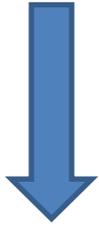


# Preparation for Bible Class

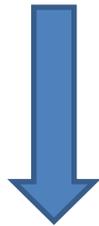
CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT OUR CHOICES W/GRACE OF GOD



## Eternal Choice

### John 5:24

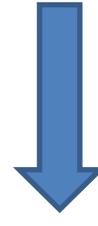
**John 5:24** "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed (μεταβέβηκεν) out of death into life.



## Daily Choice

### 1 John 1:6

If we say that we have fellowship with Him and *yet* walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth



## Life's choice

### Eph 3:19-20

that you may be filled up to all the fulness of God. <sup>20</sup> Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,

## The Seed of the Woman and Christmas

**F**or to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government  
will be upon his shoulder,  
and his name will be  
called "Wonderful  
Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father,  
Prince of Peace."

*Isaiah 9:6*

# Christmas is about the fulfillment of God's Promised Messiah, Gen 3:15.

1. **The Protoevangelium---the “first gospel.”** The glorious promise that the Messiah (the seed of the woman) will emerge as Victorious Redeemer over Satan. This promise reverberates throughout every page of Scripture and underlies the development of human history (God, the angelic conflict, Messiah, Satan, believers, unbelievers). Note the conflict:
  - ✓ **Genesis 3:15** And I [God] will put enmity Between you [Satan] and the woman [Eve, women, Mary], And between your seed [unbelievers] and her seed [Messiah]; He [Messiah] shall bruise you [Satan] on the head, And you [Satan] shall bruise him on the heel.“
    - Angelic warfare between God and Satan which will be resolved thorough the virgin born divine Messiah.
    - Throughout all of OT history we can see Satan's attempts to prevent this Seed from coming on the scene (Abel, Pharoah).
    - God reiterated this promise throughout the OT (Abraham-David, the psalms and the prophets).

## **2. Eve assumed that her first born was the Lord-Messiah,**

- ✓ **Genesis 4:1** Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, "I have gotten a man---the LORD." ( אִישׁ אֶת־יְהוָה )

## **3. God promises deliverance but does not yet reveal how this will take place. Questions as to who, where, when, and how will be unfold throughout Old Testament history.**

## **4. This Messianic Hope was revealed gradually through the Word of God. A supernatural Deliverer who would defeat Satan and set up a New Kingdom. He would set up universal reign. A word about the critical importance of historical context as well as prophecies of the Messiah.**

## 5. The Messiah is the theme of OT history.

- ✓ Luke 24:27, And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.
- ✓ Mat 1:22 Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, <sup>23</sup> "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which translated means, "God with us."
- ✓ Sanh. 99a, *"all the prophets prophesied not but of the days of the Messiah."*
- ✓ Sanh. 98b, *"the world was not created but only for the Messiah."*

- ✓ **Abrahamic promise – Seed of Abraham:** Messiah will be a blessing to the world; will come from the Jews; and God will provide Himself as the sacrifice, Gen 12:2; 22:5-14; 27; Gal 3:16.
  - **Genesis 22:17** indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their enemies.
  - **Galatians 3:16** Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as *referring* to many, but *rather* to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. (Gal 3:16)
  
- ✓ **The Noahic promise – Yahweh will be God of the Semites:**
  - **Genesis 9:26-27**, He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, The God of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant. "May God enlarge Japheth, And let Him [God] dwell in the tents of Shem; And let Canaan be his servant."

- ✓ **The Judaic Prediction- the Seed of Judah:** He will come from the tribe of Judah; will be King; and must come before 70 A.D., Gen 49:8-12.
- ✓ **The Balaam Prediction:** A conquering ruler of Israel, Num 24:15-19.
- ✓ **The Mosaic Prediction:** Messiah would be like a prophet like Moses (prophet, redeemer, mediator, intercessor, miracle worker) , Dt 18:15, 18 with Jn 6:14; 1:21, 25, 45.
- ✓ **The Messiah in Job: mediator, witness in heaven, kinsman-redeemer, and interpreter,** Job 9:33; 16:19-21; 19:23-27; 33:23-28.
- ✓ **Hannah's understanding of the Messiah: a King who would bring judgment to the ends of the earth, 1 Sam 2:10.**

- ✓ **Messiah prediction in the time of Eli:**
  - **1 Samuel 2:35** 'But I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who will do according to what is in My heart and in My soul; and I will build him an enduring house, and he will walk before My anointed always.
  
- ✓ **The Davidic Predictions:** Messiah will come from David's flesh and seed; He will be God's natural Son; He will have a kingdom, rule, and reign that will never end, 2 Sam 7:13-16; Psa 89; 132; Lk 1:32-33.
  - **Luke 1:32** "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; <sup>33</sup> and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and His kingdom will have no end."

- ✓ **Messiah in the Psalms:** rejection of the Messiah (118), betrayal of the Messiah (69, 109), death and resurrection of the Messiah (22; 16), the marriage of the Messiah (40; 45); the triumph of the Messiah (68; 72), the enthroned Messiah (110; 2).
  - ✓ **Psalms 45:6** Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. <sup>7</sup> Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; Therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee With the oil of joy above Thy fellows. [human descendent of God is called Elohim. Prophetic words spoken over the king looking forward to the Messiah.
  - ✓ **Psa 22.** 1 My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? *why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?* 27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

- ✓ **Messiah in the 9<sup>th</sup> century Prophets:** a Teacher (Joel 2:23); Second David, (Hosea 3:4-5); House of David (Amos 9:11-15); The Breaker (Micah 2:12-13); Coming Ruler (Micah 5:1-4).
  
- ✓ **Messiah in Isaiah:** King (Isa 4:2); Virgin Born (7:1-16); Wonderful Ruling Son (9:1-7); will come in the power of the Holy Spirit (11:1-16); will triumph over all (24:21-25); the Foundation Stone (28:16); the Teacher (30:19-26); will have an extraordinary ministry (42:1-7); will have a mission to the whole world (Isa 49:1-6); will suffer (50:4-9); will atone for all sins (52:13-53:12); will bring grace gifts (55:3-5); will bring good news (61:1-3); will conquer (63:1-6).
  - **Isaiah 9:6** 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, Father of Forever, Prince of Peace

- ✓ **The Messiah in Jeremiah:** He is called “the Lord our righteousness” (23:5-6); He is a priestly king (30:9, 21).
- ✓ **The Messiah in Ezekiel:** a tender sprig (17:22-24); rightful King (21:25-27); Good Shepherd (34:23-31); Unifier of the Nation (37:15-28).
- ✓ **The Messiah in Daniel:** Son of Man (7:13-14); Anointed Ruler (9:24-27);
  - **Daniel 9:24** "Seventy weeks [490 years] have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy *place*.<sup>25</sup> "So you are to know and discern *that* from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince *there will be* seven weeks (49) and sixty-two (434) weeks (49+434=483); it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.<sup>26</sup> "Then after the sixty-two weeks [+ 7 = 483 years, 173,880 days = 445 BC to March AD 33] the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. . . .

- ✓ **The Messiah in Haggai:** *“the desire of all nations shall come”* (Hag 2:6-9); *“like a signet ring, for I have chosen you,”* declares the LORD of hosts (2:21-23).
  
- ✓ **The Messiah in Zechariah:** Messiah’s work as High Priest (3:8-10); King-Priest Ruler over all nations (6:9-15); King (9:9-10); Cornerstone (10:4); the rejected Good Shepherd (11:4-14); the Pierced One (12:10); Smitten Companion of the Lord (13:7).
  
- ✓ **The Messiah in Malachi:** Messenger of the Covenant (3:1); the Sun of Righteousness (Mal 4:2)
  - **Malachi 3:1** "Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the LORD of hosts.

6. **Christ is the Greek equivalent of Mesiach/Messiah.** The first time He comes in grace, the second time it is to judge the world.
7. **Jesus Christ is the most influential Jew and rabbi who ever lived.** Through Jesus Christ more Gentiles have come to know and worship the Jewish God than through any other individual.
8. **Through Jesus Christ, gentiles have come to know the God of the Jews and have taken the OT Scriptures as their own.** Hundreds of millions of people around the world have come to worship the God of Israel through this Jew more than any other person---this is significant!
9. **We have the fulfillment of the Seed that would bless the whole world only in Jesus Christ.** It was the calling of the Jewish people not only to live a separated life, but also to be a light to the nations. The fact that Jesus is accepted by the nations points to Him being the Messiah. Part of Israel's destiny is that through the Messiah there would be universal blessing throughout the world.

- 10. Only JC makes it possible to fulfill the law, Mt 5:17-18.** He was the last great prophet of Israel. He also prophesied the destruction of the Temple which occurred one generation after His death and resurrection. It has remained destroyed since then. He pointed to a way of fulfillment of the Law without a temple, and without a sacrificial system. He fulfills all that Torah says about sacrifice, priesthood, and everything that has to do with our approach to God. How man can deal with the sin that is found in Him?
  
- 11. The Messiah in the OT was to be a priestly king, Zech 6:13.** Messiah would be king and priest to intercede by taking on their sins. That is what Jesus did. His death on the Cross provided the ultimate intercession. We are also told that the Messiah would come on a donkey and on the clouds. He is the only viable candidate.

- 12. The Messiah would be offered as a guilt offering, Isa 53:10 .** This points to His vicarious death and God's marvelous matchless grace.
  
- 13. Jesus is either the Messiah of everyone or the Messiah of no one.**  
Traditional Judaism rejects that the Messiah will be born of a virgin as a sign of His divine nature, also that He died on the cross, was raised from the dead, seated at the right hand of the father, that He will come and establish His kingdom in Jerusalem. Yet the original Jewish movement was Jewish. It is not one of those things where we can say you have your view and I have mine about Him.
  
- 14. The Hebrew Scriptures tell us that the Jews would reject the Messiah, Isa 53.** Furthermore, God says the Jews are more hardheaded than the gentiles, Ezek. 2-3. Why exiled for so long? Why no Temple? Consider the track record of Israel throughout the OT. However, no place for anti-Semitism. One day they will look upon Him whom they pierced.

**15. Christmas is about God's faithfulness in working out redemptive history sovereignly and faithfully according to his Word, Luke 2:1-3.**

- **Luke 2:1-3** Now it came about in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. <sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> And all were proceeding to register for the census, everyone to his own city.

## 16. The ugly politics of kosmos diabolicus at the first Christmas, Lk 2:4-7

**Luke 2:4** And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, <sup>5</sup> in order to register, along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. <sup>6</sup> And it came about that while they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn (καταλύματι).

- ✓ No room for God in the lives of the majority of people.
- ✓ Bible predicted the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, Micah 5:1.

**17. Christmas is about the glorious Son of God's first humble step into our world, Luke 2:7; Philip 2; Jn 1:1-14; Heb 10:5.**

- **Hebrews 10:5** Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "Sacrifice and offering Thou hast not desired, But a body Thou hast prepared for Me;
- **Luke 2:7** And she gave birth to her first-born son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.
- **Philippians 2:5** Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

## 18. The Christmas message is all about Jesus Christ and all of the great joy and blessedness that He brings, Luke 2:10-15.

- **Luke 2:10-15** And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. "And this *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased." <sup>15</sup> And it came about when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

**19. Christmas is about God's peace upon those with whom He is well please, Luke 2:14.**

- **Luke 2:14** "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

## **20. Three responses to the wonderful truths of Christmas, Lk 2:15-20.**

### **#1) Short-lived superficial wonderment by the masses, 18.**

**Luke 2:18** And all who heard it wondered (ἐθαύμασαν) at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

### **#2) Genuine spiritual enthusiasm, 20.**

**Luke 2:20** And the shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

### **#3) Reflection, Meditation, and OWC, Lk 2:19, 25-38.**

**Luke 2:19** But Mary treasured (συνετήρει) up all these things, pondering them in her heart (συμβάλλουσα ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ αὐτῆς).