

Two Gods – One Earth Which One is True

12-25-2016

Selected Scriptures

Part One of Two

Outline

- **Christmas and the Problem of Pain**
 - The Foundation Forces the Conclusion
 - The “god” of an old earth
- **Christmas and the Problem of Sin**
 - The Foundation of Christmas
 - Why we need a Savior
- **Salvation is in the Details**
 - The Vital Necessity of the Incarnation
 - The Virgin Birth
 - The Visit of the Magi
 - The Vulnerable Babe
 - The Vicarious Substitute
 - The Victorious Lord
- **Why Celebrate Christmas?**

Christmas and the Problem of Pain

- Why do Christians reject the idea of *karma* and the *insha allah*?
 - Shouldn't they just accept that death comes from God...and stop fighting it?
- Isn't God the cause of all death and disease...as witnessed in the fossil record?
 - The *god* of an old earth by definition is the sadistic author of suffering
 - Evolution – death was present long before humanity; 99.9% extinction rate
 - Theistic evolution – sin cannot truly be the cause of death
 - Progressive Creation – Hugh Ross; God is responsible for random wastefulness and inefficiencies in creation. Creation and Time, pg 88

Can Death Really Be Punishment for sin?

Church of England says, “NO”

“...Fossils are the remains of creatures that lived and died for over a billion years before Homo Sapiens evolved. Death is as old as life itself by all but a split second. Can it therefore be God’s punishment for Sin? The fossil record demonstrates that some form of evil has existed throughout time. On the large scale it is evident in natural disasters. The destruction of creatures by flood, ice age, desert and earthquakes has happened countless times. On the individual scale there is ample evidence of painful, crippling disease and the activity of parasites.

(cont.)

Can Death Really Be Punishment for sin? Church of England says, “NO”

We see that living things have suffered in dying, with arthritis, a tumor, or simply being eaten by other creatures. From the dawn of time, the possibility of life and death, good and evil, have always existed. At no point is there any discontinuity; there was never a time when death appeared, or a moment when the evil changed the nature of the universe. God made the world as it is ... evolution as the instrument of change and diversity.

Can Death Really Be Punishment for sin? Church of England says, “NO”

People try to tell us that Adam had a perfect relationship with God until he sinned, and all we need to do is repent and accept Jesus in order to restore that original relationship. But perfection like this never existed. There never was such a world. Trying to return to it, either in reality or spiritually, is a delusion. Unfortunately it is still central to much evangelical preaching.”

Tom Ambrose, Anglican Priest, Just a Pile of Old Bones, The Church of England Newspaper, Current Affairs section, Oct 21, 1994

Christmas and the Problem of Pain

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- According to the old earth god, death is no longer an enemy

The Record According to the Biblical God

- In Adam, we rebelled – Romans 5
- The entire creation has been *groaning* ever since – Romans 8:22
- The God of the Bible sent His own Son into the world to be a man, to take on our sin, so that we might be spared from an eternal punishment and separation from God – 2 Co 5:21
- He took our penalty (death) upon Himself, and conquered it by rising from the dead, which He will ultimately destroy – 1 Corinthians 15:26

Christmas and the Problem of Sin

- The foundation of Christmas
 - After the first man sinned, God promised a Savior – Genesis 3:15
 - All humans but one are the son of a man
 - Jesus is the uniquely begotten Son of a virgin womb
- Why we need a Savior
 - If we preach only the good news of Christmas, why should anyone listen?
 - After all, why do we good people need to be *saved*
 - If we preach the bad news of Genesis, the need for salvation makes sense
 - We are all going to die and be punished forever for our sin against God
 - There is nothing we can do to earn forgiveness

Salvation is in the Details

The Vital Necessity of the Incarnation

- Adam's sin was punishable by death – Genesis 2:17; cf. Ro 6:23
- Adam & Eve's sin needed to be covered; God used animals – Gen 3:21
- Believers up to Israel followed this example
- Israel followed this pattern of animal sacrifice as a way to have their sin covered (atoned for) before God
- The death of an animal cannot take away the sin of a man, since man was made in the image of God
- Salvation required that our Creator (in the person of Jesus Christ) become a man (while remaining God) in order to pay for man's sin

The Vital Necessity of the Incarnation, cont.

- God sentenced man to death in the first Adam
- He showed us His love by taking our punishment upon Himself in the person of the Last Adam, Jesus Christ – 1 Corinthians 15:45
 - He was born into the world He had created
 - He lived a perfect and sinless life
 - His perfect life qualified Him to pay for the penalty of another's sin
 - His identity as God makes His payment sufficient to cover for all who believe
 - This was and is the ultimate act of love, the laying down of one's life for the sake of another – John 15:13

The Virgin Birth

- The vital sign of the Savior's identity is being born to a virgin – Genesis 3:15; cf., Is 7:13-14
 - His name shall be called Immanuel – Mt 1:23
- The Savior, Jesus, was to sit on David's throne – Is 9:7
- He could not be the son of Joseph because Joseph was of David through Jeconiah – Jeremiah 22:30
- He had to be a descendant of David...and He was, through Mary and He was, through Nathan, the Son of David – Lk 1:32; 3:31

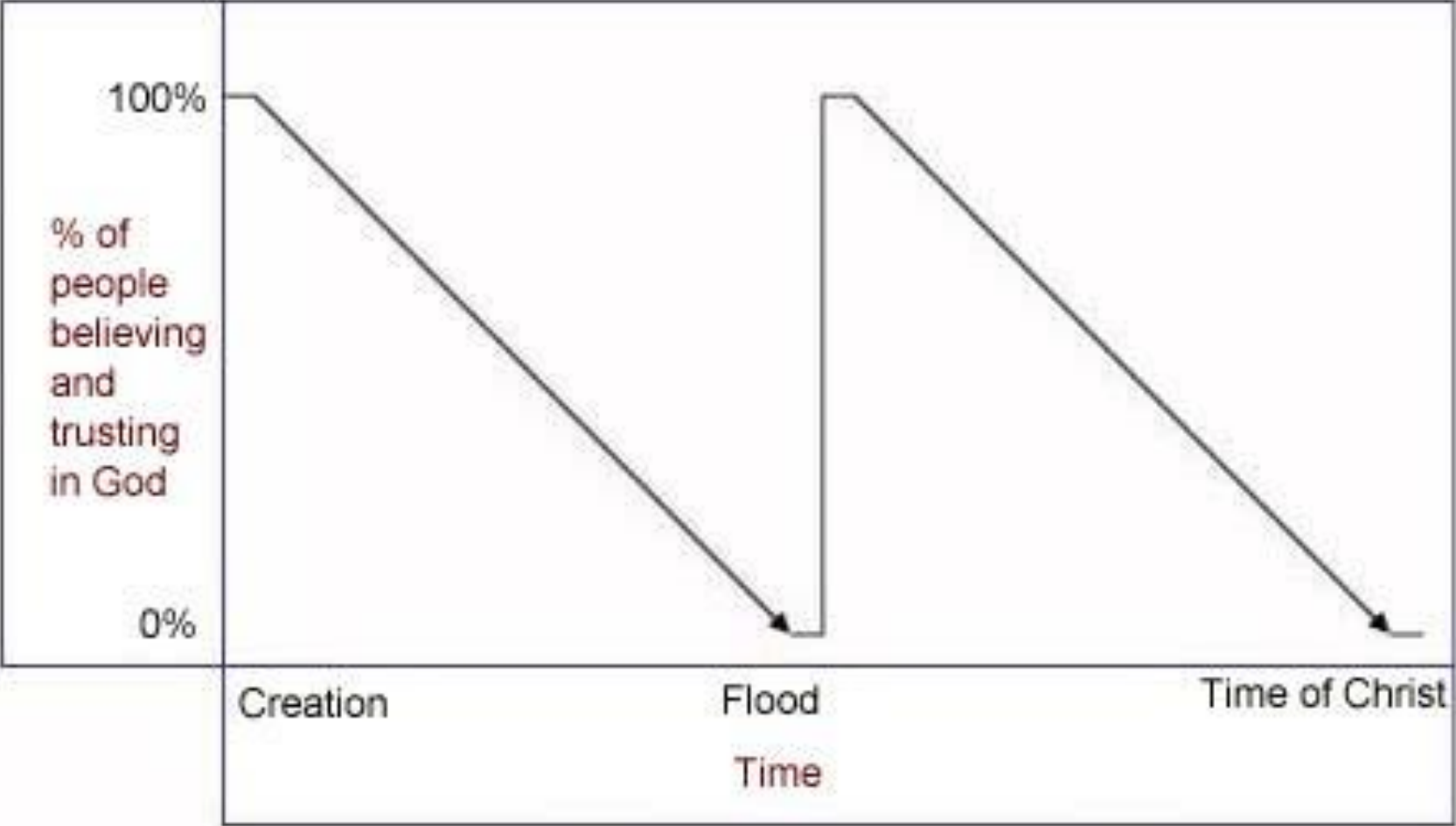
The Visit of the Maji

- Three or more? We don't know...but they bore three gifts, after following a star from the East – Mt 2:1-11
 - Persia (Daniel) or further east?
- The knowledge of God is being found in the ancient records of people around the world, for instance
 - Sheba (Southern Arabia through Ethiopia) during Solomon's time
 - China – dating back 4,000 yrs

The Vulnerable Babe

- Location of birth, Bethlehem Ephrathah (1 of 2 B's) – Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1
- King's assassination attempt – Jeremiah 31:15; Mt 2:16-18
- Called out of Egypt – Hosea 11:1; Mt 2:14-15
- Called a *branch*, *neh-tzer*, the separated one, Nazarene – Isaiah 11:1; Mt 2:23
- As to His deity – Is 9:6; Luke 2:11; cf, 1 Corinthians 1:24; Col 1:19; 2:9, etc.

True Knowledge of the True God in History



The Vicarious Substitute

- God slaughtered an animal and covered Adam & Eve's *sin* – Genesis 3:21
- The patriarchs and Israelites followed the same pattern –
 - Noah – Gen 8:20
 - Abram – Gen 12:7
 - Isaac – Gen 26:25
 - Jacob – Gen 35:1
 - Israel in Egypt – Exodus 12:21

The Vicarious Substitute, cont.

- Blood of animals can only cover...not erase – Leviticus 16:1-34
- Doing the works of the Law do not make us righteous – Romans 8:3a
- Our consciences can be cleansed and transformed from doing empty works out of guilt to the works of Godly service – Hebrews 9:22; 9:14; 10:18,22
- We needed a righteous person to offer up His life in our place – Ro 8:3b; Heb 2:17
- His sacrifice would fully pay our debt, thus needing to be done only once for all time – Heb 9:22-28; 1 John 2:2; 4:10

The Victorious Lord

- He will rule all, forevermore – Isaiah 9:6-7; Revelation 21 and 22
- Every knee will bow before Him – Is 45:23; Philippians 2:10
- He is the only One who is worthy to “open the scroll” of the judgments of God – Rev 5:3,13
- He is the One who bears the name *King of Kings and Lord of Lords* – 1 Timothy 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16

Why Celebrate Christmas?

- “The earth is the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.” – Psalm 24:1
- We are to give thanks always and for everything. If we do so on a day that already belongs to Him, how can this be evil?
 - But we are celebrating on a Roman holi-day...
 - Did not the day belong to the Lord before it belonged to Rome?
 - Did it not belong to God even while Rome defiled it?
 - Does it not belong to God even now?
- “I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, and I will glorify Your name forevermore.” – Ps 86:12 (note: forevermore includes today)

Why Celebrate Christmas?

- It reminds us that Jesus came to earth to free us from the penalty of Adam's sin
- It reminds us that Jesus willingly humbled Himself and became a little lower than the angels, to take on human flesh, and die in our places
- It reminds us that God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself and that we ourselves have been given the ministry of reconciliation as ambassadors of Christ – 2 Corinthians 5:18-21