in the kingdom to be captured by and taken to Babylon.)

You have heard the following verse every Christmas, so you know that Joseph, Mary's betrothed, was from the line of David.

Luke 2:4

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; **(because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**

Joseph's father was named Jacob.

Matthew 1:6, 16

And Jesse begat David the king; and **David the king begat Solomon** of her that had been the wife of Urias;...<sup>16</sup>**And Jacob begat Joseph** the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

Everyone today knows that Jesus' Father is God Almighty, but back then, most people thought that Joseph was Jesus' father.

Joseph was descended from David through the line of Solomon, but we know that Solomon's descendants had lost their right to the throne because of Solomon's disobedience.

Here is where we begin to understand how Jesus got His right to the throne of David.

Luke 3:23

And **Jesus himself** began to be about thirty years of age, **being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, which was the son of Heli,**

Did you notice in the previous verse, that it reads that Joseph was the son of Heli? Remember in Matthew, Joseph's father was Jacob. It is not a mistake. Heli was Mary's father, but a woman's inheritance went to her husband. Jesus' right to the throne of David came from Mary's father Heli, a descendant of David through David's son Nathan, and through her husband, Joseph.

David had other sons God could use to fulfill His promise.

1 Chronicles 14:3-4

And David took more wives at Jerusalem: and **David begat more sons and daughters.** Now these are the names of his children which he had

in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, **Nathan, and Solomon,**

God had promised David that it was his seed *according to the flesh* that would sit upon his throne and be king of Israel. God always keeps His promises. Jesus' right to be King of Israel came from his *biological mother*, Mary.

Luke 3:23,31,38

And **Jesus himself** began to be about thirty years of age, **being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph,** which was the son of Heli,...

31Which 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,...

38Which was the son of Enos, which **was the son of Seth, which was the son of Adam, which was the son of God.**

### **Why Jesus Could Save Israel**

Jesus' fulfilled 2 roles for Israel. He was the promised redeemer who would save them from their sins.

### Matthew 1:19-21

Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost**. And she shall bring forth a son, and **thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins**.

Jesus' place in David's lineage also meant that He could reign over Israel as the son of David, in a kingdom that would last forever.

### Luke 1:31-33

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 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: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end**.

Paul tells us that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (the fathers) were the ones to whom God made the promises. Jesus Christ was a direct descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Romans 15:8-9

Now I say that **Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made unto the fathers:** And that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy; as it is written, For this cause I will confess to thee among the Gentiles, and sing unto thy name.

Abraham was the father of many nations, but especially of the Jews, God's peculiar treasure. Following is a parallel verse, Jacob is Israel. Israel is God's peculiar treasure.

Psalm 135:4

For **the LORD hath chosen Jacob unto himself, and Israel for his peculiar treasure.**

The people in Israel understood the concept of redemption. A person could become a servant to someone because they owed money to that person. The law God gave to Moses for Israel, allowed a close male relative to redeem someone from bondage by paying his debt. Leviticus' list of eligible relatives starts with brother, uncle, cousin, and then any other close kinsman. A person could even redeem himself if he somehow became able to do so.

Leviticus 25:48-49

After that he is sold **he may be redeemed again; one of his brethren may redeem him: Either his uncle, or his uncle's son, may redeem him, or any that is nigh of kin unto him of his family may redeem him; or if he be able, he may redeem himself.**

But there was, and still is, no provision in the law for a relative to redeem anyone from slavery to sin. The penalty of sin has always been death. No one could redeem his own soul, nor redeem his brother's soul.

Psalm 49:6-9

They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; **None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, and not see corruption.**

So Jesus, because He was related to the Jews in the flesh, could pay the ransom to God for (redeem) the sins of every Jew as their kinsman redeemer. He was the only one that could pay everyone's sin debt because He had no sins of His own to pay for.

### Hebrews 2:16-17

For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but **he took on him the seed of Abraham**. Wherefore in all things it behoved **him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.**

### **Future for Israel**

Israel rejected Jesus as their redeemer and king on a day we know as Palm Sunday. It was prophesied that their King would present Himself riding upon the colt of an ass.

### Jechariah 9:9

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, **thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.**

Matthew cited the prophecy.

### Matthew 21:4-5

All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye **the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto**

**thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.**

Luke reported on Jesus fulfilling the prophecy.

Luke 19:37-38

And when he was come nigh, even now at the descent of the mount of Olives, **the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen; Saying, Blessed be the King that cometh in the name of the Lord: peace in heaven, and glory in the highest.**

But just as Jesus was ready to set up His kingdom, the Jewish leadership rejected Him as King.

Luke 19:39

**And some of the Pharisees from among the multitude said unto him, Master, rebuke thy disciples.**

Jesus was born to save the Jews and to be King of Israel. He was rejected as king, and then crucified. So what is the future for Israel? God always keeps His promises.

### Numbers 23:19

God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: **hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?**

Peter summed it up for the people of Israel. He reviewed the lineage of Jesus and reminded the people that they were the ones who had denied Jesus, God's Son and the Prince of Life, in front of Pilate, causing him to order His crucifixion. He also testified that he had seen Him raised from the dead.

### Acts 3:13-15

The **God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob**, the God of **our fathers**, hath glorified **his Son** Jesus; whom ye delivered up, and **denied him in the presence of Pilate**, when he was determined to let him go. But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you; And **killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.**

Peter tells Israel that Jesus will be in heaven until the people of Israel have repented of killing their redeemer and king, and all things have been

restored. As a nation, Israel will have to wait to have her sins forgiven.

Acts 3:19-21

**Repent ye therefore**, and be converted, **that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord**; And **he shall send Jesus Christ**, which before was preached unto you: **Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things**, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The next time Jesus presents Himself as King will be much more spectacular!

Matthew 25:31-34

**When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him**, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. **Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**

Israel, as a nation, will be redeemed.

Romans 11:26-27

And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: **For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.**

The same Jesus who came to earth as a baby will return to earth to be king of Israel and sit on the throne of David forever. He will rule in justice and peace—in the future.

Isaiah 9:6-7

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:** and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

## How Jesus Saved Us

The Jews rejected Jesus as their savior and king.

### Acts 2:36

Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Jesus called out the apostle Paul to take His message of salvation straight to the Gentiles.

### Acts 28:28

Be it known therefore unto you, that the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles, and that they will hear it.

Paul explained how we were also beneficiaries of God's promise to Adam and Eve of a savior. The promise was made not just to the many seeds that would come from Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Jesus is not only Abraham's seed, He is the savior promised to everyone, beginning with Adam and Eve.

### Galatians 3:16

**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.** He saith not, And to seeds, as of

many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

Jesus Christ was the savior of everyone, Jews and Gentiles. Sin was the equalizing factor. All have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Today, believers—Jews included—must accept the death, burial, and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ as payment for our sins.

Romans 3:22-23, 29-30

**Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:** For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;  
<sup>29</sup> **Is he the God of the Jews only? is he not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also:** Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith.

Jews and Gentiles alike were sinners because of the offense of our common ancestor, Adam. All of us became sinners because of one man, so all of us were saved because of Jesus Christ's payment for our sins.

Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by

the righteousness of one **the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

We are blessed in Abraham because Jesus Christ is of Abraham's seed in the flesh. Jesus is the promised savior of everyone on earth.

Galatians 3:29

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

### **Our Future**

We do not have covenants with God like Israel does. Paul tells us that we were in a bad position in when God made His covenants with Israel. We were Gentiles in the flesh, without Christ, aliens from Israel, not part of the covenants of promise, without hope, and without God!

Ephesians 2:11-12

Wherefore remember, **that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh**, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **That at that time ye were without Christ**, being **aliens from the commonwealth of Israel**, and **strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope**, and without God in the world:

Paul explains that we, too, have been redeemed by our Savior Jesus Christ. Our future is different from Israel's. Christ's payment for our sins, has given us a blessed hope, a certainty, of eternal life *in heaven* with Jesus Christ. We are God's current peculiar people.

### Titus 2:11

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**

### Colossians 1:5

For **the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel;**

### Titus 1:2

**In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;**

Titus 3:7

That being justified by his grace, **we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.**

1 Thessalonians 2:19

**For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?**

Our hope is as certain as the covenants that God has made with Israel. Just as the Jews are God's earthly people, we are God's heavenly people.

Colossians 3:1-4

**If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.** For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. **When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.**

Even the Jews living today are not under God's covenants. Their salvation comes by accepting Christ's death, burial, and resurrection to redeem them from sins. They have the same hope that we do.

Romans 10:12-13

**For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.** For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Our Lord will meet us members of His Church, the Body of Christ—Jews and Gentiles—in the clouds and take us to heaven to forever be with Him. That is our hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore **comfort one another with these words.**

Our future is in heaven.

Philippians 3:20-21

For **our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:** Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body,

according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

It is still a hope because it hasn't happened yet, but we have God's promise and remember, God always keeps His word.

Romans 8:24-25

For **we are saved by hope**: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But **if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.**