

## **The Cradle, Cross, and Crown**

We are at the time of year where many of us having been preparing. We're preparing for a big meal. We're preparing for our families to arrive. We're preparing decorations for our homes.

Getting things prepared takes time. Today I want you to consider the preparations that God has made to bring us salvation.

In the first chapter of Genesis we read about how God created the world and everything in it in just 6 days. On the seventh day He rested. We know that God does not get tired, so why did He rest? God rested because there nothing more to do, but when sin entered the world God had to go back to work.

In Gen 3:15, God said to the Devil, that someone is coming who will give you a fatal blow.

In Gen 22:18, God said to Abraham, "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed."

Jeremiah said in Jer 31:31, "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

In Deut 18:15, Moses said that the Lord will raise up a prophet like me, I will put my words in His mouth, and He will tell everything I have commanded."

When the time was right, God would send Jesus into this world.

Gal 4:4, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons."

The story of Jesus can be divided into 3 stages. "The Cradle, The Cross and The Crown"!! Today I want to speak about how God in his planning made salvation possible.

### **I. The Cradle:**

With our technology today it's amazing to see how precise we are when it comes to predicting the weather. We can predict when a snowstorm is coming or when hurricane is on the horizon.

However, nothing holds a candle when it comes to the future predictions of God. The birth of Jesus was told 750 years before it ever happened, and we even have details about where He would be born. Micah 5:2

Isaiah the prophet said, "Behold, the virgin will conceive and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel" (Isa 7:14)

**II. The Cross:** The cross is one of the cruelest instruments of death known to man.

It's hard for us to even imagine all the pain and suffering Jesus endured. In the gospel accounts only a few chapters are dedicated to describing the details of what happened. Luke 23:33 says, "When they came to the place which is called Calvary, they crucified Him."

Deut 21:23 gave this dreadful warning: "Anyone hanged on a tree is given God's cure." Paul quoted this passage in Gal 3:13.

In the garden of Gethsemane, He asked his Father 3 times to "let this cup" pass from me."

Hebrews 12:3 says, "For the joy set before Him, He endured the cross despising the shame ..."

Over the years there has been much debate about who crucified Jesus. Was it the Jews? Was it the Romans? Who was it? The truth of it is, it was our sins that placed Him there.

This thought is what led Paul to write, "But God forbid that I should glory save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ by whom the world is crucified unto me and I unto the world"! (Gal 6:14).

1 Cor 1:18, "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God."

This is the only lever that has ever turned the world upside down. Let us thank God for the Cross of Calvary, upon which our freedom was purchased!

As we think about how God planned our salvation, with the birth and with the Cross, let's conclude by looking at

**III. The Crown!** The Crucifixion of Jesus was not the end.

On the third day Christ was raised from the dead.

After spending 40 days with the disciples, Acts 1:9 says "He was taken up." When Jesus returned to His father in heaven, listen to what these passages say about it.

Heb 1:3, "who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high."

Heb 2:9, "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone."

The victory of Jesus is also our victory.

**Close:** If you're searching for Jesus turn your gaze heavenward.