

Day 24

The pieces of God's plan can be seen all throughout God's word. His plan to rescue his people from sin, His plan to bring a savior to God's people from the family of Abraham, and His plan to bring a savior who is also a king from the family of David. His plan was demonstrated through the law and spoken about through the prophets.

God's great wisdom, and power, and love can be seen in his perfect plan.

At Christmas we celebrate that Jesus, God's promised and perfect plan, has come. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior. He is the King over all.

Colossians 1:13-22 and
John 3:16-21
Ornament: Baby Jesus



Day 1

God created everything in the entire universe—sun, moon, stars, plants, animals, and people. The first people that God created were named Adam and Eve. They were perfect, without sin, and God gave them a perfect place to live. They walked with God and had many good things to enjoy. God told them they could eat fruit from all but one tree in the garden. To eat from that tree would be to disobey God. Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit, and disobey God.

Disobedience to God is sin. When sin entered the world there was a need for a Savior. Christmas is all about God's plan to send a Savior and rescue the world from sin.

Genesis 2:16-17 and 3:1-6
Ornament: The Fruit

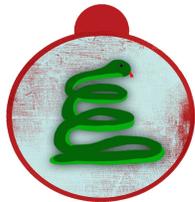


Day 2

When Adam and Eve disobeyed God they were not alone. They were tempted by Satan who was in the form of a serpent. The serpent spoke to Eve saying things that caused her to doubt God's goodness. Eve ate the fruit from the tree and so did Adam. Eating the fruit was sin, and they were ashamed.

Because they disobeyed God they had to leave his garden. There is always a consequence for sin, and even the serpent was punished. God is holy and cannot ignore sin, but he is also loving, and provides a way out from sin. He gave Adam and Eve a promise that he would make a way to cover the people's sin. God's promise was for a savior, one who would bring sinful people back to him, and defeat Satan.

Genesis 3:6-15
Ornament: The Serpent



Day 23

Some time after Jesus was born there were others who came to worship him. They had seen and followed a star that God had placed in the sky.

They followed the star until it stopped where Jesus was. They rejoiced when they found him. They presented him with treasures and gifts.

God's promised plan had been revealed to these men and they worshiped Jesus, God's promised savior.

Matthew 2:1-12
Ornament: The Star



Day 22

On that special day, when Jesus was born, God used an angel to help announce the good news.

The angel appeared to some shepherds who were nearby. While they were watching their sheep they were told of the good news. They were told where to find Jesus and then they were joined by many angels, all praising God.

God's plan to bring a savior was finally coming together. Jesus was born! The good news was spreading and it was for all people.

Luke 2:8-20

Ornament: The Shepherd's Crook



Day 3

The world kept growing, and growing, and growing, and people kept sinning. God needed to deal with the sin of the people again. He would send a flood to destroy the earth and start over. Yet God would save some of the animals, and some of the people.

Noah was the man God chose to save, along with his family, and some of every kind of animal. They all lived with Noah in an ark (a very large boat) while God caused rain to fall and waters to rise.

By saving Noah and his family God would continue his plan to bring the Savior, Jesus. The ark reminds us that while the Holy God cannot ignore sin, he is always making a way to save us from it.

Genesis 6:6-8 and 7:1-5

Ornament: The Ark



Day 4

Noah and his family had children, and grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and the whole earth became full of people again.

Years after Noah, there was a man named Abram. Abram was chosen by God to be the father of God's people, the nation of Israel. God changed his name to Abraham and promised many people would come from his family.

Years before Jesus would be born God was planning and preparing his people for his coming. Jesus would come from Abraham's family.

Genesis 15:1-6 and
Matthew 1:1-2
Ornament: Abraham



Day 21

Bethlehem was known as the City of David. It was the hometown for the family of David, and Joseph was a part of that family. People were supposed to travel to the town of their family to be counted for the government.

Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem. While they were there, the time came for Jesus to be born. Because there were so many people in town to be counted they couldn't find a place to stay. An innkeeper allowed them to stay in his barn—a stable.

And that's where Jesus was born--Jesus, the promised savior, the one whose name is great. Jesus: God's perfect plan.

Luke 2:1-7
Ornament: The Stable



Day 20

Mary rejoiced to be a part of God's great plan to save the world from sin. She was happy that God had chosen to bless her with this very special son.

Mary was so full of praise for God that she glorified God with a song of his greatness and goodness to her. Mary was humble and saw God's choosing her to carry the savior as a very special honor.

At Christmas we can sing songs and reflect on God's goodness, and faithfulness, and plan, just like Mary did.

Luke 1:46-55
Ornament: Mary



Day 5

God promised Abraham a family--a family that would be great. God started this great family by giving him a son named Isaac.

God tested Abraham by asking him to build an altar and sacrifice his son. Isaac carried the wood for the altar he was to die on. Abraham obeyed and trusted that God had a plan. Abraham was about to kill his son when God stopped him. God provided a ram to be sacrificed instead.

God always has a plan for the salvation of his people. Many years later Jesus would carry the wood of his cross and he would be the sacrifice made for our sin.

Genesis 22:1-18
Ornament: Bundle of Sticks



Day 6

Abraham's son Isaac grew into a man and had a son named Jacob. One night God spoke to Jacob in a dream and showed him a vision—a symbol about God's promise.

He showed Jacob a ladder, or stairway, that lead into heaven. There were angels going up and down it. In the dream he told Jacob about the promise that had been made to Abraham and Isaac. He told him how all the earth would be blessed through their family.

Jesus coming through the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, is truly a blessing for all people of the earth. Jesus would make a way for people to enter heaven.

Genesis 28:10-17
Ornament: The Ladder



Day 19

Mary was going to be married to a man named Joseph. Joseph was part of the family of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, as well as Jesse, David, and Solomon. He was part of the family that God had promised to send his savior through.

An angel also spoke to Joseph. The angel explained that Mary was going to be giving birth to a son given to her by the Spirit of God. The angel told him that he was to name the baby Jesus.

The name Jesus means the Lord saves. Joseph obeyed God and was the final earthly father in the family God had set apart to bring the savior into the world.

Matthew 1:18-25
Ornament: Joseph



Day 18

When John the Baptist grew up he helped people get ready to hear the message of Jesus.

He told the people to repent, to turn from their sins, because the kingdom of heaven was near. Many people came to hear his message and be baptized by him.

The prophets had spoken about John's coming and called him a voice in the wilderness. God used John to help people be prepared for his promised plan.

Matthew 3:1-6
Ornament: John



Day 7

Jacob was blessed with many sons. One of his sons was named Joseph, and Jacob loved him more than any of his other sons. To show his love to Joseph, Jacob gave him a colorful coat.

Joseph's brothers were jealous and sold him. He became a slave in Egypt, but God had a plan to protect Joseph. What others meant for harm, God meant for good. God allowed Joseph to have a powerful position in Egypt. Because of his position, he was able to help save his family—God's people.

Joseph's brother Judah is a part of the family Jesus came from. Once again God was protecting his plan to bring us a savior by protecting Joseph and his family.

Genesis 37:3-4, 17-28
and 50:17-21
Ornament: The Coat



Day 8

Many years after Joseph, God's people were still living in Egypt, but they were living as slaves.

God wanted to rescue his people from slavery and bring them to a land of their own. God did this using a man named Moses. When God's people were finally freed from Egypt, he gave Moses some instructions to share with the people.

God's instructions were called the law. The law of God points to our need for a savior. It shows us just how imperfect we are and how much we need Jesus.

Exodus 20:1-17

Ornament: The Stone Tablets



Day 17

Mary had a cousin named Elizabeth. Elizabeth was unable to have children but God did a miracle in her. He allowed her to become pregnant. She too would have a special baby.

The baby she was carrying would be a messenger to the people. His messages would prepare the way for the savior. He would be called John the Baptist and his job was to point people to Jesus.

Mary went to tell her cousin the exciting news about her baby. When she did the baby Elizabeth was carrying (John) leaped inside of her. Elizabeth was amazed at the miraculous ways they saw God working out his promised plan.

Luke 1:11-17, 39-45

Ornament: Elizabeth



Day 16

There were many silent years after the last prophet brought messages to God's people, but God was still working on his plan.

God had chosen a young girl named Mary to play a very important role in his plan. God sent an angel to deliver a message to her. The angel told Mary that she would give birth to a son.

But he would not be an ordinary son, she was to name her son Jesus, and he would be great. She would become pregnant by the power of God's spirit and the baby would be the son of God.

God's promised plan was beginning to be revealed on the earth.

Luke 1:26-38
Ornament: The Angel



Day 9

After Moses died, God choose Joshua to be their leader, and take them into the promised land.

They encountered many challenges and battles in their new land. One battle took place at a city named Jericho. Jericho was surrounded by a gigantic wall. God told Joshua he would give them the city, but they would defeat the city in a strange way. The walls would fall with the blowing of trumpets.

God's plan and promise may have seemed strange but he was at work and Joshua trusted him. The trumpet reminds us to trust God and his power to keep his promises.

Joshua 6:1-20
Ornament: The Ram's Horn



Day 10

Many years after the time of Joshua, when God's people were living in their land, there was a woman named Ruth. She was from a different land but married one of God's people.

When her husband died she chose to live with her mother-in-law. They moved to Bethlehem where God used a man named Boaz to help provide for them. Boaz provided food by making sure there was plenty of wheat for Ruth to gather in his fields.

Boaz eventually married Ruth and they had a son named Obed. Obed would be the father to Jesse whose family would continue to be a part of God's plan to send a savior.

Ruth 1:1-10 and 4:13-17
Ornament: The Wheat



Day 15

The Old Testament is full of writings by God's prophets. The prophets sent messages from God to his people. The prophets warned the people about turning from God, but they also shared hope and the promise of Jesus.

Isaiah was one of the prophets. The words God gave him told of the sins of the people, but also the hope of a savior. The coming of Jesus is talked about many times in Isaiah and the other books of the prophets.

The prophets are just another way God showed his people that he was still working on his plan to send a Savior.

Isaiah 7:14 and 53:1-12
Ornament: The Scroll



Day 14

Many years after David and Solomon there was a prophet named Jonah. God had a message for Jonah to deliver but Jonah didn't want to obey.

Jonah tried to run away from God on a ship. When Jonah was thrown overboard, God provided a big fish to swallow Jonah. For three days Jonah survived in the belly of that fish. After three days he was spit out of the fish and went to do his work.

When Jesus was on earth he compared his time in the tomb to Jonah's time in the fish. After Jesus died on the Cross he was in the tomb 3 days before he rose from the dead.

Jonah 1 and Matthew 12:40
Ornament: The Great Fish



Day 11

Jesse grew and had many sons. God sent his prophet Samuel to tell Jesse that one of his sons was going to be anointed the King of Israel.

Jesse's son David was chosen to become the king. God's savior, Jesus, would come from the family of a king.

The Bible also tells us that God's savior would be like a branch. A branch from a shoot of the stump of Jesse. That's just another way of telling us that God's savior would come out of Jesse's family.

Jesus is the Branch that came from the family tree.

Isaiah 11:1-10
Ornament: The Branch



Day 12

When David became King he was a great leader for God's people. David also loved God and wrote many of the Psalms.

The psalms are songs of worship to God. David loved worshiping God with songs and played the harp.

The psalms remind us of God's greatness, his power over-all, his love, and his goodness. They remind us he is faithful and has an unfailing love.

We remember God's faithfulness and love at Christmas when we remember that Jesus came, just as God promised.

Psalm 33
Ornament: The Harp



Day 13

David had a son who would also become king. His name was Solomon. Solomon asked God for wisdom to rule his kingdom and God gave it to him.

He was also the king who built the temple where God's glory dwelt on earth. Once God's savior came, God would have a new dwelling place. God's dwelling would be in his people.

God's savior Jesus is a king who rules with wisdom and love. God's people are those who follow Jesus as king. When we follow him we become like a temple, and God lives in our heart.

1st Kings 3:3-12 and
1 Corinthians 3:16
Ornament: The Crown

