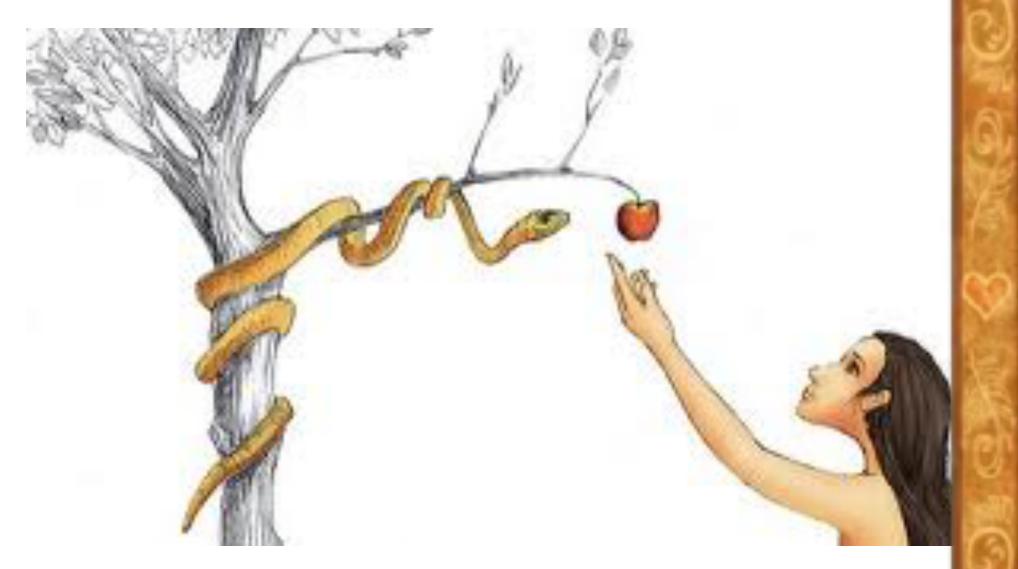
The Bift of Christ

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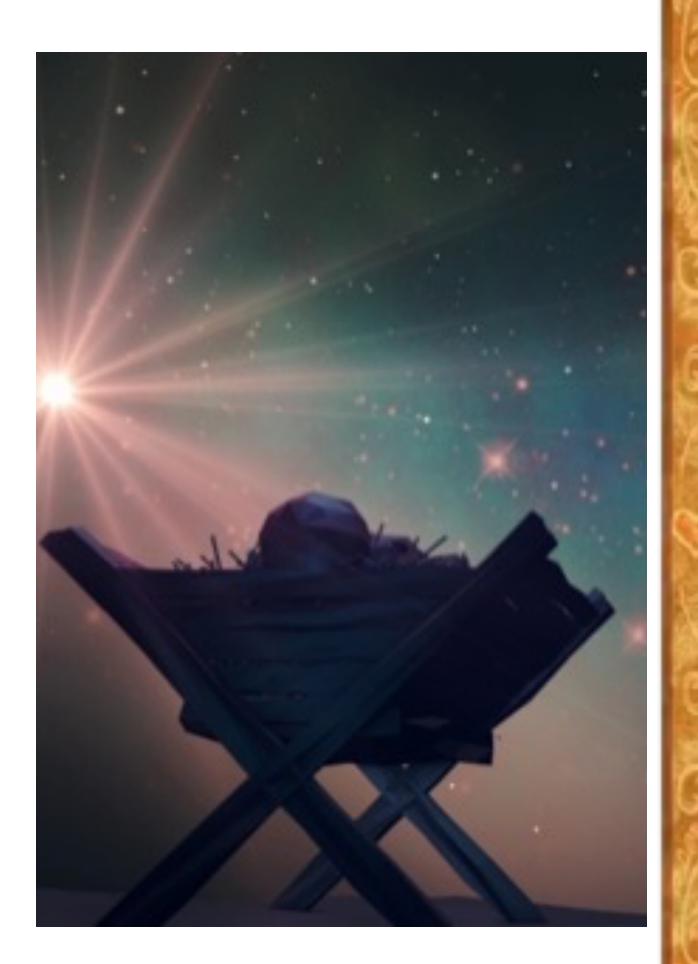
MAN'S FALL

- In the garden, man was lured away from being one with God by becoming like a god. Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
- When man ate of the tree of knowledge, his own knowledge separated him from God. Man hid from God and fellowship was broken. Gen. 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.
- Seeking knowledge of self and pursuing selfish ambition separates us from God. God's plan was for man to be totally reliant upon His direction and leadership. Even though man had dominion in the earth, his purpose was to honor God and not himself. Matt. 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.



GOD'S PLAN

- The prediction of the virgin birth of Jesus came immediately after Adam and Eve sinned. Though they were sentenced to die, God in His mercy gave a promise of redemption through the One who would be born of a virgin—Jesus Christ. Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.
- The wages of sin is death. This means that a sinless life must be taken as a ransom for sin. In the old covenant, it was the sacrificial animal that had to die. It had to be a ceremonially clean animal offered up for the sins of man. Lev. 16:30 For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD.
- The new covenant is Jesus coming in the flesh to be the perfect sacrifice for the sins of mankind. Heb. 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.
- The devil tried to stop the woman's seed by creating evil lineages of people, creating virgin birth myths, and aborting Israelite children. The devil's goal has always been to stop us from having our sins paid in full. John 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.



HIS BIRTH

- Christ left His heavenly throne to be made lesser, in the form of a human. He desired to walk among us to restore the relationship we had with God before the fall of man. He restored the broken fellowship between God and man caused by Adam's sin. 2 Cor. 5:18 And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation;
- Mary did not know Joseph sexually so that God could impregnate her immaculately. She could not be known by a man to bring forth the Christ child our Lord. Isaiah 7:13-14 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."
- Joseph could not be the father of Jesus because Jeconiah was an ancestor of Joseph and therefore no king could rule in Judah after the curse of Jehoiachin given to his lineage. Jer. 22:30 This is what the LORD says: Let the record show that this man Jehoiachin was childless, for none of his children will ever sit on the throne of David to rule in Judah. His life will amount to nothing."



SUMMURY

God was able to do many things through the conception of His Son. He was able to pay the penalty of all sin. He was able to restore Kingship into the lineage of David and He was able to walk among His creation again. This is what makes the birth of Christ so powerful and why we celebrate Christmas.

Christmas should be a time that we remember His birth and celebrate His coming. Most importantly, we should remember that without His birth, we would be spiritually dead. Man can have fellowship with God again because of Christ's first coming and be spiritually reborn through His death. When we believe on Him, He restores us back to the place that God originally intended for us.

1 Cor. 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.