

A Story about Christ—mas & God's Plan vs. Man's Freewill

Given all of the talk today about:

- 1) The general belief that there should be a division between the church and state.
- 2) A general belief that Christ should be taken out of Christmas.
- 3) And with the recent school shooting, "How a loving God could let this happen".

I would like to explore these issues based on actual scripture. First I would like to say that men in general have always tried to quantify God in terms that they can understand and more importantly create a definition of God based on our own character as men. This is not possible as God is the creator and we are the created. I think this one issue has caused every generation of men to underestimate the importance of God in terms of creation and who controls the duration/time of creation, as well as, the power & control God possesses over his creation and man. Then, to compound this issue, man continuously overestimates the importance and control that he really has over himself in terms of God's creation and God's plan for his creation. It is my opinion that man does control two things: 1) where he will spend eternity, however, God did provide the solution, and 2) how much pain he will put himself through before he dies, given his sinful actions always requires an adjustment by God.

I would also like to discuss in some detail several issues imbedded within the above three questions like:

- 1) God's Plan for man and the adjustments that God had to make to keep man's sinful nature on track with God's plan;
- 2) How God allowed man to have freewill from day one, understanding that this was always part of Gods plan.

3) And the issue of Christ and his importance to Christmas, as well as, man's eternal existence is well documented in the Holy Bible and can be summarized in one equation → God's plan for man and God's desire to grant man freewill, which has two possible outcomes:

- a) Man can voluntarily submit to an obey God of his own freewill and be saved and live a pain free, or
- b) Man not to submit to an obey God based on man's choice/freewill and therefore, live with the very painful results. First because of the pain man creates for himself and second the pain involved when God has to adjust man's actions because of his extreme sin.

Note, remember Man does not control the redemption process or this decision making process, as Christ blood was the solution, which was provided by God the father. Man's part of this process is only 'acceptance of the free gift' or 'belief', see John 3:16. Again, man has no control over the payment made for him by God the Father, only acceptance.

I think a better question for man would be: What was is and always will be God's Plan? God has provided his plan in the Bible and man could have avoided a lot of pain if he had only stayed on the plan from the start. Based on my understanding of the Holy Bible it is as follows:

At the time when the creation of the physical earth and the physical universe occurred, the God of heaven, and the only God, created a physical being known as man. However, God gave this man a soul, which meant he would live forever, with forever being defined as either in a physical or spiritual state. (Note: in the Garden of Eden man could have choose to eat from the tree of life and he would have lived forever with God in the Garden of Eden, but he choose to eat from the tree of, the knowledge of good and evil and then God prevented him from eating from the tree of life.) He also, gave man, freewill as he/God wanted man to freely recognize him/God as the creator/God and obey him for who he was and what he did for man. For this obedience God would care for and provide for man's every need. The relationship should have been that of creator and created or master and servant but because of God's great love of man (his creation) he was willing

to make the relationship that of father and son. I think this is still true for those men who freely submit themselves to God, however, for those who do not; the outcome will not be so good. I have outlined below my understanding of God's plan for the earth and man and also Christ part within this plan, as well as, God's adjustments for man's sin.

THE SEVEN PHASES OF GOD'S PLAN:

PHASE 1: The Beginning → The time period between creation and when Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden.

- 1) "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Gen. 1:1
- 2) Christ was also there, "Then God said, 'Let us (the trinity) make man in our image..." Gen. 1:26
- 3) Creation was complete and it was perfect. "God saw all that he had made, and it was good." Gen. 1:31
- 4) God walked and talked with man and his wife before man and his wife sinned. "Then man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day..." Gen. 3:8. If you read this entire passage it sounds like this was not a one-time event and how long this sinless relationship existed prior to sin is unknown.
- 5) Prior to sin and the fall God dealt directly with man and it was face to face or one on one. However, remember there were only two people on the earth at this time.
- 6) The rules seemed to be very simple between God and man during this period of time, obey Gods commands, Laws and decrees, Love God as your creator and last Worship God for who is was, is and always will be.
- 7) I think we could say that this time period was truly 'a physical perfection'.

FIRST MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN'S SIN →

God removed man from the Garden of Eden because of his sin, Gen. 3:23-24, and "So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove him out, he placed on the east side, of

the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.”

PHASE 2: The Fall of man & Separation from God → The time period between the fall of man and Abraham.

- 1) Because God provided man with the ability to possess freewill, “And the Lord God commanded man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil,” Gen: 2: 16-17, it was man’s choice to separate himself from God through disobedience. The sin act that separated man from God was eating the ^{first} apple from, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”, Gen. 2: 17, however, the root cause was ‘disobedience’ or ‘rebellion’ against God’s command.
- 2) I do not think there is any question that Satan was the catalyst in the events that caused man to fall, “You will not surely die, the serpent said to the woman.” Gen. 3: 4. However, it was man’s choice that the woman and then the man disobeyed God, “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.” Gen. 3:6, there is no mistake that Satan was the catalyst but man made her/his own choice/ freewill. This issue between God and Satan will be resolved at the end of the millennium, see Rev. 20:7-20.
- 3) God’s reaction to this disobedience was as follows:
 - a) The serpent was ‘cursed’, see Gen.: 3: 14-15.
 - b) To the woman he increased her pain in child bearing and changed her relationship with her husband, see, Gen: 3:16.
 - c) Because of the man’s disobedience God 1) cursed the ground/earth and 2) he took away a life of plenty and now made man work hard to sustain his life. Gen. 3: 17-19.
- 4) Between the time of the fall and Noah God maintained a type of semi-direct relationship. Enoch is a good example of this type of relationship, “Enoch walked with God, then he was no more, because God took him

away.” Gen. 5:24. However, I do not think this was the same type of physical face to face walk that Adam and Eve had before the fall because God cannot be in the presence of sin in his Godly form. In the Old Testament there were three men who walked with God in some form, Enoch, Noah-Gen. 6:9, and Abraham Gen. 17:1-2.

SECOND MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN’S SIN→

God removed all but eight people from the earth because of their sin during the time of the great Flood, Gen. 6:5-8, “The Lord saw how great man’s wickedness on the earth had become, and that every inclination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil at all time. The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. So the Lord said, ‘I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth—men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, the birds of the air—for I am grieved that I have made them.’ But Noah found favor in the eyes of the Lord.”

- 5) There were 9 generations between Adam and Noah of which Adam was alive through 6 of these generations, Gen. 5:1-32, so people had second hand knowledge of God walking on earth for 930 years, Gen: 5:5. See handout on ‘Timeline for the Flood’.
- 6) There were 3 generations between the flood and the Tower of Babel/Nimrod. This city was the mother of idolatry, pagan worship and the beginning of man’s attempt at a one world government. Gen.10:8-10 & 11: 1-9. I think this was also the time when the continents were divided. Gen: 10:25.
- 7) I think this was also the time when angelic beings inter-married with women on the earth, Gen. 6:2, “the sons of God saw that the daughters of men were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose.”

THIRD MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN’S SIN→

After the flood men moved eastward and began to build a ‘great city’. These events are recorded in Gen.11:1-4. God’s reaction to this is as follows: Gen. 11:5-

7, "But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower that men were building. The Lord said, 'If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. Come, let us (trinity) go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.'"

PHASE 3: Communicating through a nation, Israel → The time period between Abraham and the resurrection of Christ.

This was the first time that God organized a formal method for men to worship him. It seems that men are no longer allowed to worship God as they see fit. However, the relationship is still based on the same rule; 1) God gives the command, and 2) man follows God's rule or he is disobedience and in rebellion and will suffer the consequences. Adam failed when he and Eve ate the fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The people living in the time of Noah were all disobedience to God except for Noah and his family. The issue is the same, disobedience! The story that tells about the beginning of the nation of Israel begins with Gen. 12: 1-3, 1) God gives the command and the promise and 2) Abram follows God instructions. The second part of this was when God made a 'covenant' with Abram, Gen. 15: 1-20, focusing on 9-20. From this point forward the nation of Israel was created as Gods people and a blessing to the world. Israel and the world in general relationship with God is based on:

- 1) The redemptions of sin through the shedding of a blood sacrifice. Keep in mind that the first sin required the shedding of blood, "The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and- clothed them." Gen. 3:21.
- 2) God would now communicate with man through a variety of methods: prophets, judges, kings and the inspired written word.
- 3) God gave the commandments, laws and decrees for man to live by, therefore, keeping the relationship between God and man in equilibrium.

FORTH MAJOR AFJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN'S SIN →

Shortly after the events surrounding the Tower of Babel, God decided to communicate with the world through a single person/nation. The person he chose to begin this nation was, Abram, later named Abraham, Gen. 12:2-3, **"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and who ever curse you I will curse; and all people on earth will be blessed through you."** Gen. 17:7, **"I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you for the generations to come, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you."** The primary method God used to communicate to his people was by men known as, 'prophets, Amos 3:7, **"Surely he Sovereign lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets."** They were men set apart by God for his work. Ultimately the nation of Israel failed God and was dispersed throughout the nations in 70 AD by the Roman army. Even though God provided every opportunity for man to choose correctly, man once again rebelled and paid the price for his sin. A good place to read the account of this time period is: 1 & 2 Samuel, 1 & 2 Kings and 1 & 2 Chronicles. I think it is very interesting the timing between Christ ascension and the dispersion of the nation of Israel.

PRE-PHASE 4: Birth, Life and Death of Jesus→ The time period between the birth and ascension of Christ.

All of the gospels and the other books of the New Testament record the story of Jesus, birth, life and death of Jesus. They also record the works of Jesus and describe some of the events occurring during Jesus lifetime. Contained within these books is also a great deal of prophecy about Jesus second coming and the end of the age, as well as, recording the fulfilling of a great deal of Old Testament prophecy.

The New Testament which records the events between 0 AD and approx. 93 AD is God command, law and decrees to the church, which is phase 4 of Gods plan for man. All of the events recorded in these books seemed to be a very well laid out

plan to me. I think this certainly disapproves the idea that God does not have a well-defined plan for the earth and man.

PHASE 4: Christ and his church→ The time period between Christ ascension and the rapture.

God knew from before the world began that man would not be able to keep his commands, laws and decrees, therefore, he provided a method before creation for man to redeem himself. It was sending his son, God in the form of man, to live a perfect life and shed his Holy Blood for the redemption of man's sins. **"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** John 3:16. This one act created the following:

- 1) Christ became the blood sacrifice for all men that fulfilled the sacrificial law.
- 2) Christ resurrection conquered death.
- 3) Christ resurrection and ascension is the basis of the church.
- 4) Christ death, resurrection and ascension restored man's ability to have direct contact with God through prayer
- 5) Christ ascension to heaven made it possible for man's advocate, Christ, to be before God.

Also, another big issue surrounding Christ death, resurrection and ascension was that it justified God for not condemning all of the men who had lived prior to Christ.

Last, the bible tells us in a variety of Old Testament prophecies that one day in the future there would come a Messiah that would save his people and the world in general. See handout for scripture references. From these references I think we can conclude that God was letting his people know that he had provided for their redemption prior to the creation of the world. God wanted to make sure his people and people in general knew that the Jesus of the New Testament was his son so he sent an angel to confirm this issue. The very first book of the New Testament, Matthew, confirms this issue for man in Matthew 1:21-23, **"She will**

give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel- which means, 'God with us.'"' This quote is part of a conversation that was taking place between God's angel and Joseph the husband of Mary, mother of Jesus. To get the full story read the first two chapters of Matthew. The name Jesus in Hebrew literally means, 'Yehoshua' or Jehovah saves.

FIFTH MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN'S SIN →

The fifth adjustment made by God the father and was by far the biggest adjustment, the shedding of Holy Blood resulting in the death of his son, John 3:16, **For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."** Again the shedding of holy blood was required because of man's sin to include past, present and future sin.

Phase four or the time of the church will conclude with the Rapture of the church. The timing of this is known only by God the Father, Matt. 24:36, **"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father."**, however, Matthew 24 does give us a lot of details and insight into this issue. Also, keep in mind that based on a pretribulation rapture, Christ will come to the earth twice just as he did in his first coming:

The first time Christ came he came in the mortal body of a man, even though he was all God as well. He lived about 30 years then began his ministry, which lasted about three years. He died at age 33 and descended into Hades for three days, **"He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit, through whom also he went and preached to the spirits in prison who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built."** 1 Peter 3: 18-20. Then he rose from the dead and walked the earth for 40 days, **"After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the**

kingdom of God.”, Acts 1:3. We need to keep in mind that when Christ walked the earth for these 40 days he was not in a mortal body but in a glorified body. I believe that this is a body of substance (flesh and bones) but not restrained by our current physics. We know from the story about Thomas that Jesus body after his resurrection had a physical form and substance, “Then he said the Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” John 20: 27. We also know that at this point Christ ascended into heaven and sets at the right hand of God the father, This is recorded in scripture in both Mark 16: 19 and Luke 24:50, “After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and sat at the right hand of God.” Mark 16:19.

However, this is not the end of the story, nor is it the beginning as many today believe. It is really the middle of the story about Christ.

- 1) Christ was there in the beginning, Gen. 1:26.
- 2) Many scholars believe that Christ was the “angel of God” described in many Old Testament accounts, Gen. 18.
- 3) We know that Christ was there at the beginning of the church given his resurrection and ascension is the bases of the church, see New Testament.
- 4) We know that Christ will be there at the Rapture of the church waiting for his church in the clouds, John 14:1-4.
- 5) And we know that Christ will return with his church to rules the earth and chain Satan during his 1,000 year reign, Rev.19:11-32 ; Rev. 5:10
- 6) Last, it would appear that when the New Earth and New Heaven are created, see Rev. 20, that Christ will there as well.

Conclusion: Christ always was and always will be, given he is part of the trinity and it was always in God the Father’s plan for Jesus Christ to be the solution for man’s opportunity at redemption.

Note: It appears to me that as usual there will be an underlying sin issue in terms of why God raptures the church when he does. Many scholars believe that the seven churches described in Revelations chapters 2 & 3 describe seven churches of that day but it also describes the seven stages that the church will go through

during its history. If that is true it appears that the seventh church, the church of 'Laodicea' is about to fall apart under the weight of its own sin. Therefore, God may have had to act, and rapture the church before it becomes too worldly to save: Just an opinion.

PHASE 5: The Tribulation Period → The time period between the Rapture, (approx.) and the Second Coming of Christ.

God's plan has always been that there would be a final reckoning period for unsaved man and Satan, as well as, the completion of the seventy weeks prophecy in the book of Daniel. This has been prophesied in most of the Old Testament Books with a special focus on the Major and Minor prophets. One of the best is the book of Daniel, 9:20-27.

There are certain characteristics that should be pointed out during this period:

- 1) The period known as the 'Tribulations' will last seven years, Dan. 9:27.
- 2) During this period Satan will be limited to the earth, Rev. 12: 7-17 and rule the world with absolute power for 42 months, Rev. 13:1-10.
- 3) God will complete his prophecy of Daniels 70th week, which deals with the nation of Israel, during this period, Dan.9; 20-27.
- 4) God will make one final effort to convince unrepentant man to repent and be saved.
- 5) God will bring 21 judgments against Satan, unrepentant man and the earth during this seven year period, culminating with the second coming of Christ, see Revelations Chapters 4-19.
- 6) Most of the world population will be killed during this seven year period and all would have died if God had not ended it at the end of the seventh year, Matt. 24:22.
- 7) On a positive note just prior to the start of this period the church has been raptured to heaven for the seven year wedding and wedding supper with Christ, Rev 19:6-10.

SIXTH MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN'S SIN→

The sixth adjustment made by God is the second coming of Christ, which will happen to end the seven year tribulation period, see Rev. 19:11-21. The second coming of Christ is required to end the sin on the earth and bring judgment to the sinners who remained alive at the end of the seven year period, Rev. 19:21, "**The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider of the horse...**" Once again God has to intervene to correct for man's unending appetite for sin.

PHASE 6: The Millennium→The time period between the second Coming of Christ and the End of the Age.

The millennium is a period of 1,000 years beginning with the second coming of Christ and ending with the destruction of the old earth and heaven and the creation of a new earth and heaven. See Revelations Chapters 19-22. The highlights of this period are as follows:

- 1) Christ rule on the earth during this period is absolute and he will rule the earth without challenge. The actual scriptural quote for this is in Psalms 2:9, "**You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.**" This concept is repeated in the New Testament in a variety of places, however for our purpose, the millennium, it is used in Rev. 2:26-27, to inform the church of Thyatira how they will spend the millennium if they, "**...overcome to the end...**" and again in Rev.19:15, "**Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter.'**" This verse tells about how Christ will conquer then nations at the battle of Armageddon and then how he will rule the nations.
- 2) During this period Satan will be bound and placed in the 'Abyss' for a thousand years so that he will not be able to 'deceive' the people living during this time period, Rev. 20:1-3, "**And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or**

Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations any more until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time." Notice that Satan is let free at the end of the 1,000 years.

I believe that there are two primary reasons why God the Father chained Satan for the 1,000 reign of Christ. Note: the reason I am assuming that this order was from God the Father rather than Christ who was already on earth is that the angel who chained Satan was sent from heaven. I will now list my two primary reasons:

- a) God wanted to remove all of man's excuses that, 'Satan made me do it'. At this point in time man will only have his own sinful heart to blame, given Satan is now chained and unable to tempt man.
 - b) I think it would be somewhat awkward to have Satan roaming the earth and Christ, 'the ruler of all of creation' who is now ruling, with an iron scepter' on the earth at the same time. Satan would be destroyed the very first second, which is actually what happened.
- 3) During this period there are two groups of people who will 'help' or 'assist' Christ with his rule of the earth during the 1,000 years.
- a) The first group is the church. There are two good places to read about this in the book of Revelations, Rev, 5:10, "You have made them to be a kingdom and priest to serve God, and they will reign on the earth." And, Rev. 20:6 "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priest of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years."
 - b) The second group that will 'assist' Christ during his 1,000 years reign are the people who were martyred during the seven year tribulation period, Rev. 20:4, "I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not

received his mark on their forehead or their hand. They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.”

- 4) The people who were saved and still living at the end of the seven years tribulations will be the people who populate the earth during this 1,000 year period, plus the children born to these people. There will be no unsaved people crossing over between the end of the tribulation and the beginning of the 1,000 years reign of Christ, Rev. 19:21, “The rest of them were killed with the sword that came out of the mouth of the rider on the horse...”
- 5) The last event to take place during the 1,000 years reign of Christ is that Satan will be released to ‘deceive’ the nations once more and some of the children of the saved people that went in to the 1,000 years period will be ‘deceived’ and try to overthrow Christ. The outcome is recorded in Rev. 20: 7-10. We will read this in class.
- 6) The Great White Throne Judgment occurs next but I am not sure if this is the very last thing of the 1,000 years or falls in the gap between the 1,000 years and the new heaven and new earth. Rev. 20:11-15.

SEVENTH MAJOR ADJUSTMENT GOD HAD TO MAKE BECAUSE OF MAN’S SIN →

At the end of the millennium Satan is released from the Abyss and once again deceives man and gathers them together to try to defeat God, see Rev. 20:7-10. This is the last time that God will be required to intervene to correct for man’s sin as after this there will be no more sin.

PHASE 7: The New Heaven and New Earth→ The period between the End of the Age and Eternity.

This period is covered in Revelations Chapters 21-22. The four issues that I focus on during this period are:

- 1) Only the saved will be permitted into the new heaven and new earth, Re. 20:15.
- 2) God will once again walk with man, Rev. 21:3 & 22:3.
- 3) There will be no sin in the new heaven and new earth, Rev. 21:4
- 4) Revelations 22:5- 14 expands the idea of who will be considered, "The Bride of Christ" to include all saved people.
- 5) Eternity is next.

SUMMARY:

All of these answers are open for discussion and critical review.

Now to answer the questions that we started with:

- 1) Should there be a division between God and the government or as we currently say, a division between church and state?

Answer:

Based on what we have read in the above analysis and the history of the world it would appear that if the hearts and actions of the people of a specific country are obedient to God's laws, commands and decrees that they would have to base their civil laws on Biblical values. Also, if they want to receive God's blessing and be a positive player within God's long term plan, then their culture would have to be Biblically based.

However, I need to point out that when our forefathers came to this country and settled their concerns about a separation of church and state was based on the government now being able to dictate any specific Christian denomination not if the country itself would be Christian based.

The bottom line is if your country is Christian based it will receive God's blessing and if your country is not Christian based it will not be blessed by God.

- 2) The people of America today continuously ask the question: should Christ be taken out of Christmas?

Answer:

I believe to answer this question we need to better define: On December 25, what are we trying to celebrate? I think the holiday is named, Christ-mas, however, if in our hearts we are just focusing on buying gifts for ourselves and others, trying to stimulate the economy and in general having parties for the two week period ending on January 1, then Christ birthday is not part of the celebration regardless of what we say. However, if we in our hearts and souls are primarily celebrating the birth of the savior of the world and then secondarily some of the other items listed above. Then Christ is the center of Christmas and must be included.

I believe that there are two concepts that we must understand in deciding how we approach this issue: 1) God has granted man, 'freewill' to make his own decisions about whether he obeys God laws, commands and decrees or he elects to disobey God. The process of disobeying God started in the Garden of Eden and continues until this very moment. Also, for some detail examples of when man disobeys God's commands and the results of disobedience please see the 'Analysis of Gods Plan, in the above write-up. 2) Based on my understanding of the Bible I do not think man has the authority or power to exclude Christ birth from being celebrated by the universe (earth and heaven). This would appear to be another mistake made by man in his understanding about his position or relationship between him and his creator. 3) The bottom line is if America, as a people, allows Christ to be taken out of Christmas I am afraid that God will remove his blessing from America as well.

3) Does God have a plan?

Answer:

Based on the information contained within the Holy Bible, listed above, I do not think anyone can doubt that God has a very specific macro-plan for man.

a) We began our existence in the Garden of Eden walking and communing with God. (began our existence, is defined as – God who is our creator and God, created us as both physical and spiritual beings) At this point we were

mortal and God was spirit but we were compatible because there was no sin to separate us.

- b) God plan always allowed or granted man with the ability to exercise his freewill because God wanted man to willingly submit to the fact that God was his creator and God. Based on all of the adjustments that God has had to make it would appear that man from day one has had a great deal of trouble with this issue. Keep in mind that 'adjustments' were adjustments to man action for his sin not to Gods plan. God's macro plan has never changed: Create a spiritual being that would live forever, and then provide that being with the opportunity to choose to willingly submit to God and his rules and to acknowledge that he is their God and creator and that they are his people. God also knew ahead of time that the power of freewill was so great that man would not be able to resist falling to sin and would need to be redeemed if he were going to have any chance of being able to once again commune with God. So he provided a method for salvation and made it free. However, what people need to understand is that God's plan provides for salvation or redemption but it does not force us to accept God's free gift.

- 4) How would or could God let this happen? As it relates to the recent school shooting in the news or in general, bad things happening to good people.

Answer:

To me this is a very simple question to answer but a very hard answer to accept. I believe that it is based on one simple concept:

When God created man he provided him with 'freewill' as described in Gen. 1:28-30 & 3:2-7. Man could have obeyed God and not eaten from the forbidden tree or exercise his freewill will to disobey God and eat from the forbidden tree. We know how this story turned out and it has continued the same way until today. Because there is sin in the world man will continue to live in pain. If you go back to the write up on God's plan above you will find that God has had to enter history at least seven times to correct for the enormous amount of sin that man

has created in the world at these points in time. A good example of how sin manifests itself over time and how it can affect many generations after the original sin was committed is the nation of Israel. The sins that the nation of Israel committed between 900 BC and 600 BC has caused almost every Jew that lived after these dates some type of pain. The most notable would be the Jewish holocaust during the Second World War. Once sin entered the world and man continued to exercise his freewill incorrectly, therefore, adding to the sin of the world in general—bad things will happen to good people. Another good example would be a young unmarried woman who is drug dependent gives birth to a child and the child is born drug dependent. The child at birth has no sin based on his freewill but the original sin of man and the sin of the mother will bring extreme pain to the child.

Because of man's original sin and because man continues to exercise his freewill and makes bad decisions all men will continue to experience the negative or harmful impact of sin. As a matter of fact, this process will continue to accelerate until the Rapture of the church at which time it will accelerate at an increasing rate. This time period will be known as the Tribulations.

The only thing that can begin to turn the effect of sin around is all men and women beginning to live a Christ like life and that does not seem to be the direction the world is headed in today.

Feedback: Timeline for the Flood

by David Wright, AiG-U.S.

March 9, 2012

I can find info on the flood but I am looking for good estimation fixing the date of the flood.

So when exactly was the Flood?

For an accurate chronology on the Bible, including the time of the Flood, I highly recommend *The Annals of the World* by James Ussher, *Adam's Chart of History*, *Newton's Revised History of Ancient Kingdoms*, and *Chronology of the Old Testament* by Floyd Nolen Jones.

There are two possible ways of calculating the date. The first is from creation, and the other is from the present. I will focus on the date from creation since the latter would be much more involved. So here we go.

Table 1: Dates of biblical events from Creation

Event/Person	Passage	Total Time from Creation (years)
God created everything.	Genesis 1-2	0
Adam became the father of Seth at 130.	Genesis 5:3	$0 + 130 = 130$
Seth became the father of Enosh at 105.	Genesis 5:6	$130 + 105 = 235$
Enosh became the father of Kenan at 90.	Genesis 5:9	$235 + 90 = 325$
Cainan became the father of Mahalalel at 70.	Genesis 5:12	$325 + 70 = 395$
Mahalalel became the father of Jared at 65.	Genesis 5:15	$395 + 65 = 460$
Jared became the father of Enoch at 162.	Genesis 5:18	$460 + 162 = 622$
Enoch became the father of Methuselah at 65.	Genesis 5:21	$622 + 65 = 687$
Methuselah became the father of Lamech at 187.	Genesis 5:25	$687 + 187 = 874$

Event/Person	Passage	Total Time from Creation (years)
Lamech became the father of Noah at 182.	Genesis 5:28	$874 + 182 = 1056$
The Flood started when Noah was 600.	Genesis 7:6	$1056 + 600 = 1656$

As you can see from Table 1, the year in which the Flood came was 1656 AM¹ (*Anno Mundi* – “year of the world”). From the rest of the Old Testament and other well-documented historical events we understand that creation, as calculated by [Ussher](#), was about 4004 BC. So with a little more math we can calculate the second date.

Calculated BC date for creation:	4004
Calculated AM date for the Flood:	<u>- 1656</u>
Calculated BC date for the Flood:	2348
Current Year (minus one ²):	<u>+ 2011</u>
Number of years since beginning of Flood:	4359

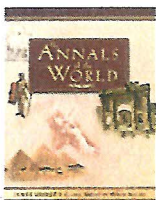
Using the Bible, well-documented historical events, and some math, we find that the Flood began approximately 4,359 years ago in the year 1656 AM or 2348 BC. Some may look for an exact date (i.e., month and day), but we are not given that sort of precision in Scripture.

Help keep these daily articles coming. [Support AiG.](#)

Footnotes

1. Since the Bible does not provide the number of months in the age of each patriarch listed from Adam to Noah, then we could add about five more years to this number. For example, Adam may have been 130 years and 10 months old when Seth was born, and Seth may have been 105 years and four months. On average, there would likely be an additional six months for each generation. The same would be true for the genealogy in [Genesis 10](#). [Back](#)
2. We need to subtract one year from this calculation since there was not a “year zero.” The calendar we use jumps from 1 BC to AD 1. [Back](#)

Recommended Resources



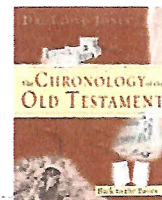
[The Annals of the World \(Softcover\)](#)



[Adams' Chart of History](#)



[Newton's Revised History of Ancient](#)



[The Chronology of the Old Testament](#)

Index of Old Testament Prophecies:

[Back](#)

From 4000 to 430 B.C., foretelling the First and Second comings of Jesus Christ. Remember that there is a 500 year gap between the Old and New Testaments. For a quick tour, click on the verses in **bold print**.

Genesis **3:15**

12:3

49:10The Promise

Exodus **12:40-50**The Passover Lamb

Numbers **24:17**.....The Scepter

Deuteronomy 18:17-19.....The Coming Prophet

Job **19:25-27**.....The Resurrection

Psalms:

2:1-12The New World Order to be Destroyed

8:1-9Brought low for the suffering of death

16:7-11.....Will not see decay

22:1-31The Crucifixion Foretold (1,000 B.C.)

45:1-9The King and his Bride

110:1-7The Coming Priest

Proverbs **30:4**The Son

Isaiah:

7:14To be Born of a Virgin

9:6-7The Man who is God

11:1-5The Righteous Judge

42:1-9.....The Judge of the Nations

49:5-7The Light of the Gentiles

52:13-15The Suffering Servant

53:1-12The Lamb of God...Raised from the Dead

Jeremiah **31:31-34**The New Covenant

Daniel:

7:13-14.....His Kingdom is Forever

9:26.....He is to be "cut off" (initially)

Amos **8:9-10**.....Sun to go down at Noon

Micah **5:2**The Christ to be born in Bethlehem

Zechariah:

9:9The King to enter Jerusalem riding a donkey (First Coming)

11:10-13He is to be sold for 30 pieces of silver

12:9-10The Repentance of the Jews (Second Coming)

14:1-9The Second Coming

Malachi **3:1-5**.....The Messenger prepares the way

[Return to Top](#)