

# Personal Study

## "THE COMING KING" PART 1



# The Coming King

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## Introduction:

Merry Christmas!

When you think of Christmas, what comes to mind? Every person is likely going to give a different answer.

Typically (as Christians), when we consider the story of Christmas, we look directly at the manger scene. We think of Jesus as a baby, the stable, the animals, the wise men, Jesus' parents, the shepherds and sheep, etc. This is all well and good.

But if you really consider where the manger scene fits within the grand story of Christmas, we see that this is really the "end" of the Christmas story, not the beginning. So today, we are going back to the very beginning.

## Read and reflect on Ephesians 1:3-5

(This is not a study on pre-destination, by the way. However, I would strongly encourage further study on soteriology).

## **Christmas began in the mind and heart of God before the creation of the world:**

Here we see in verse 4 of Ephesians 1 that it was God's plan (**before the foundations of the world**) to come to earth as fully God and fully man, live a perfect life, die a perfect death in our place, and rise again – providing new life, forgiveness of sin, justification before the Father, and security for eternity.

In other words, the grand narrative of Christmas and the message of the Gospel began in the heart and mind of God in eternity! His love for you and I was fervently burning before anything was ever created. There was nothing that we did, earned, or accomplished that compelled God to love us, desire us, and ultimately provide salvation for us in Christ Jesus. Therefore, the ultimate Christmas gift to you and I is the gift of new life, regeneration in Christ, and a life that brings Him glory forever more!

Paul describes this unbelievable gift of new life as "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places" (verse 3). It was the Lord's desire to provide a way back to Himself, for all people, before the foundations of the earth were formed.

If we **stop and ponder this truth** for a moment, this should drive us to our knees in worship!

### **His Provision leads to a Holy life:**

Paul takes it a step further, explaining that the Lords provisionary gift of salvation to us, leads to a life of Holiness and blamelessness (verse 4).

In other words, the evidence of this inner work of Christ is displayed through a life that looks like Jesus, is Holy as He is Holy.

### **What does this mean?**

Simply put, to be Holy is to be “set apart”. In Christ Jesus, we have been set free and forgiven from our sin. A life of Holiness looks like a life of being “set apart” from our old self and live a new life for the glory of God in all things.

### **Pause and reflect on these verses:**

Do you see evidence of Holiness in your life?

### **He has adopted us:**

Lastly, because the story of Christmas and the gospel originated out of the love of Jesus Christ, that means that it is His joy to adopt us as His family.

Not only are our sins forgiven in Christ, but we are born again into a Kingdom family that has no end! We are secure in Christ, His love for us, His justification on our behalf, and the seal of His Holy Spirit within us ensures us that we belong to Him! We are a part of a new family, with a perfect heavenly father.

This should offer us great comfort and security.

When the storms of life come (and they will), rest assured that if you are in Christ, you belong to Him! He chose you before the foundations of the earth, He loved you before you ever loved Him, He has adopted you into His family, and it is our great joy to serve and love Him with our whole life.

### **Take a moment and reflect upon these key truths:**

1. Christmas (and the gospel) began in the heart and mind of Christ before all creation.
2. His provisionary gift of salvation leads to a life of Holiness and blamelessness.
3. In Christ, we are not only forgiven, we are adopted as sons and daughters of the King.

