

The Incarnation:

God's Daring and Costly Plan to Infiltrate Our World to Liberate Captives

"When he ascended on high, he led captive the captives" (Ephesians 4:8, NASB)

According to the Bible, people can be taken captive by the Devil to do his will (2 Timothy 2:26). That's different from demon possession. But it's no less dangerous. Being captive by the Satan is all it takes to lose your soul. This problem affects everyone, unless you've been freed by Jesus (Ephesians 2:1-5). He has gone to great lengths to rescue you. Let's take a closer look at what he's done.

To better understand God's daring and costly plan to rescue me, I will...

1. Understand his _____.

1) His mission was _____.

This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Timothy 1:9)

2) His mission was _____ by the prophets on God.

- Our Savior would be _____.
Genesis 3:15, NLT
- Our Savior would be born _____.
Isaiah 7:14
- Our Savior would be born _____.
Micah 5:2

3) His mission was _____.

9 This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:9, 10)

2. Appreciate the _____.

6 Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. 7 Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, 8 he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:6-8, NLT)

1) God the Son _____.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.... The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. (John 1:1-3, 14)

2) God the Son _____.

he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. (Philippians 2:7, NLT)

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. (John 1:10)

3) God the Son _____.

he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8, NLT)

3. Answer some _____.

1) Did the Son of God set aside his deity when he came to earth?

2) Why did Jesus take on humanity?

- He took on humanity to be the perfect _____ of God.

Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father! (John 14:9)

- He took on humanity to be the perfect _____ of humanity.

Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. (Hebrews 2:17)

3) What's the point of his suffering?

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the sins of us all. (Isaiah 53:5, 6, NLT)

- For justice to be served, my sins require _____, but for me to be spared, I need a _____.

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21)

Will I trust Jesus with my life and soul? Will I recognize what he did for me when he took my place and paid my debt? Will I live the rest of my days in grateful appreciation for all that Jesus has done for me?

And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. (2 Corinthians 5:15)