

Come Follow Me  
Elo Viz production  
Week 52  
Christmas

To truly understand the importance and significance of Christmas and the birth of Jesus, we must first look at events that took place well over four thousand years before His birth. In Moses 4 we have an account of our premortal existence and the council in Heaven. Where we were faced with a choice as to the path we would choose to become like our Father and Mother. The plan was laid out and in that plan the key component was a redeemer. We had to have a Savior or the plan wouldn't work.

“[And] That **Satan**, came before me, saying—Behold, here am I, send me, I will be thy son, and I will **redeem** all mankind, that one soul shall not be lost, and surely **I** will do it; wherefore **give** me thine honor.

**2** But, behold, my Beloved **Son**, which was my Beloved and **Chosen** from the beginning, said unto me—**Father**, thy **will be** done, and the **glory** be thine forever. (Moses 4:1-2)

We know by the fact that we are here on Earth with a physical body that we chose to follow God's and Jesus's plan that our agency would be tested and that a Savior would be the sacrifice.

What is interesting is that at the very onset of the creation of this Earth, the deceiver tries to convince man to disobey the very God we chose in the premortal existence.

“And **Satan**, sought also to **beguile** Eve, for he **knew not** the **mind** of God, wherefore he sought to destroy the world.” (Moses 4:6)

Of course we all know that Eve partakes and then gave to Adam to partake. Now, pay close attention to how God responds to this:

“And I, the Lord God, said unto the woman: What is this thing which thou hast done? And the woman said: The serpent **beguiled** me, and I did eat.

**20** And I, the Lord God, said unto the serpent: Because thou hast done this thou shalt be **cursed** above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life” (Moses 4:19-20)

And then this very important verse right here:

**21** And I will put **enmity** between thee and the woman, between thy seed and her seed; and he shall **bruise** thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. (Moses 4:21)

Did you see it? Did you notice anything out of place?

When a child is conceived the woman carries the egg and the man carries the seed. But in this verse God says “her seed”. God is not speaking of Adam and Eve's children here, even though the Devil thinks He is. Because when Cain and Able offer a sacrifice to God, only Able's

sacrifice was accepted. The deceiver put it into Cain's heart to kill his brother. He did that because he thought he could destroy their righteous seed, but he was wrong.

Let me bring this all together so it is easy to understand. When God clothed Adam and Eve in the garden after their transgression, He clothed them with lamb skin. God was the first one ever to make a blood sacrifice on this Earth for His children in the form of a lamb which was a symbol of His only begotten son, Jesus Christ. When God rejected Cain's sacrifice it was because it was fruit of the ground, he was a farmer and his sacrifice was "his own efforts". Did you hear that with your spiritual ears? Cain's sacrifice was rejected because it was a symbol of his own efforts. Abel's sacrifice was accepted because it was the blood of a perfect lamb, a blood sacrifice as a symbol of Christ Jesus. God put enmity (or opposition) between "her seed" meaning Mary the virgin's seed and the seed of Satan. God's defense against Satan's puny bruised heel is the all powerful, head crushing Son of God, even Jesus Christ.

Since the beginning of time it has always been about and will always be about Jesus Christ the Son of God, creator of this universe!

Let me give you one more example:

There is a great lesson to be learned in the account of Moses speaking with God in the burning bush.

"God called unto him out of the midst of the bush, and said, Moses, Moses. And he said, Here am I." (Exodus 3:4)

This is always the proper response when God calls to you. God said to Moses:

"put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest *is* holy ground.

6 Moreover he said, *I am* the God of thy father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. And Moses hid his face; for he was afraid to look upon God." (Exodus 3:5-6)

It's important to know what God is speaking here to Moses. This is not God the Father but the premortal Jesus Christ known as the God of the Old Testament. That understanding is critical for this next piece of doctrine in Exodus.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/the-pearl-of-great-price-student-manual-2018/the-book-of-moses/moses-1-1-11?lang=eng>

Jesus calls him to go free his people from Egyptian slavery and Moses tries to wiggle out of it and his excuses are all put aside for this critical point:

"And Moses said unto God, Behold, *when* I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What *is* his name? *what* shall I say unto them?

14 And God said unto Moses, *"I AM THAT I AM"* (Exodus 3:13-14)

In the Hebrew language “I am that I am”, is the word “Yahweh”. Which is the name most commonly used for God in the Old Testament, in fact it is used over 6,823 times. The original Hebrew of the name Yahweh literally means “He will be, He is, and He was”.

Sandra Thurman has this to say about God’s name:

“Over time we have added an A and an E in there to get YAHWEH, probably because we have a preference for vowels, but scholars and Rabbis have noted that the letters YHWH represent breathing sounds or aspirated consonants when pronounced without intervening vowels it actually sounds like breathing. Y H for inhale and W H for exhaling.

So a baby’s first cry, his first breath speaks the name of God. A deep sigh calls his name or a grown or gasp that is too heavy for mere words. Even an atheist would speak His name unaware that their very breath is giving that constant acknowledgment to God. Likewise a person when they leave this Earth with their very last breath when God’s name is no longer filling their lungs. So when I can’t utter anything else, my cry is calling out His name, being alive means that I am speaking His name constantly. Is it heard the loudest when I’m the quietest? In sadness we breathe heavy sighs. In joy our lungs feel almost like they could burst. In fear we hold our breath and have to be told to breathe slowly to help us calm down.

When we’re about to do something hard we take a deep breath to find our courage. When I think about it, breathing is giving Him praise. Even in the hardest moments of our lives. This is so beautiful and it fills me with emotion every time I grasp with the thought - God chose to give Himself a name that we can’t even help but speak every moment that we’re alive. All of us always everywhere walking, sleeping, breathing with the name of God always on our lips. How beautiful is that, His breath fills our lungs, His name is in our lungs. Let everything that has breath praise the Lord”

<https://mountofolives.co/blogs/cracking-the-anointing-oil-beauty-code/yhwh>

How profound and life changing when we realize how it all revolves around Him. Every creation, every sound, every breath speaks His name. Some believe that this world was created for us to come and to gain a body, to learn to be like God our father and Jesus Christ. Which in a way is true. But, I can’t help but feel the rush of the spirit testify to me of the greater truth every time I speak the words that “This world was created for Him, for Jesus”

From the beginning to the end He has been the reason for its existence and WE have been the reason for Him.

Consider this:

When God or Jesus created this world it was done with His words.

“3 And God **said**, Let there be **light**: and there was light.” - (Gen 1:3)

“11 And God said, Let the earth bring forth **grass**, the herb yielding seed, *and* the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed *is* in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.” (Gen 1:11)

“24 ¶ And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his **kind**, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. (Gen 1:24)

Just like that God spoke and these things came into existence. Psalms 8:3 says:

“When I **consider** thy **heavens**, the **work** of thy fingers, the **moon** and the stars, which thou hast ordained”

Just that easy. He can create worlds with His fingers.

But in order for Him to redeem His children. To save sinners like you and me. He had to suffer, He had to bleed, to be humiliated, scourged, beaten and bruised.

Ultimately it cost Him His life to save you and me.

So this Christmas and every day there after, might we try and grasp the magnitude of that humble babe lying in a manger. The mighty King who came to save, born of a virgin, in a lowly stable. Who would live His life as the only perfect person to ever walk this earth. The only one who could be the perfect sinless sacrifice for all mankind. The only one that could descend below all things and not be crushed by the weight of the world. Might we consider the power that lies at His scared feet and pierced hands, as He reaches out to each of us with mercy and love. Inviting us to know Him, to love Him, to accept His atoning sacrifice and claim the redemption He gave so freely to every one of His children. For it is the only way back, the only path to peace and joy.

Merry Christmas my friends.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen