

UNDERSTANDING THE “ONE STORY” OF SCRIPTURE

Week 2 – Understanding Christmas! Pt. 1

October 19, 2025

How significant is Zacharias’ benediction which mentions creation, the Abrahamic Covenant, the OT prophets who have been since the world began, Zacharias’ time, Jesus’ birth, John’s ministry, Jesus’ ministry, the Millennial Kingdom which is the Kingdom of God (Matt. 19:28; Psalms 2; Matt. 24:29ff; Matt. 25:31-40) and the eternal state (Lk. 1:74-75)?

- It’s proof that the Bible is “one story”.
- It’s proof that God doesn’t change His mind.

Some are teaching that certain entities/aspects in the OT lose their significance once Jesus arrives! Israel has been redefined from being an ethnic people group to a spiritual community – the church!! NO!!!! Throughout the NT Israel continues as an ethnic people group.

I Cor. 10:32 - *Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks (the Gentiles) or to the church of God*, The Church exists, the Jews/Israel exists, and the Gentiles exist. The Jews are not erased from the face of the earth!

There are those who teach that the land of promise about which we read in the OT has become spiritual blessings for the church. ???

There are many who teach that King David’s throne has transitioned from an earthly throne in Jerusalem to a spiritual throne in heaven – where Jesus is now seated! And so many speak of the Kingdom of God now where Jesus rules and reigns in the hearts of believers. ???

What happened to God’s promise re: giving the Jewish people the Kingdom of God and the Messiah Jesus seated on the throne of David in Jerusalem?!!! ???

II Sam. 7:12-13, 16 – God spoke to King David, *When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body (the physical descendant of King David), and I (GOD) will establish His kingdom.* ¹³ *He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.* ... ¹⁶ *And (DAVID), your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.”* How is the Church now the Kingdom? This is not only an offense to believing Israel, this is an OFFENSE TO GOD AND HIS WORD!!!

Because Gentile believers will be grafted into the blessings of the Abrahamic Covenant (salvation – Gal. 3:14), Gentile believers will occupy the Millennial Kingdom and rule and reign with Jesus (II Tim. 2:12).

Last time I read in the prophetic books and in the book of Hebrews – Jesus is now seated at the right hand of God as the Great High Priest. And, at His Second Coming He will establish His throne and sit on His throne!

Luke 1:32-33 – *He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; 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 of His kingdom there will be no end.*

Matt. 25:31 – (at the end of the tribulation – Matt. 24:29) *When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.*

Currently Jesus is seated at the right hand of God – Psa. 110:1; Matt. 26:64; Acts 2:33; Acts 5:31; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20; Col. 3:1; Heb. 1:3; Heb. 1:1-14; Heb. 8:1; Heb. 12:2; I Pet. 3:22;

2

We NEED to grasp the literal meaning of the text – of Scripture – the OT and the NT! We NEED to comprehend that there is “one story” in Scripture – and God does NOT change. He is immutable!

Mal. 3:6 - *I am the Lord I change not; therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed.*
God made unilateral/unconditional covenants with Israel: the Abrahamic Covenant, the Land Covenant, the Davidic Covenant, and the New Covenant!

Unilateral – one-sided – God’s side.

Unconditional – no strings attached. The fulfillment of these covenants – was not dependent upon Israel’s obedience. If God had changed His mind – if these covenants were no longer unilateral and unconditional – Israel would be TOAST!!!

We can understand this – because our salvation is based on grace alone, faith alone, and Jesus alone – believers in Jesus are NOT consumed!! Our salvation is eternally secure!

Consider: Christmas is not the beginning of something new! Christmas is a fulfillment of what God had promised in the OT. The Jewish people were longing for the Messiah – they were waiting for the Messiah. We read in Luke 1:21 and 1:63 that people were MARVELING at the happenings in Judea. . . . There was an expectancy.

Let’s further consider...where do we find Scripture re: the birth of the Messiah? In the Hebrew Scriptures – and in Luke 1 & 2 and in Matt. 1

Jesus’ birth is referenced as His incarnation. Incarnation means “the act of being made flesh.”

John 1:14 - *...the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

God expressed His desire to DWELL with man.

Gen. 3:8 – God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Ex. 25:8 – God told Moses to make a sanctuary that He, God may dwell with the children of Israel.

Eze. 37:27 - *My tabernacle also shall be with them; indeed I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Luke 1:32–33 explicitly affirms that “*the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever.*” This promise remains unfulfilled in history and therefore finds its literal realization in the Millennium when Christ reigns on earth following His return.

Rev. 22:1-3 – In the Eternal State/the New Jerusalem/the new heavens and the new earth *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the*

healing of the nations. ³ And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him.

Without the Incarnation the cross is meaningless. The Messiah must be 100% God and 100% man. What was mentioned concerning the incarnation, the birth of Jesus, in the Hebrew Scriptures?

3

The virgin birth is found in Isa. 7:14 - *Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel* “God in the flesh,” God with us! The virgin birth is foreshadowed in Gen. 3:15 as the “Seed of the woman.”

If Jesus was not fully man, He could not stand in the place of sinful man and be a substitute for the punishment man deserves. If He was not fully God, His sacrifice would be insufficient. If Jesus is not fully God and fully man, we are lost in sin. And so we read further in the book of Isaiah, in the Hebrew Scriptures – Jesus’ birth and His being “given”....

Isa. 9:6 – *Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given....*

For unto us a Child is born.... The Messiah would be a child – a human. There is nothing weaker, more helpless, more dependent than a *child*. But for Jesus to fully identify with humanity, and to display in His life the servant nature that is in God, He *made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men* (Phil. 2:7). *unto us a Son is given....* This child is also the eternal Son of God, the Second Person of the Godhead. *Given* - be bestowed (given as a gift or privilege), be provided (for man’s need), be entrusted (a gift for which man is responsible), be granted to (to allow fulfillment of), be assigned to (to be given for a specific task or responsibility)

Jesus’ was birthed in Bethlehem Ephrathah is highlighted in Micah 5:2 - *But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.*”

Simeon, about whom we read in Luke 2:25-32, connects Jesus’ birth - to the Hebrew Scriptures. Simeon was a just and devout Jewish man in Jerusalem waiting for the “Consolation of Israel.” The “Consolation of Israel” is a Messianic title – speaking of JESUS! (Isa. 40:1-3 – *Comfort, yes, comfort My people! Says your God*). God the Holy Spirit revealed to Simeon that he, Simeon, would not see death before he had seen God’s anointed, the Messiah.

Luke 2:27 – *Simeon came by the Spirit into the Temple...* at the very moment when Mary and Joseph had brought Jesus into the temple for the dedication of their firstborn (Ex. 13:2; Lev. 12:1-8) and Mary’s purification – 40 days following the birth of a male child...Simeon took Jesus up in his arms and blessed God and said,

Luke 2:29-32 - *Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,*

³² *A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel.*” (Isa. 42:6; Isa. 49:6)

Simeon clearly understood that the birth of this baby began with the eternal purpose of God – even before the world was created.

Where do we first learn about Jesus? In the Hebrew Scriptures!!

In fact, we are privy to a conversation between God the Father and God the Son in Isa. 53:10 (NASB) - *The Lord was pleased to crush Him* (the Suffering Servant – the Messiah – Jesus), *putting Him to grief; if He would render Himself as a guilt offering,* AND Jesus render Himself as a guilt offering! When was this decided??? In ETERNITY PAST!!

4

The Christmas account – Jesus coming into this world in the flesh – Emmanuel – God in the flesh, God with us - was decided upon in the ETERNITY PAST!

The ONE story of the Bible points to this essential truth: God determined to bring glory to Himself through the salvation of a people redeemed and purchased by His own Son, the anointed One, the Messiah.

Bethlehem (where Jesus was born) and Golgotha (where Jesus was crucified) – ARE essential parts of God’s plan from the beginning, before the creation was brought into being.

Consider: if we only had the New Testament, we would read the Gospels and not know why the Jews were looking for a Messiah (a Redeemer/Savior). We would not understand why this Messiah was coming. And, if we did not have the Hebrew Scriptures, we would not, in our reading of the Bible, be able to identify Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah through the many detailed prophecies that were given concerning Him. Thank God that God the Holy Spirit inspired the authors of the Hebrew Scriptures to record clearly and precisely the details about the Messiah Jesus so that they would recognize Him when He arrived in the flesh!

Did all the Jewish people receive Jesus as the promised Messiah? No! But MANY did. Jewish people and Gentile people are still reading of this Messiah Who reconciles us to God and gives us eternal life with Him. Praise God that COUNTLESS Jews and Gentiles CELEBRATE JESUS – many of whom are already in the presence of God in heaven – and many yet on this earth – because of the life-giving “one story” of Scripture!

How does the ETERNITY of God fit into the “one story” of Scripture?