

We Believe In Christmas
We Believe God Had A Plan
John 3:17

December 15 , 2024

No 1



What is belief but what we put our trust in.
It is a fact of reality, a reality, that guides us through life.

Many people differ in their beliefs and that also guides them in different ways in their lives.

People have differing:

- Religious beliefs
- Economic beliefs
- Moral beliefs
- Etc.

Our belief system can bring us to a good ending or an ending that is not so good.

As we enter into the Christmas season, we will see who believes in Christmas.

What does it mean to believe in Christmas?

There are 3 things we are going to examine in this Christmas mini-series.

That:

- Jesus was virgin born
- People celebrated His birth

Today we will see that;

God Had A Plan!

Like any important event, you have to have a plan.

- Going on vacation – what do I need to pack
- Retirement – save and be prepared
- Career goals – education needed

So,

God had a plan to save the human race.

Without the fulfillment of this plan, there would not be a Christmas.

Jn 1:1 *In the beginning (before creation), was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

v.2 *He was in the beginning with God.*

v.3 *All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

Let's rewind. Back in Heaven, in eternity past, the Trinity was at home. I don't know what it was like there, back then, but I'm sure it was rather nice.

God then created the universe and at some point, God created Man and shortly thereafter, Man fell into sin. This put a wedge between Man and God, actually a chasm, because the sin nature of Man was an offense to the holiness of God.

The true fellowship they once had was broken.

But God had a plan.

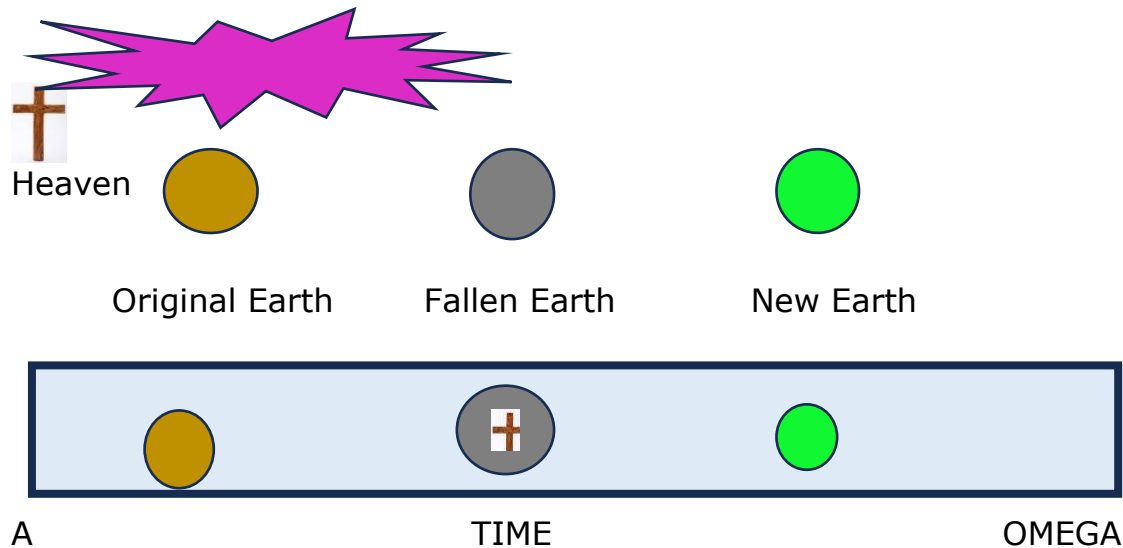
I Pe 1:20 For He (Jesus), was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but has appeared in these last times for the sake of you.

We call it Christmas.

Being omniscient, all-knowing- God sees time all at once. We see it one frame at a time.

Picture many little boxes in a row – that’s time.

Now, line up all those boxes in one big box. That’s God’s omniscience. He sees it all at once.



He sees, Man's creation, fall and redemption.

So we have Jesus, the lamb slain before the foundation of the world.

So,

We believe in Christmas.

We believe God had a plan.

Now;

Let the plan unfold.

This plan includes the paradox of "love" and "judgment."

Here is love:

Jn 3:17 *For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.*

Is there a misunderstanding among people as to why Jesus came into the world? I think so.

But wait!

Here is the judgment.

v.18 *He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

Think of it like this:

You love a good symphony.

The strings, the brass and percussion all thrill your heart. You appreciate the power of the symphony and so much so that you want to share this joy with your friend.

You take your friend to a concert and in a short time you find him fidgeting, looking around and bored with the whole thing.

That friend actually passed judgment on himself that there is no music in his soul.

What was meant to bring him joy had become a judgment.

So Jesus could say in:

Jn 9:39 "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and that those who see may become blind."

Or,

Those who hear may hear the music.

So from eternity past God saw the creation, the creation of man, the fall of man and the redemption of man all in one frame.

Then,

He announced His plan:

To guess who? To a young girl about to be married

Lu 1:31 to a young girl about to be married

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

Then,

To her husband to be:

Mt 1:20 "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

v.21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Then;

To shepherds:

Lu 2:10 "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.

Then;

To Magi from the East:

Mt 2:1 *Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,*

v.2 *"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."*

God didn't keep His plan a secret but He did reveal it a little at a time.

And now;

He reveals it to the world:

Jesus said to His disciples right before He ascended into Heaven,

"Go into all the world and tell them about Me."

Let them know there is salvation in no other name but the name, Christ Jesus.

Tell them,

I am the way, the truth and the life and no one comes to the Father but through Me.

God had a plan and He has revealed that plan and continues to reveal it to this day.

And people will either stand in love or in judgment, depending on how they respond to God's plan.

In Christ, you have been confronted with greatness.

Ex.

You take your friend to an art gallery and see the many wonderful masterpieces there which are far beyond any price one could pay.

The man walks through and gazes at all the masterful artwork.

Michaelangelo
Last Supper



Van Gogh
Starry Night



Raphael
Transfiguration



After the tour of the museum, the man turns and says to his guide, "I don't think much of your old pictures."

The guide responds;

"Sir, I would remind you that these pictures are no longer on trial,

But those who look at them are.”
And so for us:
Jesus Christ is not on trial for our valuation.
Rather,
As the Masterpiece, we are the ones on trial.
Will we recognize His beauty or not?
This is God’s plan.