

The Drama of Redemption

The birth of the Savior was the most dramatic moment in human history up to that point. Only His death, burial & resurrection eclipsed the drama of the birth event. There is another dramatic moment that we are waiting for now, His return, His battle with evil, His victory over all the forces of evil, their imprisonment and His earthly reign for 1000 years.

Drama - any situation or series of events having vivid, emotional, conflicting or striking interest or results – human history as a part of an angelic trial & judgment is full of drama. Drama is only possible for creatures that can't see the future; don't know how it's all going to play out. The devil still thinks he can somehow win & escape judgment.

The Drama of the birth culminates thousands of years of Angelic & Human history

(Matt 1:18) the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows; **Birth – genesis**: birth, beginning, origin – the beginning of Jesus Christ; **Was – eimi** – Impf A.I .Impf tense = continuous action in past time – ongoing movie shot of the events surrounding his birth; **eimi** Matt has already included the promise and the waiting on the birth of the Savior since Abraham. I want to tell the story of His birth from its true beginning in eternity past. By the time of Matt 1:18, thousands of years had already passed & this electric moment had been anticipated by all of angelic and human creation.

(Gal 4:4) fullness of time God sent His Son, born of a woman, under the law to redeem those under the law and receive them as adopted sons.

1. The incarnation & work of Christ was decreed in eternity past.

Eternal life conference – God, The Son (GS) was appointed to be born, die and be Resurrected à atoning work / sacrifice for sin. Before angels were created – GF, GS, GHS chose to create & include free will knowing that angels & man would fall through sin and that they would offer a plan of salvation

(Act 2:22-24) Jesus delivered according to the predetermined plan, foreknowledge of God

- Predetermined in eternity past Eph 1:4 chose us in Him before creation of the world

(Act 4:24-28) Kings of earth united against Jesus to do what God had decided beforehand

- **(Eph 1:11)** having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,
- The birth, death & resurrection was His purpose & worked according to the counsel His will

(Heb 1:5) GF anticipating His birth: today I have begotten you, I will be a Father to you and you will be a Son to me.

(Heb 10:5,7) Jesus anticipating His birth: sacrifice & offerings you didn't desire, but a body you have prepared for me (Psm 40:6-8); vs 7 I have come to do your will, Oh God

2. Sin of A/E: condemned; unleashed sin / evil – needed a Savior; foretold to Eve

Sin à Eternal inescapable condemnation for mankind – only Christ can redeem us.

Prophecy of the Seed – follows through Seth, Noah, Abraham, Judah, David, Mary, Jo

- Gen 2 – the perfect sinless marriage in perfect environment & daily intimacy with God
- Gen 3 – satan's first intervention attacking God – influenced the sin of eating the fruit à loss of +R, condemnation, sinful nature, loss of garden, sin inside their marriage, curses
- Gen 3:15 – seed of the woman – promise of the Savior through virgin birth
- **Seed of the woman – zera** - seed (sing) The 1st prophecy of the savior and the virgin birth. The Messiah's work was taught by animal sacrifice – Gen 3:21 à Cross of Christ
- Gen.4:25 – Seth – replaced Abel; Gen.9:9 – Noah – seed – **zera** – (plural); Gen 11 Shem; Gen.12:7 – Abraham – **zera** – (sing) – land promise; Gen.17:7 – Abraham – **zera** – (sing) – eternal covenant;

Isaac à Jacob à 12 tribes à Judah; 2Sam 7:12-13 – David – **zera** – (sing) - eternal kingdom; Gal 3:16-29 Paul confirms the seed promise to Abraham – includes us

- Abel à Seth (Enoch, Methuselah, Noah) à Shem à Abraham à Isaac à Jacob à 12 tribes of Israel à Judah à David à Solomon/Nathan à Mary & Joseph à Jesus
- Eternity Past -----Birth of Jesus: Angelic creation, fall, judgment, sentencing of angels (Elect & Fallen); Man created, fall & promise of redemption à 2-3,000 years of human history following the lineage of the seed of the woman, waiting on the Redeemer to be born, die & be resurrected to redeem us from judgment of sin.

3. The drama was intensified by the monstrous acts of evil angels seeking to stop the birth & the work of Messiah – God overcomes their efforts every time.

(Dan 10): Dan fasting / praying; Angel appears to him; Vs 13 detained by Prince/Persia – demon, Michael; Vs 20-21 – return to fight with Prince / Persia, Prince / Greece; Michael

- Dramatic angelic war; powerful, violent, prehistoric creatures at war; elect & fallen satan & fallen angels are at war with the elect angels & the people of God; Dan (Gen 3) satan / serpent deceive Eve - convince A/E to eat – God provided curses & seed promise (Gen 4; 1Jn 3:12) – satan convinced Cain to slay Abel who was the seed line – God provided Seth
- When A/E realized that 1 son killed the other, the heartache must have been unbearable
- A/E sin à sin nature à Cain murders Abel à they were to blame à please send Savior!! (Gen 6) Angels marry with the daughters of man – corrupt the human race – God provided flood (Gen 11) Babel – Religion & Internationalism – God confused languages & separated them
- Evidence of satan’s false religion – ziggurat abandoned; One world still on the table (Judges) satan leads the nation Of Israel astray to worship him through false gods (Job 1-2) satan challenges God on blessing Job – states his own argument against God (1Chr 21) satan attacks Israel by deceiving King David – attack divine agency (Mt 2:16) satan motivates Herod to kill baby Jesus – monstrous act of killing all male children

The details of angelic history are sparse; The details of God’s promise to redeem mankind from the horrors of sin/evil & the monstrous evil of satan/condemned angels is the real drama of life. I can hear the gut level wailing of A/E when Abel’s murder drove home the significance of what they had done and what they had unleashed on all of their own children. Every male child Eve birthed caused her to look to heave and ask, “Is this the One, Oh God, please send Him soon!”

(Rom 7:24-25) What a wretched man I am, who will rescue me? Thanks be to God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

4. All of angelic & human creation was waiting, looking & hoping for this event.

(Ezek 28:11-19) God’s perfect angelic creation, free to choose, rebelled against Him loosing the fury of sin/evil. Angelic sin/evil introduced into human creation condemning humanity & causing life in the devil’s world to be a desperate fight for survival rather than perfect life in the garden. Everything depended upon the Savior’s coming, His sinless life, His sacrificial death and His resurrection from the dead. When the fullness of time finally arrived, the whole universe rejoiced.

(Lk 2:8-14) Temple shepherds tending sacrificial sheep out in the fields were suddenly visited by an elect angel who announced the birth of the Messiah & gave directions to His location. Then suddenly a band of angelic soldiers (**stratia**) appeared praising God for the birth of the Savior bringing peace to those who believe in Him. Elect angelic warriors who had been fighting the forces of evil for thousands of years, celebrate the birth of the Savior.

(Mat 2:2-10) God places a miracle star in the heavens to announce His birth and to guide the Magi to His location so that they could come & worship Him & bring Him precious gifts that would be divine provision for the coming attacks of the forces of evil.

As all of creation awaited His first arrival via His birth, so we now anxiously await His second arrival, which will begin with the rapture of the church. Rev 22:20 Come Lord Jesus, Come!

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