

Studies in Christianity Christian Living #8

S#1.

The Theme of the Bible

S#2.

Text : **Isaiah 53: 1-12 ; Luke 1: 26-38**

A. In our last lesson we observed four of the reasons Christian read the bible. S#3.

1. The scriptures teach us about God.
2. The scriptures lead us to salvation.
3. The scriptures teach us how to please God.
4. The scriptures teach us what we need to know to build our relationship with God.

B. With this lesson it is our goal to observe the overarching theme that links these.
The redemption and reconciliation of sinful mankind to God. S#4.

I. The origin of man's isolation from God. S#5.

A. God created the world exactly as he would have to be. S#6.

1. God is pure, holy, and without fault.
Matt. 5: 48 – Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.
2. God is holy so he cannot be near that which is polluted in any way.
Isa. 6: 3 – And one (*seraphim*) called out to another and said,
“Holy, Holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts, The whole earth is full of His glory.”

B. Because the Lord God is pure and holy all that He created was good. S#7.

1. **Gen. 1: 10** – He called them seas; and God saw that it was good
2. **Gen. 1: 12** – The earth brought forth vegetation, plants yielding seed after their kind, and trees bearing fruit with seed in them, after their kind; and God saw that it was good.
3. At each step of creation (**Vss. 18, 21, 25**) God observed “that it was good.”
Gen. 1: 31 – God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.
And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

C. God took the best of the good things and planted a garden for himself. S#8.

1. Man was put in the garden to cultivate it and keep it.
 - a. **Gen. 2: 15** – Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
 - b. From the very beginning God has had a purpose for man on the earth.

2. God saw that it was not good for man to be alone, so he created woman.
 - a. **Gen. 2: 18** – Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him.
 - b. Man was created to work and woman was created to be his assistant.
3. Aside from general caretaker duties, the couple was given only TWO instructions.
 - a. **Gen. 1: 28** – God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, S#9. and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth."
 - b. **Gen. 2: 16** – The Lord God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

D. The garden was the place where God came to commune with His creation. S#10.

1. **Gen. 3: 8** – They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 Then the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"
 - a. For the first time, man was embarrassed to approach God.
 - b. Becoming wise in the ways of the world created feelings of guilt and shame.
 2. Their nakedness had not been sin because they were totally innocent in heart.
- * They wouldn't have blushed at an off-color joke; they wouldn't have understood it.*

II. Sin has horrible consequences.

S#11.

A. The sin of the first couple caused them to be expelled from the garden.

S#12.

1. They no longer had access to the tree of life so they began to die physically.
2. They no longer had access to the place where God met with men.

B. God did not stop loving them when they sinned.

1. God killed animals to use their skins for man's clothing. (*first deaths*)
2. He fired them as caretakers of the garden, but allowed them to live off of His land.

C. However, God would no longer allow them to come near to him.

1. God still loves man when He sins, *but He must be consistent with all his attributes.*
2. God is infinite in all His attributes.
 - a. Power
 - b. knowledge
 - c. Love and mercy
 - d. Justice

3. God does not allow evil near Him so He remains pure.

a. **I Cor. 15: 33** – Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals." **S#13.**

b. **Psa. 5: 4** – For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;
No evil dwells with You.

c. **Isa. 59: 1** – Behold, the Lord's hand is not so short that it cannot save;
Nor is His ear so dull that it cannot hear. **2** But your iniquities
have made a separation between you and your God, And your
sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.

D. All sin is a rejection of God. **S#14.**

1. **Num. 11: 20** ... Murmuring "Why did we ever leave Egypt?"

2. **I Sam. 8: 7** ... "They rejected Me from being King over them."

3. **Ezek. 20: 13** – But the house of Israel rebelled against Me in the wilderness.
They did not walk in My statutes and they rejected My ordinances,
by which, if a man observes them, he will live; and My sabbaths
they greatly profaned. Then I resolved to pour out My wrath on
them in the wilderness, to annihilate them. (cf – Vs.- **16**)

S#15.

III. God has continually worked toward returning man to fellowship with Him.

A. As the sovereign ruler, any such reunification must be on his terms. **S#16.**

B. The first mention of one coming to affect reunification was in Genesis 3. **S#17.**

Gen. 3: 15 – And I will put enmity between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel."

S#18.

C. The all-knowing God planned for the redemption of man before creating man.

I Pet. 1: 20 – For He was foreknown before the foundation of the world, but
has appeared in these last times for the sake of you **21** who
through Him are believers in God,

D. Many events in the O.T. point to the coming of the Messiah. **S#19.**

1. The universal flood ... sin will destroy the many, but God will rescue the few.

2. The call of Abram ... Separated ... Followed by faith ... sacrifice of son who lived

3. Call of Israel from Egypt ... God sends a deliverer to separate His people.

Those who follow over a long period are rewarded.

4. Israel strays and they are separated in exile ... a faithful few are rewarded/returned

5. Israel ... No matter how strong you are, a day of reckoning will come.

E. There are more than 700 references to the coming Messiah in the O.T. S#20.

1. **Deut. 18: 15-19** ... God will raise up a prophet like Moses.
2. **Malachi 4: 5-6** ... This prophet will have the spirit of Elijah (*preacher/miracles*)
3. **Dan. 7: 13-14** ... Messiah will be "the son of man."
4. **Isa. 7: 14 / Matt. 1: 23-25** ... Messiah will be born of a virgin (*specific in Matt.*)
5. **Micah 5: 2** ... Messiah born in Bethlehem
6. **Zech. 9: 9** ... Messiah will arrive mounted on a donkey's colt.
7. **Psa. 22: 7-8 / Isa. 53** ... The Messiah will be crucified.

S#21.**IV. This week the world remembers the fulfillment of these prophecies and more.****A. The angel Gabriel appeared to a young virgin in Nazareth of Galilee. S#22.**

Luke 1: 26 – Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

1. By custom she would have been 14 to 16 yrs old.
2. Here "virgin" is parthenos which is a specific term for one who has not yet had sex.
3. The Jewish betrothal is much more than and 'engagement' in our vernacular.

B. The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would "conceive" and "bear a son." S#23.

Luke 1: 31 – And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **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; **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

1. Jesus was the product of conception so He was indeed half man and half God.
2. Mary was promised that Jesus would rule as king forever, **i.e.**, be eternal.

C. An angel (probably not Gabriel) appeared to Joseph.

Matt. 1: 18 – Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother **S#24.** Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. **19** And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. **20** But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, " Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

1. Mary was “found to be with child” before Joseph took her as his wife.
2. “Her husband .. send her away” To break a betrothal (*usually 1 yr*) required a divorce
3. What would it take for your mate to be convinced of a miraculous pregnancy ?
4. Joseph was a righteous man chosen to be the step-father to God.

D. Because Mary was now Joseph’s wife, she accompanied him to enroll for taxes.

1. God used the government to get the couple in Bethlehem for the birth ... prophecy.
2. The King of Kings was born among the animals.
3. The bread of life was laid in a trough for feeding animals.
4. Joseph’s relatives were there, **but** the birth of this king might have gone unnoticed.

E. Angels announced His birth to the shepherds in the field.

Luke 2: 8 – In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. **9** And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. **10** But the angel said to them, " Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; **11** for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. **12** "This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." **13** And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

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

15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, 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."

1. It was not in the winter because the shepherds were in the field at night.
2. First one angel appeared and with him bright lights. (*no electricity = no bright light*)
3. Shepherds were low on the economic scale ... farm labor.

D. Theses shepherds were the first evangelists.

Luke 2: 16 – So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. **17** When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. **18** And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. **19** But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. **20** The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

1. Their response was one of acceptance and worship.
2. They could not wait to share what they had learned.
3. **WHAT IS YOUR RESPONSE ?**

S#28.

CONCLUSION :

A. This is the theme of the entire bible.

S#29.

1. How man became separated from God.
2. God sending a Savior to reconcile us to Himself.
3. Our response to that Savior ... surrender or rejection.

B. The realization that a Savior was born should be great joy.

S#30.

1. You were living under a death sentence ... **Rom. 6: 23**
2. The Prince of Heaven came to die in your stead.
3. Have you accepted the pardon that He died to purchase for you ?

S#31. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**Isaiah 53: 1-12**

1 Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? **2** For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty that we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him. **3** He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. **5** But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed. **6** All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

7 He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, and like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, so He did not open His mouth. **8** By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living for the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke was due?

9 His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death, because He had done no violence, nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

Luke 1: 26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. **28** And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." **29** But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. **30** The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. **31** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. **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; **33** and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end." **34** Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" **35** The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. **36** "And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month. **37** "For nothing will be impossible with God." **38** And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.