

The Story: Chapter 22

The Birth of the King

Colossians 1:15-20

¹⁵ He (**Jesus**) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

TIMELINE

Movement 2: The Story of Israel (Genesis 12 – Malachi)

God builds a brand new nation called Israel. Through this nation, He will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus – **the One Who will provide the way back to God.**

Movement 3: The Story of Jesus (Matthew – John)

Jesus left the Upper Story to come down into our Lower Story to be with us and to provide the way for us to be made right with God. Through faith in Christ's work on the cross, we can now overturn Adam's choice and have a personal relationship with God.

John 1:14

¹⁴ **The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.**

This has to be our focal passage of the day.

But I do want to connect this through The Story.

- We need to understand that the entire Old Testament was leading to this day.

When Adam and Eve sinned, it sparked the process of God working His plan to get His people back.

- He promised Abraham that, through his family, there would come a blessing for all nations.
- All through history God kept His promise to take care of the Israelite people.

Look at the family line of...

How we got here:

Matthew 1:1-17

1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac,
Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, (the 12 tribes of Israel)

3 Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,
Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

4 Ram the father of Amminadab,
Amminadab the father of Nahshon,
Nahshon the father of Salmon,

5 Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, (the prostitute)
Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,
Obed the father of Jesse,

6 and Jesse the father of King David. (They youngest boy left out in the fields)

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,
(Bathsheba, the one David took as his own and killed her husband)

7 Solomon the father of Rehoboam,
Rehoboam the father of Abijah,
Abijah the father of Asa,

8 Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,
Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,
Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

9 Uzziah the father of Jotham,
Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

10 Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,
Manasseh the father of Amon,
Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹ and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon. (when God was continuing to keep His promise)

¹² After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³ Zerubbabel the father of Abiud,

Abiud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴ Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Eliud,

¹⁵ Eliud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶ and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

¹⁷ Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Christ.

Served as proof of Jesus' lineage from the royal line of Israel.

Prophecies Confirmed:

Then, when Jesus is born, we see all of the prophecies of the Old Testament being fulfilled.

- In how and where He was born,
- How King Herod tried to find Him and have Him killed
- Where they moved to because King Herod was trying to kill Jesus, so that Jesus would be "from Nazareth".

Over and over again we see that Jesus is the confirmation of all the promises of the Old Testament.

So, let's be clear: The Law of Moses was never sufficient to get us to God.

- One of the purposes of the Law was actually to show us that man could not get to God on our own.
- We would require help!!!

Which leads us back to...

John 1:14

¹⁴The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

Matthew 1:23

²³“The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.”

This statement: **God with Us** is the key to the whole Story!

The first movement was in the Garden when we lost connection with the Father.

- Then, the entire nation of Israel was God showing us how He was going to get BACK with us.
- And then He sends Jesus and GOD IS WITH US!!!!

Jesus actually left heaven, the Upper Story, and came down to this earth to live with His creation.

This is what that looks like...

Philippians 2:6-8

God, in the form of Jesus the Son, came to earth to be with us!

Old Testament Struggle: How do we hear from God?

- Who gets to hear from God?
- What do we have to build for God to speak to us?

New Testament:

Jesus Christ is the **Word of God** in human form

John 1:1-3

1 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.

God has given us His Word in human form that could walk among His creation.

- So that we can know Him in a personal way.

NOW, Jesus has put the Holy Spirit in us so that we can connect with our Father anytime anywhere.

- But that has to be a message for later in The Story.

Now, here's what that means for us today:

1. Jesus was the Plan.

He was the plan the WHOLE time.

What did we see in the nation of Israel? The presence, the power, and the plan to get us back.

- The story of Israel was always pointing toward Jesus as the answer.

Hebrews 10:1-7

10 The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming—not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. ² If it could, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. ³ But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins, ⁴ because it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

⁵ Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; ⁶ with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. ⁷ Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll— I have come to do your will, O God.

Hebrews 10:11-12

¹¹ Day after day every priest stands and performs his religious duties; again and again he offers the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. ¹² But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God.

Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for all sin for all time.

- His blood was required for their salvation.

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2. Jesus brought the Freedom.

Matthew 5:17

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

He didn't tell them that the law was no longer in place. He just told them He had fulfilled it.

- Which means none of them owed anything to the law anymore.

No more sacrifices for their sin.

No more going to the Priest and hoping he had a word from the Lord for them.

No more being rejected as “unclean” because of a sin in their lives.

3. Jesus offered the Grace.

John 1:14

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

These people had never experienced this type of grace before.

The woman at the well had never met a man that offered her such grace. The woman caught in adultery didn't even know grace existed until she met Jesus face to face.

4. Jesus provided the Presence

Again: Immanuel – God With us

God had been working the plan from the Garden to get His people back into His presence.

- Jesus was the answer to that disconnection.

They could now have a personal relationship with a God that they had only heard about for centuries.

For us Today:

Jesus is **STILL the Plan.**

John 14:6

⁶ Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Romans 10:9-10

⁹ That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Our world would love to tell us that there are many other plans that will get us where we want to be.

- All kinds of ways to get to Heaven.
- Plenty of things you can purchase that will bring you joy.
- Lots of manmade laws that you can follow if you want to really be justified and made righteous.

Many of us are still chasing some of those things.

Here's the Truth: Nothing will ever satisfy that desire other than Jesus Christ.

Jesus **Still brings the Freedom.**

Galatians 5:1

5 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

One of our struggles is still that we don't understand real freedom.

- We ask Jesus to save us and then continue to try to live in slavery to sin and junk in our lives.

We are no longer slaves to sin...

Let us throw off the stuff that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles and run the race...

Jesus **Still** offers the Grace.

Ephesians 1:7-8

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸that he lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.

Paul tells us in Ephesians that it is by this grace that we are even saved at all.

The grace is one area that many of us struggle. We just don't understand how God can have that much grace for us.

- We definitely know we don't have that much grace for other people.

When we do actually grab hold of what His grace really means to us, it changes us for good, forever.

We get to LIVE in the Presence of God

Because of what Jesus did on the cross,

Because Jesus blessed us with Holy Spirit living inside of us,

From Genesis 3:8 where they heard the sound of the Lord walking among them in the Garden to Revelation 21 where we see a New Heaven and a New Earth where we read "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man" ...

All of it has been and will continue to be about us being in the Presence of God!!