

A God Who Takes Our Frame

I. Promises Made in the Dark

A. The Power of a New Song

Isa 42:10 Sing to the Lord a **new song**,

The **new song** is a refusal to accept the present world as it is.

The **new song** is a protest, boldly and innocently proclaiming that the God of the gospel has plans and purposes and a will to re-order the world, ... proclaims God's future against our present tense.

When we sing the song of the Lord we taste and live new creation.

II. The Spirit and New Things

A. Spirit and Creation

Gen. 1:1 In the **beginning**, God created ...

Jn 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Gen 2 ... without form and void, and darkness ... And the **Spirit of God was hovering** over the face of the waters.

The Holy Spirit greets the Chaos, preparing for the WORD that would create light, day and night, earth and sea, you and me.

Promises Made in the Dark... In the fullness of time **to Mary**

Lu 1:30 And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will **conceive in your womb** and **bear a son**, and you shall **call his name JESUS**. **(SAVE!)**

The Question is: "**How can the impossible happen?**"

35 The **Holy Spirit** will **come upon you**, and the **power** of the Most High will **overshadow** you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ...

37 For **nothing is impossible with God.**"

38 And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; **let it be to me according to your word.**"

In that **let it be** response, **the Wind begins to blow...** Ruach Ha Qodesh is hovering over her... overshadowing

Who hovered over the Waters of Chaos

Who blew waters back at the Red Sea. Slaves freed by a way where there was no way.

Who on the Day of Pentecost comes upon people, creating a new community that has power, humility and mission.

Who stirs witnesses and martyrs to bold and dangerous acts beyond themselves.

Holy Spirit begins when the world is exhausted, when our imaginations fail and our lives shut down in silence and despair.

The gift contradicts everything we sense about our own lives.

The world seems unsavable, and here is **a baby named, Jesus, I AM WILL SAVE**

Who is God that He would take our frame [SLIDE 1]

The artisan inside the paint

Or breathe the very air His breath sustains

The architect inside the plan

B. To Joseph the Dreamer Flexible, Humbke, Faithful

Matt 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother **Mary** had been **betrothed** to Joseph, before they came together she was **found to be with child** from **the Holy Spirit.** **[SLIDE 2]**

19 And her husband **Joseph**, being a **just** man and **unwilling to put her to shame**, resolved to divorce her quietly. 20 But as he considered these things (NRSV But *just when he had resolved to do this*), behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "**Joseph, son of David**, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is *from the Holy Spirit*."

Be ready to have your sense of the world contradicted by this
Gift from God, welcome the *Holy Spirit!*

21 She will bear a son, and **you shall call his name JESUS**, for *he will save his people from their sins.* [SLIDE 3]

*The One who had no start and knows no end [SLIDE 4]
Became confined in time and tense
The Everlasting God
The Great I Am
In the mercy of a mother's hands*

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

23 "Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall **call his name Immanuel**" [SLIDE 5]
(which means, God with us).

24 When Joseph woke from sleep, **he did** as the angel of the Lord commanded him: he took his wife, 25 but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And **he called his name JESUS**.

SAVE!

III. A New Way

Isa 43:18 "Remember not the former things, [SLIDE 6]
nor consider the things of old.

19 Behold, I am doing a new thing; **[SLIDE 7]**
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.

A WORD from God to the world in its exhaustion. All who are
weary and weighed down, ready to give up...

Come to me as I came to you...

A. Do not remember the former things!

Wasted energy:

Good old days – yearning, nostalgia for when it was right
The pain, shame, regrets, guilt, hurt, anger, mistreatment

God speaks clearly in the Son of His love,

He let go of his glory so we could let go of our pain.

B. Behold, I am doing a new thing!

The GOSPEL: Let go and receive, embrace, grasp the

Christmas MIRACLE:

CENTRAL FACT OF THE BIBLE. KEY TO OUR FAITH

The reason we may forget is that

The PAST is displaced by NEW Creation whole & free.

“Do you not know it? Perceive it?”

A way in the wilderness

Rivers in the desert!

There is **ONE WAY**, but many **RIVERS**. [BAND COME UP]

Greater than Caesar’s Empire of War and Taxes

Greater than Herod's Ambitions and Murderous Fears

III. Time to Behold the Manner of Love

*The holy Word of God defined by name [SLIDE 8]
The author climbed inside the page*

The **Christmas Cycle** is the **annual reminder** that the World is not lost in Darkness, but has seen a great light.

It is not politics or religion, but redemption that has the final word.

It's all GIFT. It's all FAVOR – His Gift to us!

Holy Spirit Come, Overshadow, Conceive in Us