

“2020 Vision”: Seeing our world more clearly

2020 has reminded us that we live in **a fragile and breaking world**

2020 has reminded us that **we are fragile and breaking people**

- Our bodies (hands)
- Our relationships (heart)
- Our internal worlds (head)

But this is nothing new...

1

History of the Relationship between God and Humanity

Eternity past: God: eternally self–existent in perfect fellowship

- **“In the beginning** was the Word [the Son of God], and the Word was **with God**, and the Word **was God**. He was with God **in the beginning.**” *John 1:1-2*
- **Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**

2

History of the Relationship between God and Humanity

Eternity past: God: eternally self-existent in perfect fellowship

Creation: at peace with God and with each other

- “God saw all that he had made, **and it was very good.**”
Genesis 1:31

3

History of the Relationship between God and Humanity

Eternity past: God: eternally self-existent in perfect fellowship

Creation: at peace with God and with each other

Fall: humanity was separated from God by its sin *disloyalty, immorality*

- “Surely the arm of the Lord is not too short to save,
nor his ear too dull to hear.
But **your iniquities have separated
you from your God;**
your **sins have hidden his face from you,**
so that he will not hear.” *Isaiah 59:1*
- “So the **Lord God banished Adam** from the Garden of Eden
to work the ground from which he had been taken.” *Genesis 3:23*

4

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Redemption: the first suggestions of rescue **with stumbling**

- God revealed His name *Exodus 3:14* and His character to Moses *Exodus 34:4–7*
- The edge of God’s overwhelming glory was with the people in the tabernacle and in the temple *Exodus 40:34*
- Yet their sins continued to separate them so...
“The Glory has departed from Israel” *1 Samuel 4:21*
- Grandson of Eli the Priest was Ichabod: “no glory”

5

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Redemption: the first suggestions of rescue with stumbling

Redemption: the completed work

- “In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but **in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe.” *Hebrews 1:1-2*

6

In the beginning **was** the Word,
and the Word **was** with God,
and the Word **was** God.

John 1:1

The Word **became** flesh.

John 1:14

- **He was still fully God, yet for a time He set aside the fullness of His glory in order to rescue us** *Philippians 2:6–8; John 17:5*
- **He came in such a lowly way that people could overlook Him, ignore Him, and even reject** *John 1:10–11*
- **God's purpose was full redemption! →**

7

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right **to become children of God**—
children born

not of natural descent,
nor of human decision
or a husband's will,

but born of God.

John 1:12-13

8

The Big Idea

**The perfect Son of God became human
so that sinful humans might become children of God**

9

Imagine how the perfect, glorious Son of God's entered our broken world:

- Born to a poor, unimportant, unnoticed couple
- Born with farm animals
- Slept in an animal feeding box
- His family had to flee to rescue Him from murder
- He lived as a refugee and in obscurity
- He was rejected, persecuted, tortured and killed

So that we (sinful, unglorious humans) might enter His perfect Kingdom:

- Loved and welcomed children of God **our Father**
- Celebrated by angels!
- Living in a vast and growing universe of creativity and life and wholeness
- With blessed, wonderful, and meaningful work that fits us personally
- Without end or decay or sorrow or mourning
- Growing and joy-filled!

10

Imagine how the **perfect, glorious Son of God's** entered our broken world:

So that we (**sinful, unglorious humans**) might enter His perfect Kingdom:

**God offers us in His Kingdom
the opposite of what the Son of God experienced
in coming to earth**

11

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12

Application

Don't overlook Him, ignore Him, or reject Him

- In His humility, Jesus lets us...
 - be distracted by bad things
 - be distracted by good things
- “And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**”
Hebrews 11:6
- How easy it is to celebrate Christmas without actually seeking our Savior!
- Make time to: Pray / Worship / show love to others

13

Application

Don't overlook Him, ignore Him, or reject Him

Rejoice that the birth of Jesus opened the way for us to be deeply and forever loved as children of God Himself!

- Entirely as a gift → “born of God”
- For unto us has been born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord!

14

The Big Idea

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We seek our Savior now:

- **Forgive us our distractions, by bad and good things**
- **Help us to seek you earnestly**
- **Give us the joy of our salvation
as deeply loved children of God through Jesus**

**We rejoice in this overwhelming and unending gift
of being the deeply loved children of God in Jesus!**