

“Why Jesus Came” (December 22, 2013)

1. THE FALL (or revolt) AFFECTED US ALL

12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—
14 ... death reigned from Adam until Moses, even over those who had not sinned in the likeness of the offense of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come. (Romans 5:12,14)

“Death reigned” - *separation from God was the new atmosphere*

- Intimacy with God was lost—*along with innocence*
- All creation suffered (Romans 8:22) (*plants dying, decomposition, sickness, dis-ease in every realm—spiritually, emotionally, physically, relationally*)

2. THE SEED WAS PROMISED—One who would BREAK THE CURSE and RESTORE ALL THINGS.

Covenant promises were made:

- To Adam- *the Seed will crush the enemy’s head (i.e., authority) (Genesis 3:15)*
- To Noah- *the bow of judgment will not be bent toward earth the next time I judge the whole world’s sin (Genesis 9:13ff) (Contrast with Jeremiah 46:9; 50:14)*
- To Abraham- *“In you all the families of the earth will be blessed” (Genesis 12:3)*
- To Moses- *a new blood covenant through a “Passover” lamb—Who will restore hearts to the LORD and cause sin’s destructive power to “Passover” them.*

NOTE: The “Old Covenant” was good news—a revelation of God’s rich mercy. [Not a “legalistic” covenant from an “angry” God] Deuteronomy 28:1ff- “Blessed”- *endued & empowered in every area of life*

NOTE: *It worked toward reversing the curse, while pointing toward the One to come Who would break the curse!*

3. JESUS- THE WORD BECAME FLESH & LIVED AMONG US

- A. **ISAIAH 53-** prophesied Him as the One who would “reveal” the “arm of the Lord” (*i.e., the power of God*), while growing up as a “tender shoot” in a spiritual desert. (*A different spirit—defying the climate*)
- B. **THE END TO THE “REIGN OF DEATH” & THE BEGINNING OF THE “REIGN OF LIFE”**

“For the sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over many. But even greater is God’s wonderful grace and his gift of righteousness, for all who receive it will live in triumph over sin and death through this one man, Jesus Christ. Yes, Adam’s one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ’s one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone. Because one person disobeyed God, many became sinners. But because one other person obeyed God, many will be made righteous. God’s law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God’s wonderful grace became more abundant. So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God’s wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Romans 5:17-21)

C. **RECOGNIZED BY “SIGNS & WONDERS” MINISTRY**

Isaiah 35:3-6- “Do not fear; your **God will come**...He will come to **save you**. The eyes of the **blind** will be opened and the ears of the **deaf** unstopped. The **lame** will leap like a deer, and the **mute** tongue will shout for joy!”

Isaiah 53:4-5- “Surely, He took up our **infirmities** (*disease, sickness*) and carried our **sorrows** (*debilitating grief; depression*)...He was pierced for our **transgressions** (*actual sins*) and He was crushed for our **iniquities** (*“why” we sin; root cause—selfishness*). The punishment that brought us **peace** (*joy; well-being*) was upon Him, and by His wounds we are **healed** (*rapha—complete healing throughout*).”

4. JESUS, THE WORD OF GOD—every promise He had ever made—BECAME FLESH

- He took the Word of God to new levels, making a “better covenant” (Hebrews 8:6-*“The ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.”*)

- The Old Covenant is mighty, refreshing, and invigorating—despite the misperception that it is negative, dark, and condemning. Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” (Matthew 5:17). He also said His Kingdom is made of both “new and old treasures” (Matthew 13:52).

No single verse describes Jesus’ ministry quite like this:

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.” (Galatians 4:4-7 ESV)