

The Redemptive Plan of our Creator God

John 1:1-4 [NIV] *“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men.”*

These powerfully simple words and phrases are at the root of all theology [the study of God] and the basis of all truth.

John 1:11 [NIV] *“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*

“He came” – the Creator of all physical things and spiritual beings.

The source of all life.

The source of all light and enlightenment.

The significance of the limitless meaning of these two words “he came” and what it encompasses is vast.

Within these two words:-

The whole scope of divine mercy and redeeming love.

All the mercy that God the Father is capable of showing.

All the redeeming grace that God the Father pours out on us from His heart.

All the love and pity that God the Father is capable of feeling.

All the hopes and longings and dreams of immortality.

All these have fulfilment in the coming of Jesus, the Christ and Redeemer.

What these two words tell us is more profound than all philosophy.

All the great thinkers of the world put together could never produce anything that would remotely approach the wonder of the truth disclosed in the message of these two words “He came” !

John 1:5 [NIV] *“The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*

These two words tell us that all humanity, sitting in darkness, has been visited by the light of the world.

John 8:12 [NIV] *“When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”*

Only by following Jesus Christ can we come out of the darkness in this world.

The darkness of people who are blinded to the true reason we as human beings have received life.

John 1:11 [NIV] *“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*

“His own” – this is all of us who have been created and sustained by Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:16-17 [NIV] *“For by him [Jesus Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”*

All of creation is held together sustained by Jesus Christ.

“His own” is **not** limited to the Jews but all created things.

John 1:11 [Amplified Bible] *“He [Jesus Christ] came to that which belonged to Him, to His own, domain, creation, world, and they who were His own did not receive Him and did not welcome Him.”*

The very atoms of which Mary, Jesus the Son of Man’s physical mother, was made, the atoms of which His own physical body as the Son of Man was made, the straw in the manger, the wood of the cross on which He died, all were created by Jesus the Word.

Everything was made and sustained by the Word, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Jesus was the eternal One and He came to His own world.

We should **not** patronise Jesus Christ by inviting Him into our lives or ask Him to be partner in our affairs.

Jesus is not a guest in this world, He is the Host, and we are the guests in His world, by sufferance.

Our earthly relationship of Jesus Christ the Word.

Some people may ask *“Mary the mother of God to pray for them,”* this is done in error and ignorance.

Mary is dead and she is **not** the mother of God.

Hebrews 10:5 [NIV] *“Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me;”*

Mary was that body.

God in His loving and wise plan of redemption used the body of the virgin Mary as the matrix to form the physical body for His eternal son, who was with the Father and was Himself always God.

We should honour Mary for her love, faith and foremost for her humility, and because of this God chose to use her body to give the eternal Son a human body.

We all belong to God and His Christ [anointed one].

In the fullness of time, it was the nation of Israel, the Jews, to whom the Word, Jesus Christ, came.

Of all the people on earth, the nation of Israel surely was best prepared to receive Jesus Christ.

Israel were the children of Abraham, called to be a chosen people in an everlasting covenant with God the Father, through Abraham.

Israel had the revelation of God.

Israelites knew all the traditions of worship and faith that pointed towards the coming of the Saviour of all humanity.

Israel had the prophets that foretold what the Saviour would do in His act of redemption.

Yet in spite of all this knowledge, the Israelites failed to recognise Jesus as the longed for Messiah [Saviour] and Lord [God].

Isaiah prophesied about this blindness.

Isaiah 6:9-10 [NIV] *“He said, “Go and tell this people: “Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.’ Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.”*

Why did the Jews **not** accept Jesus?

First – I think it would have meant probable financial loss for many to step out of their situations in life and follow Jesus.

Luke 18:18-23 [NIV] *“A certain ruler asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No-one is good — except God alone. You know the commandments: ‘Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honour your father and mother.’” “All these I have kept since I was a boy,” he said. When Jesus heard this, he said to him, “You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth.”*

Too often people make the same choice today.

Second – for many who considered the claims of Jesus Christ in His day, following Him would have called for abrupt and drastic changes in the pattern of their lives.

Following Jesus Christ today calls for the same drastic changes.

Luke 14:26-27 [NIV] *“If anyone comes to me and does not hate [love less by comparison] his father and mother, his wife and children, his brothers and sisters, yes, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple. And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.”*

Jesus demands first place in our lives, **not** something we tack onto our normal life.

Third – Jesus expected His disciples to have a spiritual housecleaning.

Matthew 5:3-10 [NIV] *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

Here is a list of contrasting values, the eternal values of the Kingdom [a family grown big] of God and the values of the world that is temporary.

These values are **not** a multiple choice but have to be taken as a whole.

They describe what we should be like as disciples of Jesus Christ.

Fourth – Jesus brought a whole new concept to human beings as to who would be great in the eternal Kingdom of God.

Luke 22:24-26 [NIV] *“Also a dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be greatest. Jesus said to them, “The kings of the Gentiles lord it over them; and those who exercise*

*authority over them call themselves Benefactors. But you are not to be like that. Instead, **the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the one who serves.***

Not how the world looks on greatness.

Luke 9:46-48 [NIV] *“An argument started among the disciples as to which of them would be the greatest. Jesus, knowing their thoughts, took a little child and made him stand beside him. Then he said to them, “Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. **For he who is least among you all, he is the greatest.**”*

Those who would be great need to have a teachable child-like mind and spirit.

The world’s system of leadership is very different from the leadership in God’s Kingdom. Worldly leaders are often selfish and arrogant as they claw their way to the top.

But among Christians, the leader is to be the one who serves best.

Every Christian leader must have a servant’s heart.

Fifth – a Christian must be willing to completely abdicate themselves.

Matthew 16:24-26 [NIV] *“Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, **he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.** For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”*

What did Jesus Christ mean by “take up his cross”?

Paul amplifies on this attitude of mind.

Romans 6:3-11 [NIV] *“Or don’t you know that **all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death?** We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin, because anyone who has died has been freed from sin. Now **if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.** For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.”*

Jesus Christ “took up his cross” on the way to sacrifice His life for all humanity.

We also must be willing to sacrifice our life, our will, our time, our resources so that others may also receive salvation from eternal death by accepting Jesus Christ into their lives.

Romans 12:1 [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to **offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship.**”*

True spiritual worship is offering our whole body and spirit as a sacrifice, thus showing our gratitude for what Jesus Christ has done for us.

Sixth – a Christian must have genuine faith.

Hebrews 11:1 [NIV] *“Now **faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.**”*

We have to have –

Faith in the unseen.

Faith that has no dependence upon the works of the law.

Faith that does **not** stake its trust on the church or its traditions.

Faith that is founded **only** on our personal relationship with Jesus Christ our Creator, Sustainer, Saviour and Redeemer.

Our responsibilities to Jesus Christ today.

Matthew 7:1-5 [NIV] *“Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For **in the same way as you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.”**”*

Jesus is warning us in these words about self-deception in matters of spiritual responsibility.

It is easy to magnify others’ faults while excusing our own.

Millions of people with an understanding of the revelation of God in Jesus Christ, with many years of spiritual enlightenment and Bible teaching in their backgrounds, still are **not** willing to totally commit themselves to Jesus Christ.

They hesitate and they delay because they realise God is asking the abdication of their own selfish little kingdom before they can enter into God’s Kingdom.

The tragedy is that many people prefer to stay in the darkness of deception rather than come to the light and truth of the world.

Many reject Jesus Christ because they must have their own way in life.

Until Jesus Christ is sincerely received as our Lord and Saviour, there can be no full understanding of the things of God.

John 1:11 [NIV] *“He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*

This is the greatest tragedy in all of life.