

"It's all about who you know!" Ritz Carlton; **Prop:** The birth of Christ secures *everything* for us!

We've seen the physical side of Jesus' birth; cosmic nature to it as well. **Eph6:** Our battle is against cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Philip Yancey, "From God's viewpoint, and Satan's, Christmas signals far more than the birth of a baby; it was an invasion, the decisive advance in the great struggle for the cosmos." *Good Friday*.

Rev12:1-6; strange place to turn on Christmas Eve; **Who's the gift offered to?**

vv1-2: seed of Mary, but also Eve and Israel (Law, promises, covenants)

vv3-4, extremely powerful enemy! **Chad Bird**, "Hark the herald angels sing, a dragon waits to eat our king." Satan's aim was calamity, ruin, and destruction from the very beginning.

vv5-6, caught up (entire story); **all nations**: Gentiles (Jews: 12 stars); **Rom1:16**, "Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek." *Shepherd*.

Gen1-2; Created by God, in the image of God, for His glory, declared "good," set above creation, subdue, create culture, fast forward **Ps2:1**: "Why do the *nations* rage and the peoples plot in vain?"

We see the sinfulness of man and the overwhelming, pursuing, redeeming love of God, **Jn3:16!**

What did Christ Accomplished? **What do we receive?** Or better: What *don't* we receive?

Rom8:17,32, "We are children of God, and if children, then *heirs*; heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ...He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us *all* things?" In Christ we get far more than we can possibly imagine!

Meaningless (shepherds): Undaunted Joy, Unshakeable Peace, Unwavering Worship

Messy (genealogy): Everlasting Rest, Everlasting Rescue, and Everlasting Reconciliation

Misguided (Magi): Constant Care, Continued Compassion, Confident Covering; *Masses: everything!*

1. Enduring Victory over Satan (vv7-9a)

My team! 41, slightly overweight, achy joints, can't run fast, throw far. Wear a hat! David and Goliath: one man's victory brings victory to all! Dealt a death blow; awaiting final defeat! Devil is God's devil!

Jn10:10, "Thief comes only to steal/kill/destroy. I came: they may have life and have it abundantly."

2. Enduring Silence over the Serpent (vv9b-10)

"Silent Night, Holy Night; All is calm, All is bright," What silence? Who's silenced? Not what you think.

Andrew Peterson, *Labor of Love*, "It was not a silent night; there was blood on the ground; You could hear a woman cry, In the alleyways that night, On the streets of David's town." Humanity of Christ.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God, "The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him; His rage we can endure, For lo! His doom is sure. *One little word shall fell him.*" Catch that?

One little word shuts Satan's mouth, kills the accusations made against you, ends the condemnation. Which word did Luther have in mind? **Liar!** Powerful word! Known as the "father of lies" (Jn8:44).

How he's operated from the **Garden**. The lies he loves to whisper are: "Guilty," "Sinner," "Unworthy!" The reality is, they're all true, *apart from Christ*. Once you have been redeemed and reconciled to God through Christ, there is no condemnation! Then, *and only then*, do they shift to being lies.

Now there is silence, but it surely didn't start that way!

3. Enduring Faith in the Lamb (v11)

Model and basis for our endurance; word of their testimony and suffering to come cf. Rev13:7-10, "war on the saints!" Word of their testimony: gospel hope: "I will never leave you nor forsake you!"

Ben Affleck, Batman in Justice League, "Part of the appeal of this [super hero] genre is wish fulfillment. Wouldn't it be nice if there was somebody who can save us from all this, save us from ourselves, save us from the consequences of our actions and save us from people who are evil?"

Bunkbeds; sometimes the best gift isn't under a tree. Don't miss it because it's not where you expect

Recap: The birth of Christ secures everything for us!

Candle lighting Instructions