

Series: Perspectives on the Christ of Christmas – Part 1

The Perspective of God the Father!

Services: Wednesday, November 30 at 11 AM & 7 PM

Church Year: First Wednesday in Advent – 2016

Free Meals at 12 & 6 – On the Four Advent Wednesdays!

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Think about the very FIRST Christmas; that is when the very Son of God, *the long promised Messiah*, was born! Even though most people were completely unaware of the event, *it was super-significant!*

Perspective is important; for example, if you look at this block of wood one way, *it makes no sense*; but, from the right perspective, *it spells the name of JESUS*. *Since perspective is important*, we will consider four perspectives on Jesus' birth: those of †God the Father, †Mary, †Elizabeth, and †Joseph. Even though a typical American sees Christmas as ♦lights, ♦trees, ♦parties, ♦gifts, and ♦gatherings, the perspective of **God the Father** *will bless our understanding of the Christ!*

1. **He Planned to Remove Our Sin:**

- a. The absence of sin: After finishing His work of creation, “**God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good**” (Gen. 1:31 ESV). // So it was beneficial, pleasant, and without **sin**!
- b. The warning: Even before the fall into sin, “**the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but 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’**” (Gen. 2:16-17 ESV). // The LORD clearly stated the rule—

don't eat, and the punishment—*death!* **And He was serious!**

- c. The fall: After being tempted, “the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate” (Gen. 3:6 ESV). // So ▶they **knew** God’s Word, ▶they **doubted** God’s Word, and ▶they **followed** what made sense to them 😊.
- d. The promise: The LORD said to the devil, “I will put enmity [hostility] between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel” (Gen. 3:15 ESV). // Those words describe ✓an ongoing struggle between the forces of evil and people, ✓the coming Savior, and ✓His victory over the devil! Therefore, the devil—*He was condemned*; the people—*they were comforted!*

2. **He Kept His Plan on Course:**

- a. Some of the key people:
- i. Abram: “Now the LORD said to Abram, ‘...in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed’” (Gen. 12:1, 3 ESV). // In other words, *the Promised Savior would be a future **descendant** of Abram!*
 - ii. Moses: He said to the people: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall **listen**” (Deut. 18:15 ESV). // *That prophecy points to Jesus!* When Jesus was transfigured,

God said, “[This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him](#)” (Mt. 17:5 ESV).

iii. David: The genealogy in Matthew chapter 1 shows the connection from Abraham to David to Joseph, *and those in between*. The Father kept His plan on course!

b. The Angel of the LORD: He is the Son of God *before He put on human flesh*; He appeared many times in the Old Testament to **preserve** *the people of Israel*, so that, *when the time was full*, He could come as He was promised. Here are some examples of His appearances:

i. He stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac ([Gen. 22:10-18](#)).

ii. He led Israel through the wilderness ([Ex. 13:21](#); [Judges 2:1](#)).

iii. He won the victory through Gideon ([Judges 6-7](#)).

iv. He struck down 185,000 Assyrians ([2 Kings 18-19](#)).

3. **He Did It All to Provide Our Greatest Need:**

a. We were helpless and condemned: The Holy Spirit moved Paul to write about the spiritual condition of **all** people: “...both Jews and Greeks, are under sin, as it is written: ‘None is righteous, no, not one... no one does good, not even one.’ ... ‘Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness.’ ... ‘There is no fear of God before their eyes.’ [Therefore] ...by works of the law no human being will be justified in [God’s] sight...” ([Rom. 3:9, 10, 12, 14, 18, 20](#) ESV). // God is calling us to see **His holiness**, to see our **un-holiness**, and to

realize that **our sins are ultimately against Him**. Try to imagine God as an invincible human being: He is ♦10 feet tall, ♦600 pounds of pure muscle, ♦able to read our every thought, and ♦covered with Kevlar skin (*thus bulletproof*)! Now, imagine that your every sin is *personally, physically against Him* – ♦He knows what you did and why you did it, and ♦He is able to destroy you! If that makes us feel a little condemned and helpless, *we should be **much more so** with the REAL JESUS!* But then we remember the Father’s perspective: ♦*how much He **loves** us* and ♦*how He promised to save us!*

- b. Jesus came to save us from our sins: “...when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons” (Gal. 4:4-5 ESV). // To us, the timing might seem off – *but the Father knows best!* To us, God’s rescue might seem weak – *but the Father knows best!* To us, we might question some of the difficulties in our lives – *but the Father knows best!*

Conclusion: Let us pray: Dear Father, even before the first sin was committed, *You had a perfect plan to save us through Jesus*; then, after a long period of time, *You bought us with Jesus’ precious blood!* Therefore, ➡make us sorry, ➡draw us close, ➡assure us of Your forgiveness, and ➡grant us a Christ-centered Christmas! In Jesus’ name, we pray...