

Pentwater Bible Church

Christmas Message
December 31, 2023



The Adoration of the Magi By El Greco Cir 1568

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Christmas-The 3 Main Reasons Jesus Came to Earth
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THE LORD JESUS HAD TO COME

The Cherubim have the most prominent role of all the celestial beings as they are close to God in the many instances we are given in Scripture. We have seen them in Ezekiel chapter 1 and chapter 10 lifting God's physical manifestation (Shekinah Glory) up out of the Temple. They are also seen in several spots of the Book of Revelation surrounding God in all His Glory. They have a prominent role to play for God in the Third Heaven or outside time and space. The highest of the Cherubim was called Hallal, which has been translated from the Hebrew into Latin as Lucifer or Daystar, son of the morning.

REASON ONE

Sin began in heaven with Lucifer. Due to his sin, he polluted the Heavenly Tabernacle of God. The earthly Tabernacle and the Temple after them are mere representations of this Heavenly Tabernacle (Hebrews 8:5).

Due to his rebellion his name was changed to Satan, which is Hebrew for adversary. Satan was not created evil. Christ said He saw Satan fall (Luke 10:18). He also drew one-third of the innumerable angels in Heaven into rebellion with him, (Hebrews 12:22; Revelation, 12:3-9). Satan desired to usurp God's authority. Instead of remaining the special Cherub overshadowing the Throne he now wished to become the one on the Throne or God Himself.

Isaiah 14:12-14

How are you fallen from heaven, O day-star, son of the morning! how are you cut down to the ground, that did lay low the nations! And you said in your heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; and I will sit upon the mount of congregation, in the uttermost parts of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High (ASV, 1901).

He said, "I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." Whenever the word "stars" is used symbolically, it is always a symbol of angels. With the second *I will*, he declared his desire to become the sole authority over all the angels that God had created. By so doing, he intended to depose Michael from his position

and become the Archangel all by himself. These *I wills* resulted from the pride of Satan that caused him to lead a revolt against God in which he was followed by one-third of the angelic host. It is presumed that the fallen angels became the demons. From this there has been a war in Heaven (Daniel 10:13; Revelation 12:7-9).

Revelation 12:7-9

⁷ And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, ⁸ and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. ⁹ And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him (KJV).

REASON TWO

God created the heavens and the earth. (Genesis 1:1) Sometime after that Satan indwelt a serpent in the Garden of Eden and caused our first parents Adam and Eve to violate God's Word, which brought sin into the world. So, there were essentially two falls; Lucifer and his angels in Heaven, as well as Adam and Eve on the earth. So the Heavenly Tabernacle (Reason 1) and the earth (Reason 2) both required cleansing from the sin of Satan and his demonic forces.

The theme of Christ's cleansing of the heavenly Tabernacle is clearly affirmed in the Epistle to the Hebrews is not, well developed in the rest of the Bible. We have seen that sin, which is alienation from God, did not begin on earth but in Heaven. There was sin in heaven before there was sin on earth. The rebellious demons led by Satan instruct and encourage men to rebel against God. Prior to Christ's cleansing of it, heaven was still infected by vestiges of that demonic rebellion. A particularly difficult aspect for us to understand of that contamination is Satan's ability to continue to stand before the Almighty as man's Accuser. The Bible assures us that it will end and we have our protection in Christ Jesus the Jewish Messiah. He sits at the right hand of God the Father.

Revelation 12:10-11

¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the

blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (KJV).

Hebrews 9:23-28

²³ It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: ²⁵ nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; ²⁶ for then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: ²⁸ so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

When we consider the reasons that the Lord Jesus came to earth the most important one is for the salvation of this earth. Because of the sin that our first parents Adam and Eve brought into the world (The fall) God said that He would send a redeemer to ameliorate this fatal event. In this need God made a covenant with Adam immediately after the Fall.

This covenant is unconditional in which God declared to Adam what man's life would be like now that sin is in the world. The conditions of this covenant will exist until the Kingdom Age (Romans 8:21). There is no appeal and there are no human conditions or responsibility involved. The outcome of the arrangement is entirely based on God and His sovereign control. Mankind has no personal activity immediately assigned such as if you do this then I God will do that. Elements of the covenant are the cursing of the serpent used by Satan (Genesis 3:14; Romans 16:20; 2 Corinthians 11:3, 14; Revelation 12:9), and the promise of a Redeemer (Genesis 3:15).

Because of the Fall's in Heaven and the earth, both have received the curse of God. The most significant curse was the spiritual death, which Adam and Eve experienced "*on the day they ate of the fruit.*" A flaming cherub was placed at the entrance to the Garden of Eden as a testimonial to the restriction of the covenant. God made specific promises to bring the Lord Jesus who would cleanse the Heavenly Tabernacle and make an end of sin

on the earth (Genesis 3:15). Without Jesus's sacrifice mankind has no access to Heaven upon death.

The fact that the Messiah had to come is well attested to in Scripture which starts with this foundational verse, Genesis 3:15. One unique aspect of the Scriptures is the prophecies and validated fulfillment at later times in the long chronology of the Bible's story. These alone attest to the Scripture's validity. Christ, after He was risen explained many of the prophecies in the Bible and the fact that He had to die in order to accomplish the task He was sent to do (Luke 24: 25-27). He is called the Lamb of God that takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Christ's first advent is well prophesied in Scripture. Some of those are:

GOD WOULD PROVIDE HIMSELF A SACRIFICE.

Introduced in Genesis 22:8, and Daniel 9:26 and fulfilled in John 19: 17-18

HE WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM IN THE REGION OF EPHRATHAH.

Introduced in Micah 5: 2 and fulfilled in Matthew 2: 1-5

HE WOULD BE THE SON OF GOD

Introduced in Psalm 2: 7 and fulfilled in John 3: 16-17

HE WOULD BE BORN INTO THE HEBREW TRIBE OF JUDAH

Genesis 49: 10 and fulfilled in Hebrews 7: 14

HE WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

Introduced in Isaiah 7: 14 and fulfilled in Matthew 1: 18-22

HE WOULD BE A PROPHET LIKE MOSES

Introduced in Deuteronomy 18: 15 and fulfilled in John 7: 15-17

HE WOULD BE THE KING OF ISRAEL

Introduced in Zechariah 9: 9 and fulfilled in John 12: 12-15

HE WOULD BE REJECTED

Introduced in Isaiah 53: 3 and fulfilled in John 1: 11

HE WOULD BE BEATEN

Introduced In Micah 5: 1 and fulfilled in Mark 15: 19

HE WOULD BE SILENT DURING HIS INTERROGATION

Introduced in Isaiah 53: 7 and fulfilled in Matthew 27: 12-14

HE WOULD BE BETRAYED

Introduced in Psalm 41: 9 and fulfilled in Mark 14: 17-20

HE WOULD BE TRIED AND CONDEMNED

Introduced in Isaiah 53: 8 and fulfilled Matthew 27: 1-2

HE WOULD BE CRUCIFIED

Introduced in Psalm 22: 16 and fulfilled in John 19: 17-18

HIS GARMENTS WOULD BE DIVIDED

Introduced in Psalm 22: 18 and fulfilled in John 19: 23-24

HE WOULD BE GIVEN GALL AND VINEGAR

Introduced in Psalm 69: 21 and fulfilled in John 19: 28-29

HIS BONES WOULD NOT BE BROKEN

Introduced in Exodus 12: 46 and fulfilled in John 19: 31-36

HE IS *OUR* SACRIFICE

Introduced in Isaiah 53: 5-6 and fulfilled in I Peter 2: 24-25

HE WAS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Introduced in Psalm 16: 10 and fulfilled in Luke 24: 1-7 and 47

The resurrection of Christ is the most significant event in all of world history. It provides a remedy for the Fall that we have seen which came into Heaven and the earth as a result of that sin caused which originated by Satan. If one *truly* believes in the historical facts of the Gospel and is regenerated (Titus 3: 5) one is granted eternal life in Paradise through the finished work of Jesus of Nazareth (Romans 6:23). The gospel is clearly presented in several places in Scripture. None are clearer than I Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15: 1-4

¹Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; ²By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. ³For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; ⁴And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures (KJV):

THIS IS NOT THE END OF CHRIST'S WORK

REASON THREE

God made a covenant with an ancient man named Abraham who the Bible calls the first Hebrew (Genesis 14:13). The Messianic Kingdom will be the final fulfillment of God's covenant with Abraham (Reason 3). It will happen after the seven-year Tribulation conducted by Jesus (Revelation 5). The purposes of this are to make an end of sin, conduct the greatest evangelistic effort the world has ever seen, and to bring the Jewish people as a nation to national regeneration through belief in their Messiah.

The chief characteristics of the Mosaic system were law and obedience. The chief characteristics of the present system, the Church age are belief and grace. The chief characteristics of the Messianic Kingdom will be peace and righteousness (Isaiah 2.1-5, 11.1-10; Jeremiah 23.5-8). Other characteristics are long life, perfect environment, and wealth.

There are many verses in the Old Testament prophesying the Messianic Kingdom. The orthodox Jews have long awaited it. The Jews who have not accepted Jesus as their Messiah believe that He (Their Messiah) will appear to set up the Messianic Kingdom. Some Old Testament references to the Kingdom are listed below.

1. Isaiah 52:1 Jerusalem will be pure and no longer trodden down by the Gentiles. (Uncircumcised and unclean ones)
2. Isaiah 60:3 Gentiles with their leaders will serve the Jews
3. Psalm 15:1-5 People in the Kingdom will possess a kind of righteousness
4. Isaiah 11:6-9 Universal peace will be prevalent and the world's animals will be at peace with each other and be vegetarians
5. Isaiah 65:17-25 Here Isaiah describes the Millennial Kingdom's new heaven and new earth. This is a renovation. This is not a description of the eternal order, which will be a complete new order.
6. Micah 4:1-5 Jehovah's house becomes a center of attention, with Messianic teaching, the absence of war and universal peace

It was this kingdom that John the Baptizer proclaimed, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 3:2). Jesus proclaimed the same message that John had begun, "*Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand*" (Matthew 4:17). Even while the nation of Israel rejected their Messiah and the kingdom the disciples expected it even after his crucifixion. Right before his ascension, the

disciples said, *And so when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"* (Acts 1:6). Jesus replied that he could not reveal this knowledge. Jesus did not reject the idea of the Messianic Kingdom or spiritualize it He simply discussed it. Rather, his answer affirmed the prophetic Scriptures. He just could not reveal the timetable. All the prophecies in the Old Testament related to the Messiah's first advent have been literally fulfilled, therefore we can expect that the prophecies related to the Messiah and his Kingdom will be fulfilled literally also. Some New Testament references to the Kingdom are shown below.

1. Mark. 1:15 - "the kingdom of God is at hand"
2. Luke. 17:20,21 - "the kingdom of God is not coming with signs to be observed... behold, the kingdom of God is in your midst"
3. John. 3:3 - unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God
4. Romans. 14:17 - "the kingdom of God is righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit"
5. Matthew. 3:2; 4:17 - "the kingdom of heaven is at hand"
6. Matthew. 5:3,10 - "theirs is the kingdom of heaven"
7. Matthew. 5:19,20 - "enter the kingdom of heaven"
8. Ephesians 5:5 - "inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God"
9. Colossians. 1:13 - "the kingdom of His beloved Son"
10. II Peter. 1:11 - "eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ"
11. Matthew. 6:33 - "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness..."
12. John. 18:36 - "My kingdom is not of this world/realm"
13. Acts 20:25 - "went about preaching the kingdom"

As Jesus taught His apostles to pray: *"Thy Kingdom come Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."* It is coming. (Matthew 6:10) He let them know that the Kingdom would come upon earth, it would mirror God's heavenly Kingdom and it was sometime yet future to the time of the Sermon on the Mount and as we have seen yet future to Acts 1:6-7. With the world in increasingly worse turmoil we can say that the Kingdom has not yet arrived and it is still yet future to us.

CONCLUSION

These are the reasons that Jesus had to come. He had to die to fulfill God's requirement of justice through payment for sin.

As we celebrate His arrival this Christmas for the 2023rd time we are assured that He came to save us from our sins. God loves us so much that He gave us Himself

as a gift to a fallen and sinful world. He has also promised to return. We look for His return.....

John 3:16

16 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 (KJV).

Please Call or e-mail with any questions or comments.

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Silent Night! Holy Night!

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
 4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,

all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
 at the sight. Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
 love's pure light Ra - diant beams from Thy ho - ly face,
 all is bright Round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.

Ho - ly Inf - ant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
 Heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ the Sav - ior is
 With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy
 Ho - ly Inf - ant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly

peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ the Sav - ior is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.
 peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.