

Children of God

John 1:9-14

“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...

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

Creation: at peace with God and with each other

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

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

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”

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

John 1:1

In the beginning **was** the Word,

and the Word **was** with God,

and the Word **was** God.

John 1:14

The Word **became** flesh.

He was still fully God, yet for a time He set aside the fullness of His glory 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! →

John 1:12-13

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.

The Big Idea

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

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!

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

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

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!

Reflection Questions

1. What things are distracting you for seeking Jesus, whether good things or bad things?
2. What brings you the most joy in anticipating our homecoming to be in the New Heaven and the New Earth with God?
3. What might get in the way of your anticipation of this homecoming to be in the immediate presence of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit?