

The Story of Eternal Hope

#1 The Eternal God

Why are the nations in an uproar And the peoples devising a vain thing? (Ps. 2:1)

We live in an age of outrage ...

- We see it in the news every day.
- Social media is filled with it.
- Anger and frustration is everywhere ... in our homes, our workplaces, in the streets of our towns and cities
- ... even the church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not immune.

This outrage has been the nature and behavior of all humanity since Genesis 3.

- The nations have always been in an uproar.
- People are always devising a vain thing.

But I must tell you ... Although this is where we are, this is not God's perfect plan for us.

Throughout all of time there has been this reverberating echo...

... HUMANITY IS LOST, BUT HUMANITY IS NOT WITHOUT HOPE!

... and I need you to know today that the source of humanity's hope is singular

... the hope of all humanity is the Lord Jesus Christ.

... This hope has been in the heart God Himself, even before the foundation of the world.

And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. (Rev. 13:8 KJV)

Even before time began God had a rescue plan

... and that rescue plan was the sacrificial death of God Himself in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ

... God's plan is literally found on every page of the holy Bible.

This is exactly what Jesus told those two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection...

Luke writes:

“And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.” (Lk. 24:27)

Every story, every historical account, every Mosaic law, every miracle, every judgment found in the Bible (in some way or another) is telling the story that a messiah was coming to save His people.

Today we begin a journey (a biblical tour) through the various chapters of this eternal story of God's rescue plan...

... and in each story, we are going hear, over and over again, the song of redemption.

... we are going to see how every account tells the story of Jesus in a new and exciting way.

- The prophecy in Garden of Eden.
- The promise given to Abraham.
- God's command for Abraham to sacrifice his son.
- The two wives of Jacob
- Joseph being captured by his brothers and sold into slavery.
- The Burning Bush and the tongue-tied Moses
- The Passover lamb
- Water from a rock
- Manna from heaven
- The brazen serpent
- The Levitical Sacrifices

- Moses' Tabernacle
- Balaam and the talking donkey
- Jericho and the defeat in the city of AI
- Ruth and Boaz
- Esther the Jewish Queen
- David and Jonathan
- David and Goliath
- David and Mephibosheth
- David and Absalom
- Solomon and the Shulamite Woman
- Elijah and the Widow
- The showdown on Mt. Carmel
- Elisha and the widow's son
- The floating axe head
- Jonah
- Hosea and Gomer

For the next 12 months we are going to take a journey through the pages of God's Divine Word and rediscover the eternal story of God's redemption.

The great scholar of the 20th century, William Evans wrote:

“Cut the Bible anywhere and it bleeds. The blood of Jesus stains every page, every book, in both testaments. The atonement is the scarlet cord running through every page In the entire Bible; it is red with redemption truth.” - William Evans

Before the Bible was written, before the universe was created ... God knew that humanity would fall into sin ...

... God knew we would rebel against Him.

... and yet God still (knowing what was going to happen) created humanity from the dust of the earth ... and set in motion the plan of redemption.

... and just so you will know, God has never deviated from His plan.

And you and I can have confidence in God's plan, because He and He alone is eternal.

Don't you ever forget that!

King David wrote:

Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God. (Ps. 90:2)

So, today, before we get into the specific stories of the bible, I want us look into the glory of our Eternal God.

... and I want to give you three reasons why God's eternal nature should be a source of comfort for every Christian.

1. Our God is a Safe Dwelling Place

I want to first take you to a passage in Deuteronomy but before we read it, I want to give you some context.

Moses had been Israel's leader for 80 years.

The time has come for the Israelites to leave the wilderness and enter into the land of Canaan ... [the land that God had promised to Abraham back in Genesis.]

We know that because of a sin earlier in his life Moses is not going to be allowed to go with the Israelite nation into Canaan.

... God had forgiven Moses for his sin, but there are still consequences.

So, in Deut. 33, we find Moses on the eve of his death at the boarder of the promised land with the Israelites.

In these final moments Moses chooses to tell the people something that he learned about God at the burning bush 80 years earlier ...

²⁶ "There is none like the God of Jeshurun, who rides the heavens to your help, And through the skies in His majesty. ²⁷ "The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms; And He drove out the enemy from before you, and said, 'Destroy!' ²⁸ "So Israel dwells in security, The fountain of Jacob secluded, In a land of grain and new wine; His heavens also drop down dew. ²⁹ "Blessed are you, O Israel, who is like you, a people saved by

the LORD, who is the shield of your help and the sword of your majesty! So, your enemies will cringe before you, and you will tread upon their high places." (Deut. 33:26-29)

Here Moses tells us that the eternal God is a safe dwelling place.

... and please notice this is not a refuge we find or secure for ourselves ... this is a refuge God provides.

Underneath are the everlasting arms!

... we are not cooperating with God ... God is the doer ...

... we are merely the recipients who receive what God has done.

We do not hold ourselves up, God holds us up.

- We have not crafted our destiny ...
- We are not self-made people ...

... our only hope has always been in the **everlasting arms of our everlasting God.**

God is the one redeeming, keeping...

... but God isn't just redeeming and keeping us,

... He is protecting us. This is a **SAFE** dwelling place.

God drove out the enemy.

Moses wants Israel to never forget, whether it was the "outside enemies" like the Egyptians, Midianites ...

... or the "inside enemies" like the sons of Korah.

In every situation it was not a clever defense that saved Moses and Israel ... it was an Eternal God who defended His people.

... our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness

On no less than two occasions when the enemy came near Moses instructed the people to, “*stand still and see the salvation of the Lord.*”

God could not be a God who **eternally keeps us** if He allowed the enemy of our soul to destroy us.

... that will never happen

... our God is not passive in His caretaking ... He **THRUSTS** out the enemy!

I DESPERATELY NEED YOU TO KNOW THIS!

One of the theological weaknesses of the modern church is our low concept of God.

... the modern church’s view of God has become so diminished that while we believe God can save us from sin and hell

... we do not believe that God has the power to deliver us from the habitual destructive power of sin.

My brother and My sister ... God is neither weak nor limited!!!

Our Eternal God both **SAVES** and **DELIVERS!**

Underneath are the everlasting arms

He drives out the enemy

It is time for the church to rise up and reclaim a high and holy view of our Eternal God.

Listen to how Moses describes God, as the safe dwelling place.

- Israel dwells in security
- They are saved by the LORD who is our shield of help and our sword of majesty
- Our enemies cringe before Him

Throughout this next year you are going to see over and over again that our God is a SAFE dwelling place,

2. Our God is a HOLY Dwelling Place

Moses learned this back in Genesis 3 when he encountered the Lord in the burning bush.

⁴ When the LORD saw that he turned aside to look, God called to him from the midst of the bush and said, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵ Then He said, "Do not come near here; remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:4-5)

The Lord's request for Moses to take off his sandals and not come any nearer is a common theme throughout the Scripture.

God is holy, pure, righteous ... and as such He demands our reverence!

God cautions us against a cavalier approach.

I must remind you ... God resists the proud, God withdraws Himself from the casual!

“Our Father who art in heaven, HALLOWED be your name!”

Listen to what Donald Macleod wrote in his book, *Behold Your God*

“The revelation of [God’s] glory and the whole theological process which legitimately follows from it, is holy ground. ... We must not theologize without emotion and commitment. ... doctrine

must thrill and exhilarate. ...Theology has lost its way, and indeed its very soul, if it cannot say with John, "I fell at his feet as dead" (Rev. 1:17)"ⁱ

Our Eternal God is a HOLY GOD!

... and we must bow before Him in worship ... not just at the end of time ... but NOW!

If I can help you get ahold of this, it will be life changing for you!

I have listened to a lot of preachers in my lifetime.

The young bucks who, have a decent crowd but instead of giving it back to God they boast about what they've accomplished and how they've accomplished it.

The older professionals who have had a successful ministry career by networking and moving up the religious corporate ladder ...

... BUT (my friend) those who truly have spiritual power are those who have been awe struck by the glorious wonder of our eternal God ... **who is both high and holy!**

Listen to what A.W.Tozer wrote about the American church 70 years ago:

"... hardly anywhere do we find gatherings marked by the overshadowing presence of God. We manage to get along on correct doctrine, fast tunes, pleasing personalities and religious amusements. [But] How few, how pitifully few are the enraptured souls who languish for love of Christ..."ⁱⁱ

Shame on us for ignoring and marginalizing the holiness of God!

The reason a whole generation of Christians and Churches are moving away from biblical certainty in morality and ethics is because they have come to believe in a weak insipid god that is unholy and incapable.

... when you hear someone say, "Well doctrine doesn't really matter"

... My friend that person does not believe in the holiness of God ... that person has a low view of God.

Listen to the words of Isaiah...

Isaiah 57:15: *For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.*

The God who inhabits eternity wants you to rest in the wonder and glory of His holiness ...

... He longs for you to see the fullness of His grace and mercy.

... He longs for you to dwell in His presence in holy reverence and awe ...

If you belong to God—then, the eternal God is your eternal refuge

... and He is a SAFE and HOLY dwelling place.

3. Our God is a SAVING GOD

¹⁴ But as for me, I trust in You, O LORD, I say, "You are my God."¹⁵ My times are in Your hand; Deliver me from the hand of my enemies and from those who persecute me. ¹⁶ Make Your face to shine upon Your servant; Save me in Your lovingkindness. (Ps. 31:14-16)

Do you see it?

Our God is the God of both time and eternity.

The psalmist David says that his times are in God hands.

Later, in Psalm 139 David says that God has numbered his days.

God, who sits outside of time, is sovereign over everything that happens inside of time.

The philosopher **David Hume** stated 300 years ago that: "Time does not exist separate from the motion of objects"

What he meant was that the passing of time was the movement of things through space.

The activity that read about in history and we observe as we travel through space is time.

The motion of time is friction and like sandpaper against wood,

... every minute, second, hour, week, month year is friction wearing away at all of the things that exist inside of time.

... and the longer something exists inside of time the older, weaker, and more decayed it becomes.

This is why Jesus counseled us to not lay-up treasures that moth and rust would corrupt ...

... Jesus said don't lay-up treasures inside of time because eventually they will wear out

... instead, Jesus said, lay-up treasures in heaven ...

... eternal treasures that exists outside of time.

... treasures that will never wear out!

The motion of time is friction and like sandpaper against wood, it wears away everything that exists inside of time ...

[Think of the fire and heat that an aircraft has to go through in order to re-entering earth's atmosphere.]

... time is wearying ... it breaks us ... it wears us out.

This is why the heathen are raging ... this is why unbelievers run to every kind of distraction and addiction ...

... they are trying to dull the pain of wearing out.

... they are trying to forget that life is but a vapor that appears for a moment

You see this is the ETERNAL STORY ...

God (who is outside of time) has entered into time to rescue us!

Our Eternal God is a Saving God, and He knows how weak we are ...

... He knows how weary we get.

... He knows that eventually we break

This is what prompted David to cry out:

- **You are my God ... My times are in Your hand**
- **Deliver me from my enemies**
- [I love this] **Make Your face to shine upon me, Save me in Your lovingkindness.**

As we take this journey through the various events that occur inside of this eternal story it is my hope that God will awaken your heart for Him ...

... I am praying that there will be moments when your heart will stop with anticipation for who God is and what He can do in your life ...

- I want you to see that Jesus is your ark of safety
- He is the one who defeats your goliath
- He is the fire from heaven
- He is your manna from heaven
- He is your water from the rock

... It is my desire that the Lord will bring us all to the place where we will say with the Psalmist ...

Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. O LORD God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved. (Ps. 80:18-19)

ⁱ Donald Macleod, *Behold Your God* (Ross-shire, Scotland: Christian Focus Publications, 1990), 39.

ⁱⁱ Ron Eggert ed, *The Tozer Topical Reader Volume Two* (Camp Hill, PA: Christian Publications, 1987), 220.