

PREFACE

~~WELCOME~~
WELCOME TO THE PANORAMA "THE HEART OF CHRISTMAS"

THE ART WORK YOU SEE HANGING OF THE NORTH WALL IS CALLED A BIBLE PANORAMA AND IS THE ORIGINAL WORK OF OUR FIFTH GRADE SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. THE SCENERY ON THE STAGE WAS PAINTED BY STUDENTS' TEENAGERS OF OUR CHURCH.

THE PANORAMA IS AN OUTLINE OF GOD'S DEALINGS WITH MAN DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES, AND, ~~AS~~ THE FARTHER BACK WE GO, THE MORE MEANINGFUL CHRISTMAS BECOMES. WE TRUST THAT THIS PANORAMA WILL BE A MEANS BY WHICH WE ALL MAY RENEW THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS.

AS THE LIGHTS ARE TURNED OUT MAY I ASK YOU, AS YOU ~~SEE~~ ^{FOLLOW} THE NARRATION, TO KEEP YOUR EYES AND YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE RED LINE IN THE PANORAMA

COSTUMES AND SETTINGS

- Scene 1 Settings: Corner of a living room with rocking chair, window decorated with evergreens and cotton snow in the corners of the panes, lighted picture of Christ on the other wall. Opened gifts on the floor, with wrapping paper etc.
Costumes: Mother - housecoat and slippers
Children - bathrobes and slippers
- Scene 2 Settings: Garden of Eden back drop
Costumes: Adam and Eve - garments w/simulated fig leaves made of crepe paper. Angel - clothed in material sprayed with florescent red paint to simulate fire. Sword-cardboard sprayed with red florescent paint.
- Scene 3 Mother and Children - same as 1
- Scene 4 Setting: Noah's Ark as backdrop
Costumes: Noah, wife, three sons and wives-Homespun material worn in style of Biblical times.
- Scene 5 Mother and Children - same as 1
- Scene 6 Setting: Abraham's altar as backdrop
Costumes: Abraham and his son Isaac carrying bundle of wood for sacrifice. Abraham dressed in burlap tied on shoulder, long beard and carrying knife.
Isaac - white sheet tied on shoulder, belted
- Scene 7 Setting: Mt. Sinai with tablets of ten commandments backdrop
Costume: Moses -flowing robe with long flowing sleeves, sandals
- Scene 8 Setting: King's courtyard backdrop
Costumes: Three boys dressed as three different kings
Saul - homespun robe girdled w/bright colored sash.
Crown on head
David - dressed as soldier w/breastplate, helmet and sword
Solomon - dressed in rich robe, purple girdle, fancy crown
- Scene 9 Mother and Children - same as 1
- Scene 10 Setting: Nativity scene in center stage, wooden manger behind kneeling rail
Costumes: Mary - long dress in style of Biblical times with head drape
Joseph - rough robe with sleeveless jerkin, head turban
Shepherds - crude burlap sleeveless jackets, belted, carrying crooks
Angel - in white robe with wings sprayed silver, halo of silver
Wisemen - rich appearing robes, oriental headdress trimmed w/feathers and jewels. Carrying treasure chest, apothecary bottle, fancy jug
- Scene 11 Mother and children - same as 1
- Scene 12 Final Panorama Scene
- Final Scene
Setting: Lights on nativity scene, Mother and Children and entire Panorama
Costumes: Six children dressed as they are, pin silver symbols on manger.

① Sno

~~Candle Lighting~~ -- ~~Song~~

Adult
Narrator:

"The angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt...bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David...and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her."

"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed...and Joseph also went up from Galilee unto...Bethlehem to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife..And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger."

Music -- O HOLY NIGHT - Song

Adult
Narrator:

"And there were in the some country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."

Adult
Narrator:

"And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid."

2
:"Fear not: for, behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

1st Shepherd: ~~"I still think something is queer coming. Look over there; isn't that a light in the east?"~~

2nd Shepherd: ~~"You're right! There is a glow -- a strange one, too!"~~

2

"Behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him...Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

"When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was...And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him; and when they had opened their treasures, they presented Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God...they departed into their own **country** another way."

1.
"And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed... And all went up to be taxed, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up... out of the city of Nazareth... unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem... to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child... And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Q "Let me ask you ~~children~~ a question: Is this the very beginning of the Christmas story, or does it sound as though we had started right in the middle of it?"

Yd I'm sure you all realize

"~~So~~, there is a lot more to the Christmas story than the birth of Jesus; and it is the most exciting true story that happened.

It begins with the 1st Chap. of Gen. and God's dealings with man.

(1) ~~Let's go back to the beginning of the Christmas story:~~

"IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH.

THE BIBLE TELLS US IN ITS OPENING CHAPTER THAT "THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID" THEN:

(2)

THE FIRST DAY LIGHT APPEARS.

THE SECOND DAY THE FIRMAMENT.

THE THIRD DAY THE EARTH AND SEA DIVIDE AND PLANT LIFE IS BROUGHT FORTH.

THE FOURTH DAY THE SUN AND MOON ARE APPOINTED LIGHT HOLDERS.

THE FIFTH DAY THE FISH AND FOWL APPEAR.

THE SIXTH DAY WERE CREATED CATTLE, CREEPING THINGS AND MAN.

"AND GOD SAID, LET US MAKE MAN IN OUR IMAGE, AFTER OUR LIKENESS: AND LET THEM HAVE DOMINION OVER THE FISH OF THE SEA, AND OVER THE FOWL OF THE AIR, AND OVER THE CATTLE, AND OVER ALL THE EARTH, AND OVER EVERY CREEPING THING THAT CREEPETH ON THE EARTH."

AND GOD BLESSED THE SEVENTH DAY, AND MADE IT HOLY.

(3) TO HAVE A COMPANION ON EARTH, GOD MADE MAN IN HIS OWN IMAGE WHICH MEANS HE MADE MAN WITH A FREE WILL, THE POWER TO CHOOSE WHAT HE WANTS TO DO. GOD PLACED THE FIRST MAN IN A PERFECT WORLD, A GARDEN OF GOD'S OWN PLANTING, CALLED EDEN, WHICH MEANS "A DELIGHT."

GOD'S PLAN WAS FOR US TO LIVE ALWAYS IN PERFECT FELLOWSHIP WITH HIM. THERE WAS TO BE NO SICKNESS, NO HUNGER, NO WAR, NO UNHAPPINESS. WE WERE TO BE HIS COMPANIONS, TO LIVE CLOSER TO HIM THAN ANY OF HIS OTHER CREATURES.

Q **ARE WE?** BUT ~~WE~~ ARE WE LIVING THE HAPPY LIFE GOD PLANNED? HAS ANYONE YOU KNOW EVER BEEN SICK? **WE HAVE** ~~PROFESS~~ **WE HAVE** FIGHT WARS? IS THERE UNHAPPINESS IN THE WORLD? SOMETHING MUST HAVE GONE WRONG WITH GOD'S PLAN.

SOMETHING DID GO WRONG, AND THE SOMETHING WAS THIS: THE PEOPLE WHOM GOD HAD MADE DID NOT FOLLOW HIS PLAN. *A 4*

(3) IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN WAS A ~~TREE~~ **WONDERFUL** TREE ON WHICH ~~THE~~ **GREW** ~~SWEET~~ **LOVELY** FRUIT. BUT BEAUTIFUL THOUGH IT WAS, THIS TREE WAS FORBIDDEN TO ADAM AND EVE. "FOR" GOD HAD SAID, "IN THE DAY THAT THOU EATEST THEREOF THOU SHALT SURELY DIE."

THIS WAS THE TEST, ~~TO SEE~~ *Whether to eat of the Tree of Life = Christ* ~~WHETHER ADAM AND EVE WOULD CHOOSE TO FOLLOW~~ **AND** ~~GOD'S PLAN.~~ *or Tree of the K of G + E* HERE IS WHERE SORROW ENTERS THE STORY. FOR ADAM AND EVE, **CHOSE** ~~LISTENED~~ **TO GO THEIR OWN WAY - WITHOUT GOD** ~~TO THE WORDS OF SOMEONE WHO HATED THEM, SATAN.~~

THE WONDERFUL FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD ENDED. ~~THE CURSE IS THAT~~ NOW EVERY-THING IN THE WORLD ~~IS~~ **CAME** UNDER A DEATH SENTENCE. ALL PLANTS ~~AND~~ **PHYSICAL** ANIMALS AND, ~~THE~~, PEOPLE WOULD GROW OLD AND DIE. EVEN WORSE THAN THIS DEATH WOULD BE ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD. - **SPIRITUAL DEATH** *✱*

However, In LOVE

"But children, God was already planning a way by which his disobedient children could return to Him. This ~~terrible~~^{spiritual} death would be only for those who refused to follow that way."

~~Why?~~

"God promised the world a saviour, who would redeem or buy back mankind from this ~~terrible~~ curse of sin. The promise of one who would come to crush the serpent's head (that means to have victory over Satan) and He would be like a great bridge ~~that would allow us to come back to God.~~ across the chasm which separated man from God."

→ THE FIRST SIN BROUGHT UNHAPPINESS TO ADAM AND EVE. ~~BY~~

~~IT BROUGHT THEM AS NOTHING COME TO THE GARDEN IT BROUGHT GOD, HERE~~

~~HE HAD BROKEN OUT OF ALL THE UNIVERSE TO BE HIS~~

~~COMPANIONS AND THEY LEFT HIM.~~

→ AND SEPARATION FROM GOD

BUT God still LOVED THESE PEOPLE HE HAD MADE. GOD DOES NOT CHANGE. AND SO,

WHEN THEY LEFT THE GARDEN, HE WENT WITH THEM - WITH ADAM AND EVE AND THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN - ~~CALLING TO THEM, WARNING~~

~~TRYING TO REACH THEM.~~ BUT THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN,

YEAR BY YEAR THEY DRIFTED FARTHER AWAY from the one who created them and loved them 6

(4)

CAIN KILLED ABEL, THIS WAS THE WORLD'S FIRST MURDER. THE BIBLE SAYS "AS MEN MULTIPLIED, INIQUITY ABOUNDED, UNTIL THE EARTH WAS CORRUPT BEFORE GOD AND FILLED WITH VIOLENCE" AND GOD SAID "I WILL DESTROY MAN FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH."



4.

NO ONE HEARD GOD CALLING. NO ONE HEARD HIM

EXCEPT FOR ONE FAMILY, ONE RIGHTEOUS FAMILY - NOAH AND HIS THREE SONS AND THEIR FAMILIES. GOD COMMANDED NOAH TO BUILD AN ARK, FOR THE

SAFEKEEPING OF HIS FAMILY, ~~AND~~ ^{FOR} ~~THE~~ ^{the line of} THROUGH HIM THE PROMISED SAVIOUR. ^{would be}

THE FLOOD OF WATERS THEN SWEEPED THE EARTH ~~DEVELOPING THE~~ ^{= preserved} BUT NOAH AND HIS FAMILY WERE SAVED.

THE FLOOD LASTED ONE YEAR AND TEN DAYS.

AFTERWARDS

GOD MADE AN AGREEMENT WITH NOAH, THAT NO SUCH FLOOD SHOULD DESTROY THE EARTH EVER AGAIN. AND GOD BLESSED NOAH AND HIS SONS AND INSTRUCTED THEM TO "REPLENISH THE EARTH."

NOW THE HUMAN RACE HAD A NEW START. THEY HAD SEEN BOTH MAN'S SIN AND GOD'S GRACE TO DEEPEN THEIR FAITH.

(5)

AT FIRST, THEY DIDN'T FORGET. NOAH'S SONS REMEMBERED THE GREAT FLOOD. THEIR SONS HEARD ABOUT IT FROM THEIR FATHERS. BUT AFTER A WHILE PEOPLE BEGAN TO FORGET WHY THEIR FAMILY HAD LIVED THROUGH THE FLOOD. THEY FORGOT HOW IMPORTANT IT WAS TO LISTEN TO GOD. MEN GATHERED TOGETHER TO BUILD A GREAT TOWER AND TO MAKE FOR THEMSELVES A GREAT NAME.

SO GOD CHANGED THE SPEECH OF ALL THE PEOPLE. THEY HAD TO STOP BUILDING THE TOWER. **AS A RESULT**

SEPARATED AND EACH WENT TO LIVE IN A DIFFERENT PLACE WITH HIS OWN FAMILY. THEY WERE SCATTERED OVER THE EARTH, JUST AS GOD WANTED THEM TO BE. THE NAME OF THE TOWER WAS "BABEL" WHICH MEANS CONFUSION.




5

(6)

THE FIRST THING THAT GOD DID TO MAKE THE WORLD READY FOR THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST WAS TO PICK ONE GOOD MAN, AND TO TELL HIM TO LEAVE HIS COUNTRY AND GO TO A COUNTRY THAT GOD WOULD SHOW HIM. THAT MAN WAS ABRAM. HIS WIFE'S NAME WAS SARAH. GOD SAID TO ABRAM, "I WILL MAKE OF YOU A GREAT NATION . . . IN YOU ALL THE FAMILIES OF THE EARTH SHALL BE BLESSED." GOD PROMISED ABRAM THAT JESUS CHRIST WOULD BE ONE OF HIS CHILDREN'S DESCENDANTS. ~~THIS WAS THE SON WHO HAD BEEN PROMISED TO~~

~~HE~~ HE, JESUS THE SAVIOUR, WAS TO TAKE AWAY THE CURSE OF SIN AND BE A BLESSING TO ALL THE WORLD. YEARS LATER ISAAC WAS BORN, ^{to Abraham and Sarah} AND HE HAD TWO SONS, ESAU AND JACOB. ESAU SOLD HIS BIRTHRIGHT TO JACOB.

JACOB HAD 12 SONS. BECAUSE JOSEPH WAS THE FAVORITE HE WAS HATED BY HIS BROTHERS WHO SOLD HIM TO SLAVERY AND HE WAS TAKEN INTO EGYPT. THERE GOD BLESSED HIM AND 20 YEARS LATER A GREAT FAMINE CAUSED JACOB, WITH HIS CHILDREN TO JOURNEY AND SETTLE IN EGYPT.

AFTER THE DEATH OF BOTH JACOB AND JOSEPH, A KING WAS RAISED UP IN EGYPT THAT KNEW NOT JOSEPH. ALARMED AT THE GROWTH OF THE HEBREW PEOPLE HE WAS DETERMINED TO ~~limit their growth~~ BY KILLING ALL THE MALE CHILDREN. 

God's man ^{was} IN EGYPT NAMED MOSES. HE WAS AN ISRAELITE BY BIRTH, BUT HE HAD BEEN ADOPTED AS A BABY ^{BY} PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER AND RAISED AS AN EGYPTIAN PRINCE.

"COME," SAID GOD TO MOSES, "I WILL SEND THEE UNTO PHARAOH, THAT THOU MAYEST BRING FORTH MY PEOPLE, THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, OUT OF EGYPT BACK TO THE LAND OF CANAAN." BEFORE ISRAEL'S DELIVERANCE WAS COMPLETE,

HOWEVER, GOD HAD TO SEND TEN FLAGUES TO THE EGYPTIANS. AT THE LAST ^{the death of first born sons,} PLAGUE, THE "PASSOVER" WAS INSTITUTED. 

THE MIRACLE OF THE CROSSING OF THE RED SEA MARKED THE END OF 430 YEARS THE ISRAELITES SPENT IN EGYPT.

6. THERE WERE ~~40~~ YEARS OF WILDERNESS WANDERINGS. DURING ~~THE FIRST 40~~

~~these~~ YEARS THE LAW WAS GIVEN, (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR ~~THE FIRST CHURCH, THE TABERNACLE~~ ~~AND THIS IS WHEN~~ ~~THE ISRAELITES~~ ~~BECAME A NATION~~ ~~IS.~~) ~~THE SECOND 40~~ YEARS ~~WAS~~ ^{were} SPENT IN THE WILDERNESS BECAUSE

THE PEOPLE ~~AGAIN~~ REFUSED TO TRUST GOD. OF ALL THE 2 MILLION PEOPLE, ONLY 2 MEN WERE ALLOWED TO ~~ENTER~~ ^{enter} THE PROMISED LAND, JOSHUA AND CALEB, ^{because of their FAITH} EVEN MOSES COULD NOT SET FOOT ON THIS LAND BECAUSE HE DISOBEYED GOD.

(7) AFTER THE DEATH OF MOSES, THE PEOPLE WERE LED FORWARD INTO CANAAN BY JOSHUA. WHILE JOSHUA LIVED THE PEOPLE SERVED THE LORD, BUT AFTER HIS DEATH THERE WAS A GREAT TURNING AWAY FROM GOD. DURING THIS BAD TIME OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY GOD RAISED UP MEN THROUGH WHOM HE COULD JUDGE AND SPEAK TO HIS PEOPLE. THESE MEN WERE CALLED "THE JUDGES OF ISRAEL."

AFTER SEVERAL HUNDRED YEARS, AND AGAINST THE WILL OF GOD, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DEMANDED A KING. ~~SAUL~~ ^{SAUL} WAS CHOSEN TO BE THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL. HE WAS A KING OF SELF WILL AND AFTER 40 YEARS REIGN DIED A MISERABLE DEATH. 13

THE REIGN OF DAVID WAS THE BRIGHTEST PART OF ISRAEL'S HISTORY. HE ALSO REIGNED 40 YEARS. ~~DAVID~~ ^{over 12} SOLOMON, SON OF DAVID, WAS ISRAEL'S LAST KING ~~WHILE ALL THE TRIBES WERE UNITED~~. DURING THIS TIME THE TEMPLE AT JERUSALEM WAS BUILT. IN SPITE OF ALL SOLOMON'S WISDOM, HE DID VERY FOOLISH AND BAD THINGS. BECAUSE KING SOLOMON DID NOT KEEP THE LORD'S COMMANDMENTS, GOD ~~TOOK~~ ^{TOOK} THE KINGDOM AWAY FROM HIM. SO GOD REMOVED TEN TRIBES FROM SOLOMON AND GAVE THEM TO JEROBOAM, ONE OF SOLOMON'S OFFICERS. AFTER SOLOMON'S DEATH, HIS SON REHOBOAM WAS ABLE TO KEEP ONLY THE TWO TRIBES OF JUDAH AND BENJAMIN. THE TWO KINGDOMS WENT THEIR SEPARATE WAYS. THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL LASTED TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS, THEN IT WAS OVERCOME BY OTHER NATIONS. 14

7.
(8)

THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH LASTED 135 YEARS AFTER THE FALL OF THE KINGDOM OF ISRAEL. JUDAH WAS REIGNED OVER BY 19 KINGS AND ONE QUEEN, ALL WERE DESCENDANTS OF DAVID, THUS ~~THE REMAINS~~ ^{Preserving the line through which} ~~SEED WHICH WAS TO BRING FORTH~~ THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD WAS ~~REMOVED~~. ^{to be born}

THE END CAME WITH THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM BY KING NEBUCHADNEZZAR, AND THE FINAL CAPTIVITY OF ITS KING AND PEOPLE, WITH THEM BEING TAKEN TO BABYLON. THE BEAUTIFUL TEMPLE WAS BURNT TO THE GROUND. THIS IS THE PERIOD OF DANIEL. ~~15~~ 15

AFTER 70 YEARS OF CAPTIVITY IN BABYLON A SMALL NUMBER OF JEWS RETURNED TO JERUSALEM AND REBUILT THE TEMPLE. *Ezra and Nehemiah*

Then followed about 400 years between the Old

Testament and the New Testament. God's word tells us nothing about

these years." *So* we have to go to other writings to find out what

happened. We know that the history of Israel during these years was one of terrible bloodshed. But in their darkest hours a faithful few guarded with their very lives the old testament canon]

Now "God was ready for Christmas, and the gift He was giving the world was so priceless and so rare that He could not place it in unworthy hands.

His Christmas gift to the world, to us, was His SON, sent to earth as a human baby.