



The Greatest Story Ever Told
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In this Christmas message we try to communicate what it must have been for the God-Head to make the Incarnation happen. What was it like for an Infinite God to be clothed with feeble humanity (John 1:1-4,14), for omnipotence to be clothed with frailty, for a totally holy God to step into a cesspool of sin and depravation, for the God who is all Light to step into a world full of darkness? We try to capture the emotion of pain, agony and humiliation on one side (Philippians 2:5-9), and yet describe the overwhelming compulsion of LOVE and PURPOSE (2 Corinthians 8:9).

LOVE for a people He had made, though lost in rebellion and sin. *"In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins."* (1 John 4:9,10).

The eternal PURPOSE to have a people redeemed by His own sacrifice who would have access to Him and come willingly to worship Him. *"according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him"*. (Ephesians 3:11,12)

We wish to leave a powerful impression on the audience that the incarnation and redemption was no small token of God's love, neither was it a meager act of sacrifice. God laid it ALL down for us. And He then invites us to respond.

The fact remains that though many hear of the Incarnation, only a few will respond. *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him"*. (John 1:11)

But to those who do, a powerful promise is given and an exciting journey awaits. *"But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:"* (John 1:12)

The story of redemption is the greatest story ever told.

In Human Terms

What is the closest we can get in human terms, to understanding the emotion, sacrifice, love and purpose involved in the Incarnation?

- a. Billy Graham used said something like this : For God to become man, a comparable concept would be if a human were to become an ant...

On An Infinitely Grander Scale (What must have happened in glory)

Share what must have transpired in the realms of glory – when the God-Head conceived the idea of creating man, the foreknowledge that man would sin, and the earth would be taken over by Lucifer, filled with sin, sickness and death. And then, the redemption of man would only be possible by the Second Person of the God-Head stepping into this fallen world, and yet the God-



Head determined to go ahead with the creation of man, knowing fully well what was to happen. (1 Peter 1:20, Revelation 13:8, Revelation 17:8)

Let me take you to the genealogy of Jesus as i continue to unfold this Greatest story that was ever told.

There are some strange Characters in the genealogy of Jesus Christ.

You may ask this question, "Why in the world did Matthew draw our attention to these Characters?"

Because they are part of the story. Because they are the point of the story.

Matthew through the Gospel is presenting to the readers, the fact that God has invited us into a relationship with Him not based on what we have done, but based on what He has done.

This is difficult for many of us to embrace.

Matthew draws our attention to some of these Characters, to let us know that just like us, some of these characters needed the grace, mercy and forgiveness of God.

Matthew points out the faults of the person that Jesus Christ is most closely associated with in His genealogy.

Everybody knows the name of this person. Everybody knows his story.

When Matthew gets to the name of this person in the genealogy, He slams on the brakes and instead of pointing out some of the great things that this person has done, he points out the dismal failure of this person.

He in fact once told a lie and because of his lie 82/85 priests were killed. This is the guy who cheated on his wife. This is the guy who so destroyed the lives of his children that they went to war with him. They are so many embarrassing moments in his life. And yet this is the man that is most closely associated with Jesus.

Let's read Matt 1:1-6

Jesus was the great, great, great, great, great, great, great, grandson of David. This is the person that Jesus was most closely associated with.

But see how Matthew positions David in the genealogy.

When he gets to David, he says To David was born solomon by her who had been the wife of Uriah.

Why does Matthew do this? The greatest failure in David's life that he wouldn't want exposed so blatantly.

Because that is the point of the story Matthew is about to tell in his gospel.



Matthew is drawing our attention to David's life to point out the fact that this person who was most closely associated with Jesus Christ was also a sinner, a failure in every sense of the word. As a leader, as a friend, as a father and as a husband.

The story of David takes place 1000 years before the birth of Jesus.
Let's go to 1 Samuel 16: 1ff - 12

The first mention of Bethlehem is not at the birth of Jesus. It is mentioned 1000 years before the birth of Jesus. It happened to be the place where Jesse and his 8 sons lived.
Samuel goes to Jesse's home and asks him to bring all his sons into the room.

Jesse instead of calling all 8 of his sons, he calls 7 of them. Because his youngest son is taking care of his sheep...years after this event, David has become King of Israel, and one day he is in the palace, and he is thinking of building a temple for God

Come with me to 2 Samuel 7: 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12-16. [V. 8]

3000 years ago, 1000 years before the birth of Jesus, Nathan tells David that God will make David's name great.
How many of you already knew about King David?
This prophecy predicted 3000 years ago is fulfilled.

2 Samuel 7:15, 16 - Key Verses. An Unconditional promise to King David. "Your home, your lineage, your throne will be established forever."

4 chapters later David tests the patience of God in ways unimaginable.
The story of David and Bathsheba in 2 Samuel 11 David walks on his roof sees a woman bathing, and calls his men and enquires about her and he tells her that her name is Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah the Hittite...

2 Samuel 11:27c

In spite of all this God does not withdraw the promise He made to David. It was an unconditional promise.

990 years after this incident a man named Joseph married a woman called Mary.
They make their way to a city called Bethlehem, which by the 1st century time was known as the city of David. There Mary gives birth to the great, great,great grandson of King David. Because God keeps His promise.

See if you were Matthew and you were a tax collector, and you know what it means to be forgiven of sin and you are writing the greatest story ever told. A story that all people can come to God based on what He has done and not based on what they have done. Even the most heinous sin cannot make God go back on His promise. He is a God who will never fail His Promise. Matthew was about to tell the story of the God making a new promise. A promise that was different than the promise he had made to David. A promise that was not just to an individual, but to all people. A promise that would be sealed in blood. Not the blood of both parties, but sealed by the blood of only one party, i.e. God Himself. Because this was an unconditional promise.



Because When Jesus Christ died on the Cross, it was an establishment of a new covenant between God and all of mankind.

As Matthew begins to tell us the Greatest story, how could he not stop and emphasize the sin of the man who would be the most revered Jewish man, a man most associated with

Jesus. David needed the grace, mercy and forgiveness of God.

Just as God kept His promise to David, God would keep His promise to all men when He sent His Son to die.

So Matthew as he begins to tell us the Greatest story gives us the perfect illustration to the story.

The angel says it better. In Luke 2: 10 READ..."I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people for today in the city of David there has been born a Saviour who is Christ the Lord.

God did not break His promise to David, the unfaithful man, the man who abused power for personal gain, the man who wrecked his family, the man who put Uriah to death.

In the city of David a Savior has been born
Luke 2:14 KEY VERSE.

God promised all people peace.

The only way for all people to have peace with God, is for God to remove the obstacle to your peace. The obstacle to your peace is sin.

All of us have sinned. Let's stop negotiate with God over our sin. The only way to have peace with God is when we allow Jesus to take away our sin from us.

Don't tell me how bad you are. I'll tell you the story of David all over again with all the details.

Even Christians, the only way to have peace with God is by stopping negotiations with God over their sin and allowing Jesus Christ who came to take away sin once for all to take away your sin. No one can come to God based on what they have done. All people can come to God based on what Jesus has done for you.

Just as the promise to David was unconditional, the promise to you and me is unconditional.

You can have peace with God in spite of you.

Decision time folks.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>