

# What The Bible Says About

## Christmas

Part 3, The King Is Great



Good Hope  
Baptist Church

Living Together In The Love Of God

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**FOCAL** Luke 1:31-32 <sup>KJV</sup> And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. {32} 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

How great is God?

Man today doesn't believe in a Great God. A great preacher now with the Lord, **Arthur W. Pink** wrote over



sixty years ago in his book *the Godhood of God* about the erosion of what we think of God.

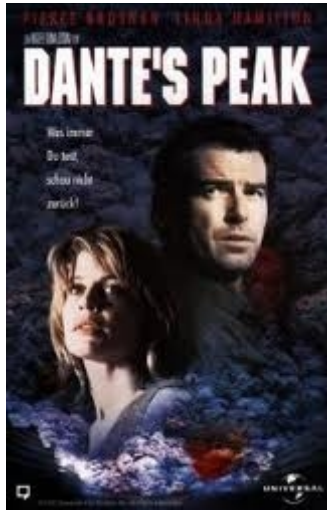
**"When Christian theologians accepted the Darwinian hypothesis ... excluding God from the realm of Creation, it was only to be expected that more and more God would be banished from the realm of human affairs. ... To the twentieth-century mind God is little more than an abstraction, an impersonal "First Cause," or if a Being at all, One far removed from this world and having little or nothing to do with mundane affairs. Man, forsooth, is a "god" unto himself. He is a "free agent" and therefore the regulator of his own life and the determiner of his own destiny. Such was the Devil's lie at the beginning - "Ye shall be as God" (Gen. 3:5) ..."**

Though many profess to be "Christian" in America, we often make ourselves great and God small. Many who profess Christ see God as a Servant, One on Whom we

call only when we have a need to be met. When our prayers aren't answered the way we think they ought to be, we often fuss at God. "Why me, Lord?" becomes our cry.

God did not come from Heaven to the Manger to be our Servant. He came to be our Savior. He came to redeem us from sin, and to raise us - through His sacrifice - to be sons of God.

**Illustrate** God is great, and this Great God reveals



**Himself to us in the person of Jesus Christ.** How great is God? I remember several years ago watching a movie called *Dante's Peak*. In that movie a family gets trapped high up on a mountain when a volcano erupts. To escape the volcano they launch a small metal boat out into a local lake. Halfway to the other shore they notice that fish are floating on the water dead, and that the boat starts smoking from the inside.

The volcanic activity has caused the lake water to turn to acid, and acid eats metal! As they get closer to the shore the metal boat begins to leak. The outboard motor stops working because its propeller is metal – and the blades are eaten away by the acid. Suddenly they are adrift, without a paddle, surrounded by acid. Without a word the grandmother steps out of the boat into the acid and, as it eats her body, she in agony drags her family the last few feet to safety. What a wonderful act of selfless

sacrifice. But what that woman portrayed in the movie is nothing compared to what God has done for us.

**1** The Virgin Birth of Christ reversed what the Devil did in the garden of Eden.



**a** The Devil deceived and used Eve. When the Lord Jesus Christ made man (**all things were made by Him and for Him, and without Him nothing was made that has been made.** See **John 1:3**) and breathed into Adam the breath of life, He gave Adam a command. The Lord told Adam:

**Genesis 2:16-17 (HCSB) You are free to eat from any tree of the garden, 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for on the day you eat from it, you will certainly die.**

Adam had a choice. The Lord loved him and put him in a perfect place. Would he **love the Lord his God with all of his heart, and with all of his soul, and with all of his mind, and with all of his strength? (Mark 12:30).** Would Adam do as God requested and **keep this commandment on his heart, tell it to his wife and children, talk about loving God while he sat at home or while on the road? (Deuteronomy 6:5-8)** You see, God told ADAM not to eat of the forbidden tree, but EVE was not made until later:

**Genesis 2:18, 21-22 (HCSB)** Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper as his complement. .... So the LORD God



caused a deep sleep to come over the man, and he slept. God took one of his ribs and closed the flesh at that place. 22 Then the LORD God made the rib He had taken from the man into a woman and brought her to the man.

What was Eve's part in the fall of mankind into sin? The Apostle Paul says that:

**1 Timothy 2:13-14 (HCSB)** For Adam was created first, then Eve. 14 And Adam was not deceived, but the woman was deceived and transgressed.

Woman was **deceived by Satan** when she did what she did, but Adam did what he did willingly and willfully. This is why the Bible tells us that

**1 Corinthians 15:21-22 (HCSB)** For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead also comes through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.

It is MAN - ADAM - who plunged the world into sin. Satan used Eve, and duped her, but Adam knew and could have stopped the process.



We all know the story. The devil offers Eve the forbidden fruit. She eats some of the fruit, and "She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it." (Genesis 3:6). Once Adam eats the fruit all of creation plunges into the darkness of sin.

**b** What the devil did in using the woman, the Lord promised to put right in woman. Following the Fall the Lord Jesus tells the Serpent - a representation of the Devil:

**Genesis 3:15 (HCSB)** I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.

The Devil used woman to unwittingly be a part of the fall of all mankind into sin. The Lord told the Devil - that old Serpent - that "**her SEED would strike his head, killing him, but it would only bruise His heel**". This is the first prophecy of the Coming of the Savior.

Woman doesn't have SEED. She has the EGG, but man has the SEED. But God told Eve that it would be Woman's SEED that crushed the devil's head. How is this possible. It is only possible through the Virgin Birth of Christ.



Some *six hundred years* before the Manger God told the world that Messiah would come through a miraculous birth. He would be **born of a virgin ...**

**Isaiah 7:14** Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;

**Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**

The name **Immanuel** means “**God is with us**”. God would take upon Himself flesh and bone, blood and tissue. The Eternal would step out of Eternity and into His own creation! John writing about this would say:

**John 1:1-3** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through Him, and apart from Him not one thing was created that has been created.**

Jesus Christ has always existed as Eternal God. He was **in the beginning with God**. Not only this, He is **the Word Who is God**. We are told in another place:

**Colossians 1:16-17** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> **For everything was created by Him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and by Him all things hold together.**



Jesus Christ is Great and Eternal God. Without the Lord Jesus Christ we would not exist. Furthermore, apart from Him all things fall apart. He is the Creator and Upholder of all things. God would step into Creation. The **Word would become flesh and dwell among us ...**

**John 1:14** <sup>(HCSB)</sup> **The Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We observed His glory, the glory as the One and Only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

**Illustrate** Gwang Hyuk Rhee is a Korean artist with an amazing gift of patience. It took him *two years* of painstaking work to produce a **life size picture of Jesus six feet long by four feet wide**. It is not actually a painting though, but a scroll created by writing thousands of words with shaded letters using a very finely tipped pen. If you look closely you discover Gwang Rhee has actually *written the entire New Testament written out by hand*. There are about *185,000 words on the scroll*. There is an average of a thousand words per line. The words are simply written, line by line, some thick and some thin so that they reveal a picture of Jesus Christ. The figure of Jesus is not imposed onto the words. The words reveal **a picture of Christ as they are written, some light and some dark to bring out a portrait of Christ**. The words have



literally become flesh, a person. There are twenty-seven angels surrounding Jesus, each looking to him. These represent the twenty-seven books of the New Testament. Why did Rhee do this? That's the most fascinating part of the story to me. Rhee wrote:

**"As a child, I knew the Lord. I prayed to God that my life would not be empty like a disappearing**

**cloud, but would leave something behind for the generations to come. When I was about 30 years old, I was divinely inspired that a picture of the Lord could be revealed by the printed word of God. But at the time, Korea was under Japanese occupation, then under the communist regime. I was not able to do anything but pray the the Lord everyday for His guidance for 10 years. It wasn't until 1950, during the Korean war, I had to leave my family briefly, that North and South Korea were divided, and I could no longer return home. ... I began writing the Scriptures in the form of pictures without anybody noticing for 10 years, another 10 years, and another 10 years,**

**living alone in the back room of a secluded house. I believe that this work is not my own creation, but the Lord's gracious gift that He lets me work on through the Holy Spirit. This work is not technically superior art, but rather, just a humble expression of my gratitude for the Lord."**

Like Rhee wrote out a picture of Eternal God, the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and - with her permission - wrote out the Word.

The devil tricked Eve but God enlisted Mary. The Bible tells us that the Angel Gabriel came to Mary at the express command of God. We read ...



**Context** Luke 1:26-31 <sup>(KJV)</sup> **And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, 27 To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of**

**the house of David; and the virgin's name [was] Mary. 28 And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, [thou that art] highly favored, the Lord [is] with thee: blessed [art] thou among women. 29 And when she saw [him], she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. 30 And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. 31 And,**

**behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.**

Since Adam brought sin into the world, God would enter the world *without the assistance of man*. A virgin would conceive a Child. Mary asked the Angel "**How can this be, since I have not been intimate with a man yet?**" (Luke 1:34). You see, Mary was *engaged* to be Joseph's wife, but had not consummated the marriage yet. This was the day in which people respected God and His Word, and sexual sin was not tolerated! The Angel told Mary:

**Context** Luke 1:35 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.**

This would not be Joseph's son, but God's Son. The Eternal Son of God would come into this world.

When He was baptized by John some 30 years later (see Mark 9:7) the Father would say "**This is My Beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased. Listen to Him!**" This is no mortal human, not the son of the carpenter, but the Son of the Creator, and Creator Himself. The Angel emphasized this when he told Mary ...

**Focal** Luke 1:31 <sup>KJV</sup> **And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.**

The name "Jesus" means "God our Savior". Going

back to the Prophecy of Isaiah some 600 years before he said:

**Isaiah 7:14 <sup>(HCSB)</sup> Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.**

"Immanuel" means "God with us". God our Savior is with us! God has - in His great love - come to rescue us from Satan, from Adam's sin, and from Eve's error.

This is what God tells us in the Christmas narrative. The Lord told Joseph Mary's husband:

**Matthew 1:22-23 <sup>(HCSB)</sup> Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: 23 See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name Him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."**

Joseph, God is turning the clock back. Mary, God is going to do a great thing through you. **God our Savior is coming to be with us!** Blessed be the name of the Lord!

**2** Jesus Christ was born without man, sinless, and is the fulfillment of God's promises not only to Eve, but to Judah and David and all humanity as well. When we look at the Christmas narrative we read that Mary was

**Context** Luke 1:27 <sup>(KJV)</sup> ... **a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and**

the virgin's name [was] Mary.

Why is this important? Because when the Lord called Israel to be His people, He set out **Judah to be the tribe from which the King would always come.** Our sinless God keeps His promises. He promised ...

**Genesis 49:10** The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.



The **Scepter – the Throne** – belongs to Judah. The office of King of Israel passed from King David to his children and his children's children. Judah was supposed to rule **until Shiloh come.** The name “**Shiloh**” literally means “**He whose it is**”. The prophecy said that Judah was holding this Kingship until the “**Rightful Owner**” came forward. **Shiloh is the Lord Jesus Christ.** Again,



some seven hundred years before the Child of the Manger we read:

**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, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of

Peace. (7) 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 forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jesus Christ is Shiloh - the rightful King of Israel. He is "**King of Kings and Lord of Lords**" (Revelation 19:16). Isaiah said "of His government there shall be no end". When the Wise Men - the Magi - came seeking Jesus they said



**Matthew 2:2** (HCSB) .... **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.**”

The Messiah - the Savior of the world - would have to be a descendent from the Tribe of Judah and of the lineage of King David.

Both Joseph as well as Mary were *of the Tribe of Judah.* This is why the Child was born in a Manger in Bethlehem, because

**Luke 2:4-5** (HCSB) ... **Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee, to Judea, to the city of David,**

which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family line of David, 5 to be registered along with Mary, who was engaged to him and was pregnant.

because Joseph was of the line of David. Mary also was of this line. The Child born of her had every right to be called the King of Israel. The Angel Gabriel told Mary that her Child:

**Focal** Luke 1:32-33 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: 33 And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

This Baby in the Manger is the King of the Jews, the fulfillment of the Promises of God to Eve, the payment for our sins, the Savior of the world. This Baby shall be great - the Greatest! He is the reversal of Adam's wrong, the destruction of Satan, and the Savior of the world.



When the Angel told Joseph that his wife to be Mary was carrying the Messiah, he said:

**Matthew 1:20-21 (KJV) ....**  
**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. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.**

Jesus Christ - that Baby in the Manger - was born to save "His people from their sins". If you are "His people" - a lover and follower of Christ - then sin and hell has no hold on you. By Adam's transgression sin came into the world, and death by sin. The Children of Adam all die. Not too long ago Atheist **Christopher Hitchens** died at the age of 62. Suddenly people began to speculate if he was in Heaven or Hell. He was the writer of a best selling book, *God is Not Great: How Religion Poisons Everything*. When asked about the possibility of a



deathbed conversion to faith in Christ Hitchens told *The Times* in August 2010:

**“The entity making such a remark might be a raving, terrified person whose cancer has spread to the brain. I can’t guarantee that such an entity wouldn’t make such a ridiculous remark, but no one recognizable as myself would ever make such a remark.”**

Is he in Heaven or Hell? Did he make a deathbed conversion? We really don't know. But we do know this.

There is but one Messiah born in a Manger. There is but

one fulfillment of God's Promises and God's Prophecies. There is but One, and His Name is the Lord Jesus Christ. He alone came to **save His people from His sins.** If Hitchens became one of Jesus Christ's "people" before he died, then he is saved. If not, he is burning in eternal hell. And if in hell, this was his choice, not God's. **Dr. E. Stanley Jones** said:

**"Out of the Gospels arises the Gospel. Jesus is the Gospel — the Gospel lies in His Person. He did not come to bring the Good News — He is the Good News."**

This is the Great Truth that no other so called religion has. Our God is not distant and unapproachable. He went through extreme measures, well outside of His comfort zone, to reach out and save us.



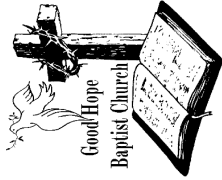
He wrote us a love letter in His Bible - but He didn't just leave it at this love letter. **He came Himself. He gave Himself. The Infinite became Infant, the Eternal a part of Eternity.** The Son of

God chose to be born a son of man. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave,

became human! Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that: a crucifixion. **(see Philippians 2:6-8).**

Our God is Great!

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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