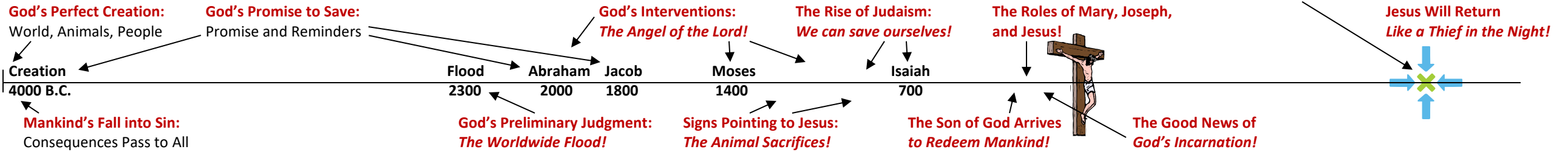


This Side → Timeline and Summaries
 Other Side → More Details

The Big Picture of the World – Past, Present, and Future!

Everything below is based on the Bible – God’s Holy Word for our temporal and eternal benefit!

You Are Here



1a: God's Perfect Creation: In Genesis chapter 1, we have the record of God the Father creating all things through His Son – *the One who would eventually put on human flesh to save us from our sins!* All that God created was perfect in every way!

1b: Mankind's Fall into Sin: In Genesis chapter 2, God warned Adam not to eat from a particular tree; God also told him the consequence for doing so. But in chapter 3, the man and the woman disobeyed God, thus they sinned, which brought terrible consequences to them and all future people. Sin results in *immediate* spiritual death, *eventual* physical death, and *eternal* punishment. *No one can save himself!*

See the other side!

2: God's Promise to Save: God made a perfect world, but people ruined themselves and His creation by going against His clear command! On earth we can sometimes overcome our wrongs, *but no one can overcome his sin!*

Without God's action to rescue us, we would all be helplessly doomed to a horrible eternity! But God promised to save; then He kept reminding people of His promise during the OT. Then, *when the time was right*, the Son of God put on human flesh to do for us what we could never do for ourselves – *by living without sin, receiving the sins and punishment of all people of all time, and laying down His life to seal His victory!*

See the other side!

3: God's Preliminary Judgment: The Worldwide Flood! Many, *both long ago and today*, do not believe God's Word! They show their unbelief by *continuing* to live without repentance (*without sorrow for sin and without faith in Jesus as Savior!*)

Therefore – *approximately 4,300 years ago* – God showed the world that He is *dead serious* about punishing those who *continue w/o repentance* by killing every person on earth, except Noah and his family! May God help us to see how His *past PRELIMINARY judgment with water* points to His *future FINAL judgment with fire* – *when Jesus returns!*

See the other side!

4: God's Powerful interventions: The Angel of the Lord! Think about the BIG PICTURE: The LORD had promised to send the Savior *through the nation of Israel*, but the people of Israel kept turning away from the LORD. Therefore, to prevent them from destroying themselves, the second Person of the Holy Trinity, the Pre-Incarnate Christ, intervened to preserve the nation so that He could eventually put on human flesh as the Descendant of Abraham who would take away the sin of the world.

“The Angel of the Lord” is referred to 56 times in 51 verses in the Hebrew Scriptures.” http://lambliion.com/articles/articles_doctrines7.php

See the other side!

5: Signs Pointing to Jesus: The Animal Sacrifices! God established them for two reasons: (1) To keep reminding people that sin is horrible! (2) To keep pointing people to the coming Savior!

Even before they were officially established at Moses' time, the very first drop of blood shed at the time of Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:21) – *right after they sinned* – pointed ahead to the precious blood of Jesus:

- As they tried unsuccessfully to cover their nakedness with fig leaves, *so we try unsuccessfully to cover our badness with our goodness!*
- As only the LORD could cover their nakedness, *so only the blood of Jesus can cover our sin!*

See the other side!

6: The Rise of Judaism: We Can Save Ourselves! As time moved through the OT, *toward the coming of the Promised Savior*, some kept ♦seeing their sin, ♦sacrificing animals, and ♦longing for the Savior! But others, who continued the rituals, *forgot the reason WHY!* While some trusted in the Savior, others trusted in their keeping of the rituals. Today is similar: Some trust in Jesus, while many trust in themselves!

Christianity began with the first promise of the Christ in Eden; Judaism arose LATER as a *falsification* of Christianity. Abraham was an OT Christian, not a member of the false religion of Judaism – which believes in works as the way to heaven.

See the other side!

7: The Son of God Arrives to Redeem Mankind! He was promised, being sinners we all desperately need Him, He intervened to preserve the nation into which He would be born, and countless animal sacrifices kept pointing to His arrival; then, in the fullness of time, He came!

Since we could not keep the Law, He came to keep it for us! Furthermore, since we had brought eternal ruin upon ourselves by doing so many things wrong, He came to make everything right!

Since we were spiritually bankrupt, unable to make a single move toward God, He took powerful action to make us spiritually alive through Jesus!

See the other side!

8: The Roles of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus! Imagine for moment how you would feel if the woman to whom you were engaged to be married was pregnant AND you were not the father! Most of us would have feelings of very strong anger, both toward our fiancé and toward the father of the child; such feelings would be normal and natural.

So how did Joseph respond? What was he called to do? How was he called to reconsider his actions; then what happened? I urge you to read Matthew 1:18-25 for all those answers and more! Then, as you read, notice the simplicity of verse 21 – how it so clearly identifies each role.

See the other side!

9a: The Good News of God's Incarnation!

Dear friend: The bad news is super-bad: All have sinned, so all have earned death and eternal punishment. Our feelings say “no,” but the Bible says “yes.”

But God's good news is even greater: God promised to save the world; then He actually did so through His Son, who put on flesh, lived without sin, and paid sin's penalty – *for you, for me, for all!*

Now, God is inviting and empowering everyone to receive Jesus as their only Savior from sin, death, & hell!

9b: Jesus Will Return Like a Thief in the Night! Someday Jesus will come *when most are not expecting Him* – thus not ready. So, *by God's grace*, let us continually trust in Him alone as our Savior!

See the other side!

These Bible passages support the timeline.

May God enable you to understand and believe!

1a: God's Perfect Creation: God the Father created all things through the Son: [Genesis 1](#)

- **Day 1 – heavens, earth, light:** [1-5](#)
- **Day 2 – sky:** [Gen. 1:6-8](#); “heaven” is sky; the first heaven is the blue sky, the second are the stars we see at night, and the third is the dwelling place of God ([2 Cor. 12:2-4](#)).
- **Day 3 – dry ground:** [9-13](#)
- **Day 4 – sun, moon, stars:** [14-19](#)
- **Day 5 – fish, birds:** [20-23](#)
- **Day 6 – animals, people:** [24-30](#)
- **God's assessment:** [31](#) ...God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

1b: Mankind's Fall Into Sin:

- **God's Warning:** [Gen. 2:17](#) “...of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”
- **Mankind's Fall:** [Gen. 3:6](#) ...she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened...
- **The Eternal Consequence:** [2 Thess. 1:9](#) They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord...

2: God's Promise to Save: [Gen. 3:15](#) I will put enmity [a strong feeling of hatred] between you and the woman, and between your offspring [all the forces of evil] and her offspring [all people]; he [her most important offspring, the promised Christ] shall bruise your head, and you [the devil] shall bruise his heel.” // Then, throughout the OT, God kept reminding the people that He would fulfill His promise; for example: To Abraham, 2,000 B.C. ([Gen. 12:1-3](#)); thru Jacob, 1,800 B.C. ([Gen. 49:8-12](#)); thru Isaiah, 700 B.C. ([Isaiah 9:6-7](#)).

3: God's Preliminary Judgment: The

Worldwide Flood: It really happened; Jesus is really going to return! Read the following:

- **Wickedness and Consequence** – [Genesis 6:5-7](#)
- **God Will Keep His Promise to Save** – [Genesis 6:9-22](#)

- **The Worldwide Flood** – [Genesis 7:1-23](#)
- **The Preliminary Points to The Final** – [2 Peter 3:1-10](#) Those words of God describe today!

4: God's interventions: The Angel of the Lord: Here are some; read and be blessed!

- **He Stopped Abraham from Sacrificing Isaac:** [Genesis 22](#), especially vv. [10-12](#), [18](#).
- **He Commanded Moses to Deliver Israel from Egypt:** [Exodus 3](#), especially vv. [2-10](#).
- **He Led Israel through the Wilderness:** Compare [Exodus 13:21](#) with [Judges 2:1](#).
- **He Stopped Balaam from Cursing Israel:** [Numbers 22-23](#); the talking donkey!
- **He Won a Great Victory through Gideon:** [Judges 6-7](#); [8:10](#); 300 defeated 120,000!
- **He Appeared to the Parents of Samson:** [Judges 13](#), especially vv. [1-5](#).
- **He struck down 185,000 Assyrians:** [2 Kings 18-19](#), especially [18:29-30](#); [19:35](#).

5: Signs Pointing to Jesus – The Animal

Sacrifices: Jumping ahead 2,600 years from Adam to Moses, we see how the Passover lambs of [Exodus 12](#) AAT clearly pointed to Jesus:

- ⁴ ...select an animal from the flock... ⁵ ...a perfect male... Jesus was sinless in our place!
- ⁶ Keep it till the fourteenth of this month, when at twilight the whole assembly of Israel will butcher them. Jesus died on the same day of the same month at the same time!
- ⁷ Take some of the blood, and put it on the doorframes of the houses in which you will eat them. ¹³ ...When I see the blood, I will pass by you [or Passover]... Christians are spared eternal punishment because of Jesus' blood!
- ¹⁴ Remember that day and keep it as the LORD's festival. NT Passover = Lord's Supper!

[Galatians 3:23-24](#): The ceremonial law pointed to Jesus! [Hebrews 9:12](#) NET ¹² ...He did not use the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered once and for all into the MOST HOLY PLACE and paid a price that frees us forever.”

6: The Rise of Judaism: We can save ourselves: That makes sense and most attempt it, but it is

impossible! Judaism officially teaches it, but many so-called Christians try to do the same!

- **Follow-Through, BUT NO FAITH:** Read these key passages: [Amos 5:21](#); [Isaiah 11:1](#); [66:3](#)
- **Judaism at Jesus' Time:** The Pharisees – read [John 8:12-59](#) and [Mark 7:6-8](#) for examples.
- **Judaism Today:** Ninth largest religion in the world; 13 million worldwide – 5.7 million in Israel, 5.2 million in the USA (1.9 mill. in NYC).
- **Important things they are missing:** Admitting they are sinners who need the Promised Savior! All that is most important for truth and salvation is completely gone from Judaism : (

7: The Son of God Arrives to Redeem Mankind:

- **God's OT Work of Keeping People On-Track for JESUS:** [Galatians 4:1-3](#)
- **God's Sending of His Son:** [Galatians 4:4-5](#); Jesus said: ^{ESV} [Matthew 5:17](#) “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets [the OT Scriptures]; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Jesus, on our behalf, kept the Law perfectly!
- **God's Work of Eternal Transformation:** vv. [6-7](#)

8: The Roles of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus:

[Matthew 1:21](#): She [Mary] will bear a Son [that was her God-given role] you [Joseph] shall call His name Jesus [that was Joseph's God-given role] He [Jesus] who will save His people from their sins [by living w/o sin, then taking away the sins of the world].

9a: The Good News of God's Incarnation! The angel announced: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David [in Bethlehem] there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

9b: Jesus Will Return Like a Thief in the Night!

Since Jesus will come unexpectedly – like a thief, may God ever-keep us trusting in Jesus our Savior!

Read/listen to this sermon series: [www.blc7500.com](#)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio, 44134

440-845-2230 • [www.blc7500.com](#)

(Last Update: 12-12)

YOU Are Here



Where is Here? Do YOU know:

- Who God is!
- What God has made!
- How all people are wrong doers!
- What all people deserve!
- How God has given us a glimpse!
- How God has promised to save!
- How God has intervened to bless!
- The purpose of animal sacrifices!
- That many try to save themselves!
- About God's work to buy us back!
- The roles of Mary, Joseph, and Jesus!
- Who is saved!
- That Jesus could come at any time!

Dear friends in Christ: Imagine walking into a new mall and finding a store on a huge map; would you be ready to go to that store? No! Why not? You won't know what direction to go until you find the symbol: **You Are Here!**

Today 7 billion people live on the planet, yet most are lost because they are unaware of the big picture of time and eternity! Therefore, may God work through this brochure to ♦develop that picture, ♦show us our location, and ♦bless us in Christ now and forevermore!