

## Super Hero Christmas 2025

Raise your hand if you like super hero stories. Who likes super heroes? Call out a favorite... I've liked Captain America for a while now, he seems like he's always trying to do the right thing. But my favorite of all time is actually mentioned in the book of Revelation, chapter 19. As many of you know, we've been studying the book of Revelation on Sunday mornings, and we haven't reached the best part yet, which is chapter 19, that talks about a super hero coming from the skies to save people and wipe out all the bad guys. Can I read to you how Revelation 19 describes this super hero? Here it is... **(Rev. 19:11-16)**

What super hero is this describing? (Super hero King Jesus!) Now, every good super hero story typically includes what we call the super hero's *origin* story. Origin is a word meaning the beginning, it's the point of time in which something out of the ordinary happens that explains how a super hero becomes a super hero. What is spider man's origin story? Someone tell me real briefly... (When he was a teenager, a special spider bit him and gave him the spidey powers) Captain America's origin story is that he was a tiny skinny guy in the army, and he was chosen to receive the super serum, that grew him turned him into a mighty warrior. And often these origin stories also describe all the bad things that were happening in the world, that describe why a super hero was really needed. Crime was getting out of hand in Gotham City- they needed the Bat Man, right? Evil armies were trying to take over the world, Captain America was born to defeat them. Aliens invading, the Avengers to the rescue.

Super hero King Jesus has an origin story too. The Bible tells his story in great detail. And the Bible also talks a lot about the history of what has gone wrong in the world that describes why we so much need a super hero. In fact, I'm going to super simplify the story of the Bible, in terms of a super hero story. Basically the Bible is a 3-part super hero story, but unlike the other super heroes I have mentioned, the story the Bible tells is 100% true. The beginning of the Bible story tells us about the reason a super hero is needed, the middle tells us about the super hero's birth into this world, and the end tells us about the heroic, rescuing, super things the super hero does. The Bible is the basic plot story of pretty much every super hero story. They all begin with bad things going on in the world, the coming into existence of the super hero, and then the super hero mightily defeating the bad guys and rescuing the good guys in the end.

There's an English word we have translated from Hebrew that means the same thing as the word origin, and it's the word *Genesis*. The book of Genesis in the Bible is where we learn what went wrong in the world, which later leads us into the origin story of King Jesus. And tonight I'm going to briefly share with you the story of super hero King Jesus, including His origin story.

In the beginning of the story in Genesis, we read that God, using His words alone, spoke into existence everything that we see in this world- day and night; water, sky and land; plants and trees; sun, moon and stars; fish, birds, and all the animals. And then God formed man in His own image and breathed His life into Him, and then taking a rib out of man he formed woman. And God loved His created beings, and wanted man and woman to truly love him as well; so when he formed them He allowed them to have the freedom of choice. He didn't program them as robots to automatically love and obey their Creator- no, they would have to make those choices on their own.

So, Adam and Eve, for a time period, enjoyed a close friendship with their creator God, living in the tropical paradise of the Garden of Eden. God gave them one command to obey- He told them they could eat from any tree in the garden, except from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil- from this *one* tree they were *not* allowed to eat of its fruit. We all know what happened, Adam and Eve disobeyed God by eating of the forbidden fruit. And in that one act of disobedience, they immediately lost their innocence, their close relationship with God, their home in the garden of Eden, their peace, and their eternal state of life. They had broken the trust of their perfect Creator and were cursed as a result. It was in this moment that the world began needing a super hero. (I need a hero...) As the human race multiplied, so did the wickedness and rebellion against God. The world quickly became dangerous and unsafe to live in, and the problem was that most didn't even realize that a super hero was needed.

But God began preparing the world to be able to recognize that things weren't right. He gave Moses and the people the 10 commandments and other instructions that would help them see that there was a better, safer way to live. And God gave the people several leaders throughout time who showed the importance and reward of doing what's right, and who also showed that there's consequences for doing what's wrong. There were several *heroes* that God gave the people- heroes like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Ester, but none of them

were like *super* hero status. They were all just heroes that were pointing to the *ultimate* super hero that would be sent by God, who would one day come to save the day once and for all.

God began describing in more detail about this ultimate super hero that was coming. He did this through people called *prophets*. These prophets talked about how God was soon going to send the ultimate super hero, and that people needed to get right with God so that the ultimate super hero could save them, rather than fight against them. The prophets were basically telling the people to choose what side they were going to be on. Would they align themselves with the bad guys, or would they align themselves with the good guys who were trying to listen to and follow God? Now the reality is, is that all the people on the earth during this time, as well as all the people on the earth right *now*- even you and I- without super hero King Jesus, we are all seen by God as the bad guys. We all do bad things, we all make mistakes, we all mess things up. And we only become the “good guys” by saying to God, “God, please forgive me for the wrong things I do, I want to be on Your side and do my best to follow You in doing the good guy type things that You do.” And we will still make mistakes even after deciding to be on God’s team, but if we continue in the attitude of humility, trust, repentance before God, God still sees us as being on His team, because of Jesus.

Listen to how God described the ultimate super hero through the prophet Isaiah, He said *the people who walk in darkness will see a great light; ...For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace.*” **(Isaiah 9:2a, 6-7a)** This super hero described by Isaiah would be *the* great and final rescuer, *the* eternal King that would come and break the Garden of Eden curse. This Messiah, Rescuer, Super Hero, would come and bring about God’s ultimate rescue plan.

Now, the majority of listeners during this time still went on with their day, ignoring this message and continuing to reject God. And God sent warnings to the people, telling them to repent, and that there would be consequences if they did not stop doing wrong things. But the people did not listen to the warnings, and God sent the consequences He had warned them of.

But, there were a few people who waited and waited, even through the really difficult times, even through the times when it seemed like the bad guys were winning- these few still trusted God and followed Him, knowing that one day God would rescue them, bringing them the Messiah Rescuer ultimate Super Hero that would restore the hope, peace, and joy that Adam and Eve experienced with God before disobedience entered the world.

One night, just outside the village of Bethlehem, an angel of the Lord appeared suddenly to some shepherds. They were scared, but the angel said *Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior* [and that word Savior basically means super-hero rescuer], *who is Christ the Lord.*” **(Luke 2:10-12)**

Immediately after the angel announced the good news of joy to the world, many more angels appeared in the sky saying *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among people with whom He is pleased.*” **(Luke 2:14)**

The shepherds left immediately to go and see this newborn super hero savior King. And they found that everything was just as the angel had announced. In worshipful awe they stood face to face with this Savior, Messiah, the great Rescuer- Jesus. They weren't the only ones, sometime later wise astrologers from the far east came to worship this Super Hero who was sent to rescue the world. They bowed before Him and worshipped Him, offering gifts to Him, the Eternal King- worthy of adoration and glory.

As Jesus grew into a man, He began announcing in even fuller detail God's rescue plan. He told His followers that they would see Him rule as the eternal King in a Kingdom of justice, happiness, and peace- a place much like the garden of Eden was originally intended to be. Jesus invited everyone to stop rejecting God- to turn away from their sin of rebellion and disobedience, to stop being on the bad guys' side- and instead turn to God for His forgiveness, join His team, and God would then provide for them the ultimate rescue. As Jesus told the people these things, He showed them His super hero powers- he did impossible miracles- giving sight to the blind, transforming people's bodies to walk who couldn't previously walk, fixing people's ears who couldn't hear, healing the diseased, multiplying food when there was barely any, even bringing back to life the dead. And not only did all these miracles prove His ability as a super hero

to rescue, but all these miracles foreshadowed the life that was to be in the coming Kingdom for the people who were on God's team. And Jesus was very clear that He alone was the only way to gain entrance into that Kingdom. He alone was the super hero rescuer, and rescue attempts by any person or process would fail. Jesus said that He is the way, the truth, the life; and that no one could come to the Father God, except through Him. **(John 14:6)** And because of the things Jesus did and said, people began to realize that this Jesus super hero, was actually God Himself, disguised in a human body.

But there were lots of people that *didn't* like this idea of Jesus being a super hero nor did they like the idea of Jesus being God. And so they began to think of ways they could get rid of Him. These people accused Jesus of doing wrong things, but Jesus was completely innocent. But they were able to convince the leaders of that time to do a public execution of Jesus. They killed Him in front of everyone, hanging Him on a cross, having him suffocate and bleed out. And the people who loved Him and followed Him didn't understand at the time- they were really surprised knowing that Jesus with His super hero powers could have easily defeated the people trying to harm Him, but he didn't use His powers- He willingly sacrificed Himself, letting them kill Him.

For 3 days, the people following God were really sad while the enemies of God rejoiced. But on the 3rd day, in typical super hero fashion, Jesus came back to life. I imagine there being a great sonic BOOM that blew open the door to the cave where they had buried Him, and He then began showing Himself to His followers. And it seemed to them that His powers had even increased, something was different about Him- He was now appearing and disappearing before people's eyes, moving through walls and closed doors, and then re-appearing miles away. And for over a month Jesus proved He was alive and was encouraging His followers by teaching them more about His coming Kingdom. And then one day, after He said to tell everyone else in the world about Him, He started rising up into the sky, flying up into the Heavens. And then angels appeared and said that Jesus would one day return again, coming from the sky.

And that is exactly what Revelation 19 describes to us, that I read to you earlier. Jesus will appear in the sky, coming to the rescue, riding a white horse, with flaming eyes of fire, wearing many crowns, clothed with a robe (kind of like a

super hero cape) dipped in blood, a sword coming out of His mouth- defeating all His enemies.

This is the true super hero story of Christmas, this is the story of the Bible, this is *the* most important story you will ever hear. Santa Claus is cool, but he's not the true super hero- *Jesus* is. And each of us have the freedom to choose how we will respond to super hero King Jesus. Are you on His side, or are you joining forces with the bad guys? Jesus wants you to be on His side, but He has given us each the choice to either receive His rescue, or reject His rescue. If you are here tonight and have questions about Jesus' rescue as it applies to your life, please come see me after the service and let's explore those questions together. May we all revere Jesus as the ultimate, super hero that He is, and receive His rescue gift of forgiveness, grace, protection, eternal life- with hearts of gratitude. And it is my prayer that you will awaken more and more to the awe and marvelousness of the true meaning of the true super hero story written in the Bible. As you leave here tonight, may this story remain fresh in your mind and may you joyfully share it with others. Good night and merry Christmas to each of you!