

Why do we still need Christmas? 我们为什么还需要圣诞节?

1st of December Genesis 3 12月1日创世记 3

Do we still need Christmas?

我们还需要圣诞节吗?

There are so many good things about Christmas, but they often bring problems too.

圣诞节有很多好东西，但它们也经常带来问题。

I love to give gifts to my kids at Christmas, but they struggle with thinking the season is about presents and wrestle with selfishness.

我喜欢在圣诞节给我的孩子送礼物，但他们会苦于思考节日是否只是为了收礼物，和因自私自利而挣扎。

I love having parties with my family. But there is always pain with those not there. And family gatherings can be such a breeding ground for conflict and division. Old hurts rising to the surface.

我喜欢与家人团聚。但总会为那些不再能或没有出席人感到痛苦。家庭聚会可以成为冲突和分裂的温床。旧伤痛再次浮现。

We put up our Christmas tree yesterday. But even with the tree and decorations, there's fights and conflict about who puts what on the tree, I want to put the angel on the top.

我们昨天放好了圣诞树。但是，即使在装饰的过程，也为了谁在树上放什么东西起争执和冲突，我想把天使放在树顶。

And right now, I don't hate Christmas carols, but I can imagine when it's the 24th of December and I've just started my shopping it'll be different. I've had to hunt around in 30 different shops to find the right robot dinosaur for my child. And then I've been standing in line at the shops for 40 minutes listening to the same songs on repeat – it will bring out rage to those songs, and impatience and anger towards every one else in line.

暂时，我不讨厌圣诞歌，但我可以想象12月24日的时候，我刚刚开始购买圣诞礼物，情况会有所不同。我不得不在30个不同的商店中寻找我孩子指定的机器恐龙。然后要在商店里排队40分钟，重复的听同一首圣诞歌，它将带出对这些歌的愤怒，并对在排队的其他人也不耐烦和愤怒。

This season has so much promise. We have the hope that Christmas will be a wonderful time, but it can also bring out the worst in us.

这个节日充满应许。我们希望圣诞节将是一个美好的时光，但它也可以带给我们最糟糕的一天。

Would it just be better if we cancelled Christmas? Save some money and pain? Do we still need Christmas? That's the question we're seeking to answer all through December.

如果我们取消圣诞节会更好吗？节省一些钱和痛苦？我们还需要圣诞节吗？这些就是我们想在这个十二月回答的问题。

As we seek to figure this out, we will be looking at some of the Old Testament prophecies that point to Jesus coming. And then we'll look at the story of Jesus' birth in the book of Luke.

当我们设法弄清楚这一点时，我们将研究一些旧约预言，这些预言表明耶稣要来。然后，我们将在路加福音中探讨耶稣的诞生故事。

Today we're starting in Genesis 3 where we see the root of all of our problems. And this also points to how they'll be fixed at Christmas.

今天，我们从创世记第3章开始，在那里我们看到了所有问题的根源。这也指向圣诞节将如何修复它们。

So to understand Christmas, we need to go back to the very start of the bible, and the start of when the world was made.

因此，要了解圣诞节，我们需要回到圣经的开始，回到世界一切被创造的那一刻。

1. The Fall 人的坠落

Genesis 1-2 tells the story in Hebrew poetry of how God made the universe, the earth and us humans in God's image. Then Genesis 3 shows this all fall apart.

创世记 1-2 章以希伯来诗歌，讲述了上帝如何按照上帝的形象造了宇宙，地球和我们人类的故事。然后第3章指出这一切都崩溃了。

God made men and women and they were united with no shame. They followed God with no fear.

上帝造了男和女，他们二人赤身露体，并不觉得羞耻。他们无所畏惧地跟随上帝。

Then the serpent, the deceiver comes and questions Adam and Eve.

然后蛇出现，这个骗子来向亚当和夏娃提问。

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" 2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, 3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.'"

1 耶和华上帝所造的，惟有蛇比田野一切的走兽更狡猾。蛇对女人说：「上帝岂是真说，你们不可吃园中任何树上所出的吗？」女人对蛇说：「园中树上的果子，我们都可以吃；只是园子中间那棵树的果子，上帝曾说：『你们不可吃，也不可摸，免得你们死。』」

Adam and Eve who were united are divided. Adam, likely nearby, doesn't intervene or assist. Eve twists God's word remembering it incorrectly.

团结一的亚当和夏娃分开了。亚当，很可能在附近，也不干预也不协助。夏娃扭曲了上帝的话，把它记错了。

The serpent suggests an alternative gospel. A good news not based on obeying God in his love – But one that would make Adam and Eve like God.

蛇暗示了另一种福音。一个不是基于在爱中服从上帝的好消息，而是一个使亚当和夏娃像上帝一样的消息。

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

4 蛇对女人说：「你们不一定死；因为上帝知道，你们吃的日子眼睛就开了，你们就像上帝一样知道善恶。」

You can be like God, not by following God and obeying him, but by disobeying him. On the back of the handouts you can read about what the gospel, the good news is.

你可以像神一样，不是借着跟随神并服从他，而是借着不服从他。在讲义的背面，您可以读到什么是这个福音，这个好消息。

Adam and Eve both eat. Disobeying God. And in an instant – the perfect garden is destroyed. Husband and wife are no longer united perfectly. God is no longer obeyed as the perfect and generous God. Work is no longer a good gift any more.

亚当和夏娃都吃了。不服从上帝。瞬间，完美的乐园被摧毁了。丈夫和妻子不再完美地合一。人不再以上帝为完美和慷慨的神来服从。工作不再是一件好礼物。

A small weak moment of disobedience causes thousands of years of devastation and destruction.

一个小小的软弱不服从反抗的时刻导致数千年的破坏和毁灭。

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

7 他们二人的眼睛就开了，知道自己赤身露体，就编织无花果树的叶子，为自己做成裙子。

They were united and comfortable naked in the presence of each other. Naked in both the literal sense, but also completely open and knowable to the other. But immediately they are aware of their nakedness between each other and seek to hide their shame. Broken marriage can't stand the sight of each other, can't be vulnerable and open with each other.

他们本来是一体，二人在对方面前赤身露体，并不觉得羞耻。不单是实际上的赤裸裸，也彼此完全的坦诚开放可互相理解。但是，他们立即意识到彼此之间的赤裸裸，并试图掩饰自己的羞耻。破碎了的婚姻不能忍受彼此的相互相处，不能互相坦诚开放。

In this moment, not only is the perfect relationship between people destroyed, so too between them and God. No longer close and obedient to their God, now they see God as a tyrant to be fear. They run and hide behind a tree which was supposed to be good and provide food.

在这一刻，不仅人与人之间的完美关系被破坏，人与神之间的关系也被破坏。他们不再亲近或顺服他们的上帝，他们将上帝视为要惧怕的暴君。他们逃跑并躲在一棵本来是好好作为提供食物的树后面。

God comes, calling to them. And only selfishness is seen.

上帝来到园中呼唤他们，而见到的只有自私。

The man responds

男人回答

9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

9 耶和华上帝呼唤那人，对他说：「你在哪里？」10 他说：「我在园中听见你的声音，我就害怕；因为我赤身露体，我就藏了起来。」

I heard / I was afraid / I was naked / I hid. Adam plunges himself into selfishness revealing the heart of his problem – his disobedience – causing him to feel shame at his nakedness.

我听见，我就害怕；我赤身露体，我就藏了起来。亚当陷入了自私之中，露出了问题的根源 - 他的不服从 - 使他为自己赤裸裸感到羞愧。

God knowing what has happened – asks the man how he knew he was Naked.

上帝知道发生了什么事，问男人他怎么知道自己是赤身露体的。

Adam’s selfishness and desire to protect himself first makes him blame Eve and God in the one breath.

亚当的自私和想首先保护自己的欲望，使他同时间责怪夏娃和上帝。

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

12 那人说：「你赐给我、与我一起的女人，是她把那树上所出的给我，我就吃了。」

That is a lot to do, to blame both your creator and wife in one go! The woman that you put here. God it is your fault. He shifts the blame out of fear to protect himself.

很过份的同时责怪你的创造主和妻子！你放在这儿的那女子，这是上帝你的错。他为了保护自己在恐惧中把责任推卸。

The woman, Eve, does the same thing in verse 13.

女人夏娃在第13节中做同样的事情。

13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

13 耶和华上帝对女人说：「你怎么会做这种事呢？」女人说：「那蛇引诱我，我就吃了。」

She shifts the blame, she doesn't admit fault out of fear.

她推卸责任，因恐惧她不承认错误。

Can you imagine how God would have felt in this moment? I've given you this good gift, and now you three are fighting, blaming each other. I've given you everything and this is how you respond!

你能想象上帝此刻会如何感受吗？我给了你这份好礼物，现在你们三个在争执，互相指责。我已经给了你一切，这就是你如何响应！

God can't let this act of disobedience go unpunished.

上帝不能让这种不服从行为不受惩罚。

God curses the snake and sets consequences for Adam and Eve.

上帝诅咒了上帝，给亚当和夏娃定下了后果。

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

14 耶和华上帝对蛇说：「你既做了这事，就必受诅咒，比一切的牲畜和野兽更重。你必用肚子行走，终生吃土。15 我要使你和女人彼此为仇，你的后裔和女人的后裔也彼此为仇。他要伤你的头，你要伤他的脚跟。」

16 To the woman he said, "I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you."

17 To Adam..."Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

16 又对女人说：「我必多多加增你怀孕的痛苦，你生儿女时必多受痛苦。你必恋慕你丈夫，他必管辖你。」17 又对亚当说：「你既听从你妻子的话，吃了那树上所出的，就是我吩咐你不可吃的，土地必因你的缘故受诅咒；你必终生劳苦才能从土地得吃的。」

The united and perfect relationship is no more. They were created equal, but now she will long for man's position of authority, and because man is now sinful he will abuse and exploit his position of authority.

合一完美的关系已不再。他们被创造时是平等的，但现在她将渴望男人的权威地位，因为男人现在是罪恶的，他会滥用和利用自己的权威地位。

Those who were created to be one flesh are now tearing at each other. Those who had no shame before each other, can't stand in front of the other. They are both selfishly protecting themselves and blaming others for their own actions.

那些本被创造为一体的现在互相撕裂。那些本来彼此在对方面前不觉羞耻的，现在不能容忍面对面相处。他们既自私地保护自己，又把自己行为的责任推卸于他人。

Work that God had give them to be a good gift is now toil. Man who came from the dust will toil until he returns to the dust.

上帝赐予他们作为好礼物的工作现在是辛劳。来自尘土的人会辛劳直到回到尘土。

Instead of finding fulfilment in God, together they've chased other things, trying to rule over each. It's a mess. Work is damaged, their relationship with God and with each other is damaged.

他们不再在上帝里寻找满足，他们一起追逐其他事物，试图统治每一件事。是一团糟。工作被破坏，他们与神的关系和彼此的关系被破坏。

The consequences of this moment ripple throughout human history. People chasing knowledge and power for themselves. Not taking responsibility but shifting blame. Fear leading to damage to the people closest to them.

这一刻的后果波及整个人类历史。人们为自己追求知识和权力。不愿承担责任，只是不断推卸。恐惧导致伤害到最亲近的人。

Power plays. It's every drama on TV or in movies, but it's also the drama of our lives. We relate to other people from sinful places of fear and anxiety, causing us to defend ourselves and not admit fault.

玩弄权力，是电视或电影中常见的情节，也是我们生活中的常见的大起大落。我们从罪恶的恐惧和焦虑之地与人打交道，使我们为自己辩护，和不承认错误。

Not secure in the unending love of God as his children, tempted by more, and when caught out shifting blame, caring only about self.

没有在上帝的无休止的爱中作孩子去得到保障，面对更多的诱惑，当被捉到时，推卸责任，只关心自己。

It causes problems at Christmas because our hearts desires are so often clear. We want to get the right present. We want someone to have the right response to the present we give them. We want our family to be happy. These can be good desires, but so often expressed selfishly.

这在圣诞节时，常常因为我们内心的渴望会更为清晰，而引起更多问题。我们希望得到合心意的礼物。我们希望他人对我们给他们的礼物有适当的响应。我们希望我们的家人开心。这些可能是很好的渴望，但常常自私地表达出来。

So what do we do? Christmas is a matter of weeks away. How does God speak into this season and guide us through it?

那我们该怎么办？离圣诞节只有几个星期。上帝对这个节日有何话说，并引导我们度过它？

2. The solution 解决方案

How does God deal with this issue of selfishness, disobedience, and blame shifting? He covers over their shame, and promises a solution.

神如何处理这个自私、不服从和推卸责任的问题？他覆盖了他们的耻辱，并应许了一个解决方案。

Covering 覆盖

It seems that there has been a terrible wedge driven between God and his people – but he is still the compassionate creator God.

上帝与他的子民之间似乎形成了一个可怕的鸿沟，但他仍然是富有同情心的创造者上帝。

21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

21 耶和华上帝用兽皮做衣服给亚当和他的妻子穿。

God meets his ashamed and guilty people in their need. He provides covering for them. Animals are sacrificed to cover their shame and disgrace. One has died to cover their sin.

上帝跟据属于祂的羞愧和有罪的人的需要来满足他们。为他们提供掩护。为了掩盖它们的羞耻和耻辱动物被牺牲了。为了掩盖他们的罪必要一死。

These people who were united, following God – divided from each other and God are covered. God's provision allows them to stand in the others presence.

这些本是合一跟随上帝的人，彼此分裂，上帝被覆盖。神的供应允许他们去站在对方面前。

God is still for them. He has not separated himself from his good but now damaged creation. He has separated them from the Tree of Life, because they have eaten from the Tree of Good and Evil, so that they would not be stuck in a life of sin forever. But he doesn't separate himself from them fully. He is still present. Despite all that we do, God is still present, and he compassionately cares for Adam and Eve in their fear, anxiety and shame. He allows them to continue in relationship now that they are covered up. But they are not whole. Their clothes point to the distance between themselves and God. But God is still working in their lives to restore them to full relationship.

上帝仍然站在他们那边。他并没有把自己与本来是美好的，但现在受损坏的创造分离。他不再让他们吃生命树所出的果子，因为他们吃了知善恶树的果子，这样他们就不需永远被困在罪恶的生命中。但他并没有完全与他们脱隔离。他仍然与他们同在。尽管我们做了的一切事情，上帝仍然同在，他慈悲地关心亚当和夏娃的恐惧、焦虑和羞愧。因他覆盖他们，允许他们继续之间的关系。但它们并不完整。他们的衣服指向了自己和上帝之间的距离。但是上帝仍在他们的生命中努力恢复他们完全的关系。

Head Crushing 伤它的头

God has made a way for them to continue, but he also promises a final solution. When God cursed the snake, he also promised someone would come to deal with this problem. Verse 15

上帝已经为他们提供了继续的方式，但他也承诺一个最终的解决方案。当上帝诅咒蛇时，他还应许有一个人会来处理这个问题。第15节

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between our offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

15 我要使你和女人彼此为仇，你的后裔和女人的后裔也彼此为仇。他要伤你的头，你要伤他的脚跟。

God promises that one of Adam and Eves children would come and crush the head of the snake. To right the wrongs that has caused so much destruction. And it points to a day that the one who was instrumental in the fall of people will be crushed. Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil on the cross.

上帝应许亚当和夏娃的一个后裔会来伤蛇的头。纠正造成如此大破坏的错误。它指向了一个那个在人的堕落中起重要作用的将被粉碎的日子。耶稣在十字架上打败了罪、死亡和魔鬼。

Yet Jesus was struck; crucified - but raised by God, enthroned as the long expected snake crusher, and king. He Died and was raised – ruling at God’s right hand. And he will return to take us to be with him.

然而，耶稣会被击；被钉在十字架上，但上帝会使他复活，立他为期待已久的粉碎蛇的国王。他死了，被复活了，坐在上帝的右边统治一切。他会回来带我们到他那里永远与他同在

How does God fix these issues of sin, selfishness, and blame shifting. Christmas is the ultimate display of other person centred love. It’s the opposite of selfishness. God gives his one and only Son. Mistreated and killed. But raised.

神如何解决这些罪、自私和推卸责任的问题。圣诞节是以他人为中心的爱的终极体现。是自私自利的相反。上帝赐给了他唯一的独生子。被虐待和杀害。但复活了。

His death and resurrection defeat Satan, but also provide a covering for us. God’s generous gift covers us, not just our skin, but our guilt and shame and sin. Jesus’ righteousness is the cover for our sinfulness.

他的死亡和复活打败撒旦，但也为我们提供了一个掩护。上帝慷慨的礼物不仅覆盖了我们的皮肤，也覆盖了我们的内疚、羞耻和罪恶。耶稣的公义是我们的罪性的覆盖。

As Adam and Eve’s clothes covered their shame and fear and anxiety so they could continue together; God does the same for us. Jesus is our covering, so we can stand before God in his sight, and we no longer need to be afraid, or hide. We no longer need to stand before God like Adam, shifting blame out of self-protection. Jesus’ blood protects us, and we are forgiven and loved.

亚当和夏娃的衣服掩盖了他们的羞耻、恐惧和焦虑，这样他们才能继续在一起；上帝也为我们做同样的事。耶稣是我们的掩护，所以我们可以站在神面前，我们不再需要害怕或躲藏。我们不再需要像亚当那样站在上帝面前，因自我保护而推卸责任。耶稣的血保护我们，我们被原谅和被爱。

Christmas in 2019 圣诞节

So why do we need Christmas this year?

那我们今年为什么需要圣诞节呢？

Genesis 3 reminds us of what we are like. We are inherently selfish. Worried about protecting ourselves first. Shifting blame to others. We pursue wisdom and knowledge and satisfaction in all the wrong ways that only damage us and the world around us. We can be tricked into ignoring or twisting God's word to us.

创世记3章提醒我们自己是什么样的人。我们天生自私。先担心保护自己，把责任推到别人身上。我们用所有错误的方式追求智能、知识和满足，只会损害我们和我们周围的世界。我们可以被欺骗，无视或扭曲神给我们的话。

So I need Christmas this year. I need it when it just brings out that default selfish response. I can get tricked into thinking that Christmas is about food and family and presents.

所以我今年需要圣诞节。我需要它因为它可带出我那预设的自私反应。我可以被骗去想圣诞节是关于食物、家庭和礼物。

I can get be selfish and impatient. Blaming others for doing their shopping at the last minute and getting in my way when I'm doing the shopping at the last minute. I can forget Christmas is about the God who gave us the best gift, His Son who entered our world to save us.

我可能会变得自私和不耐烦。责怪别人在我作最后一刻的购物时，也作他们最后一刻的购物，而妨碍我。我可以忘记圣诞节是关于上帝给了我们最好的礼物，他的儿子进入我们的世界来拯救我们。

Christmas is God's best on display.

圣诞节展示上帝的最好。

His generosity to us in his only son.

他以他的唯一独生子对我们慷慨。

His grace giving what we don't deserve.

他的恩典在我们是不值得的时候给与。

This mercy that he would cover our sin and shame with blood of his son.

是这个怜悯，他会用他儿子的血掩盖我们的罪和耻辱。

We need Christmas now in 2019 to remember God's present goodness his love for us in Jesus, covering our sin and shame, and how he is uniting this diverse community in Jesus.

我们在2019年还需要圣诞节去纪念上帝在耶稣里对我们的爱，涵盖我们的罪和耻辱，而他正在耶稣里使这个多元化的社群合一。

We need this Christmas more than anything else right now – because we need to remember all of God's goodness to us in his son Jesus. And expect God to work in our hearts too.

我们现在比任何其他时候更需要这个圣诞节，因为我们需要记住上帝在他的儿子耶稣身上对我们所有恩惠。并期待上帝也在我们的心中工作。

Instead of letting a busy, expensive, and tiring Christmas season bring you down, remember all that God has done! All God has done since Adam and Eve, through Jesus, and continues to do today.

不要让一个忙碌、昂贵和疲惫的圣诞节让你失望，记住上帝所做的一切！从亚当和夏娃开始，上帝通过圣耶稣所做的一切，今天还在继续做。

Over the next couple of weeks as the Christmas season gets upon us, use this season to remind you of why we still need Christmas.

在接下来的几周里，随着圣诞节的到来，利用这个节日提醒你为什么我们仍然需要圣诞节。

When buying gifts, remember that it's not about whatever present we are buying – but God who gave us the Snake Crusher to deal with Sin, Death and the Devil.

当买礼物时，请记住，不是我们为谁买什么礼物，而是上帝给了我们去对付罪、死忘和魔鬼的那位蛇的粉碎者。

In the midst of painful times with family, remember all that God has done to cover our sin and shame and mistakes with Jesus' blood so that we can be forgiven.

在与家人在一起的痛苦时刻中，记住神用耶稣的血来掩盖我们的罪、耻辱和错误所做的一切，以便我们可以被原谅。

Imagine I'm there down at Westfield Chatswood on Christmas Eve, stuck in a line with a trolley full of last-minute presents. My feelings will likely be impatience, anger, I'm going to be late for our late-night Christmas Eve service. Probably standing there frustrated at everyone else and the Christmas Carols, thinking "why do we even need Christmas". What a great chance to be reminded that God doesn't do things last minute. He planned out Jesus' moment of salvation from the very start. He doesn't get impatient or angry with me but has covered over my sin of impatience and anger. He has clothed me not with the skin of animals, but with his Son and His righteousness.

想象一下，圣诞节前夕我在车士活西武百货公司，推着一辆装满最后一分钟礼物的推车，等着等着去付款。我的感觉可能是不耐烦，愤怒，我将会赶不上平安夜的深夜崇拜。可能站在那里向其他人和圣诞歌发怒，思考"为什么我们还需要圣诞节？"。这是很好机会去提醒我们上帝不会在最后一刻才做事的。他从一开始就策划了耶稣的救恩时刻。他不会对我不耐烦或生气，但已经掩盖了我的不耐烦和愤怒的罪。他给我穿的衣服不是动物的皮，而是他的儿子和他的正义。

So, why do we still need Christmas? Because we still need God's goodness to us seen in Jesus.

那么，为什么我们仍然需要圣诞节呢？因为我们仍然需要在耶稣里看见的神对我们的美好。