

The Great Story - Birth of the Hero

I. ADVENT! The Hero is Born!

John 3:17 For God did **not send his Son** into the world **to condemn the world**, but in order **that the world might be saved through him**. [slide 1]

INCARNATION is at the Center of the Story!

Heb. 2:17 Therefore **he had to be made like his brothers in every respect**, so that he might become a merciful and faithful **high priest** in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. [slide 2]

18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help¹ those who are being tempted**. [slide 3]

II. The GREAT RESCUE STORY

A. Garden & Fall a Prelude

1. Eden — Protection

Garden. Communion. Blessing - "If you love me, keep my commandments.."

2. Paradise Lost & the Hint of a Hero (warrior)

Gen. 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all ...

15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and **her offspring**; he **shall bruise your head**, and you shall bruise his heel." [slide 4]

B. Egypt - Round One

1. Jealousy, betrayal, Famine, **Joseph the Unlikely Hero**

¹ βοηθέω – to run to the aid of those who cry for help

2. Provision for family, sinful brothers are blessed in the one they betrayed. – *FELIX CULPA (Happy Fault)*

3. Goshen - BEST land - The Blessing

Ex 1:6 Then Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. 7 But the people of Israel were **fruitful** and **increased** greatly; they **multiplied** and **grew exceedingly strong**, so that the land was **filled** with them.

C. Egypt - Round Two (full motif)

1. Pharaoh —> Suffering & Bondage

Ex. 1:8 Now there arose a **new king** over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. 9 .. “Behold, the **people of Israel** are **too many** and **too mighty** for us. 10 Come, let us deal shrewdly .., **lest they multiply**, and,... they **join our enemies** and **fight against us** and **escape** from the land.” 11 Therefore they set taskmasters over them to afflict them,... 12 **But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied** and the more they spread abroad. And the *Egyptians were in dread* of the people of Israel.

2. **Moses the Reluctant Hero** comes out of normal **Family Life**.

Ex. 2:1 Now a **man** from the house of Levi went and took as his **wife** a **Levite woman**. 2 The woman conceived and bore a **son**, and when she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him three months.

D. Structure of the Story

1. Evil Ruler.
2. Suffering of the people.
3. A Hero
4. Battle
5. Victory
6. Authority over nations
7. God’s dwelling place

Repeated:

Philistines, Saul, **David the Hero**

Nebuchadnezzar, **Daniel, Ezra, Nehemiah** & Return

Alexander the Great and Judas the Hammer

E. Rome - the Ultimate Evil Empire

Caesars – Julius ended the republic; civil wars

Augustus - son of a God,

Herod the Great – corrupt, violent, insane 37 BC- 4 BC

Oppression of the Chosen People

III. The GREATEST STORY!

A. Hero #1 John B - Priestly Prophetic Forerunner

A son born to a priest who lost his voice in a moment of doubt, with a distinct vocation. (from a barren wife)

Lk 1:13 But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.

57 Now the time came for Elizabeth to **give birth**, and she **bore a son**.

67 And his father **Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit** and prophesied, saying, <Benedictus>

68 “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has **visited** and **redeemed** his people

69 and has raised up a **horn of salvation** for us
in the house of his servant David,

70 as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
71 that we should be **saved from our enemies**

76 **And you, child,** will be called the **prophet of the Most High;**
for you will go before the Lord to **prepare his ways,**

77 to **give knowledge of salvation** to his people
in the forgiveness of their sins,

78 because of the **tender mercy** of our God,

- 79 whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high
to **give light** to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow
of death,
to **guide** our feet into the **way of peace.**"

The BABY will grow into a Hero!

- 80 And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in
the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

B. Perfect Pattern HERO - Jesus King of kings

The HERO is a child, born with a distinct calling on his life.

- Isa 9:6 For to us **a child** is born, to us a **son is given**; and the **gov-**
ernment shall be upon his shoulder, and **his name shall be**
called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father,
Prince of Peace. [slide 5]

The Birth of this HERO is not easy!

1. The Vessel - Mary, Virgin Mother of God-Human

Gabriel the Messenger – Mary says YES ... It's complicated...

- Luke 1:38 And Mary said, "Behold, ***I am the servant of the Lord***; let
it ***be to me according to your word.***" And the angel departed
from her.

(**Initial Celebration**)

- 39 In those days Mary arose and **went with haste** into the hill
country, to a town in Judah, 40 and she entered the house of
Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.

[video clip 3] -40 sec.

41 And **when Elizabeth heard** the greeting of Mary, the **baby leaped² in her womb**. And Elizabeth was **filled with the Holy Spirit**, 42 and she exclaimed with a loud cry, **“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!** 43 And why is this granted to me that the **mother of my Lord** should come to me? 44 For behold, when **the sound of your greeting** came to **my ears**, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.

45 And **blessed is she who believed** that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.” [slide 6]

Return Home (Strangeness & Status Change)

Luke 1:56 And Mary remained with her about **three months** and **returned to her home**.

Hearts are veiled. Can't believe

[video 4] - 63 sec. Anna and Joachim

An angel told you he was the Son of God?

Father, I have broken no vow.

I have told the truth. Whether you believe is your choice, not mine.

After Joseph's dream (Mystery must be Revealed - Joseph a key)

[video 5] - 58 sec.

I believe you. You are my wife. I am your husband.

Prophet without honor hometown <Joseph, David>

[video 6] - 34 sec.

They're going to miss us!

Help of Strangers! I stand at the door and knock

[video 7] - 37 sec.

No room Please, please, Is there a place for us? Help us!

The Inaugural Sound of the Great Hero!

[video 8] - 35 sec.

² σκιρτάω – to jump for joy

The power of the human voice!

Psalm. 8:1 O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory above the heavens.

2 Out of the **mouth of babies** and infants, you have **established strength** (LXX - **praise Mt 21.6**) because of your foes, to **still <silence>** the enemy and the avenger.

The **weak** defeat the **mighty**! The helpless cry of an infant is the sign of God's deliverance!

Shepherds and Wise Men worship

Never underestimate a baby, or a life!

Battle - he abolished death

Victory - Nothing can separate us - We are more than conquerors

Nations - Joy to the World Let earth receive her King!

Dwelling Place - Christ in you!

Neither John nor Jesus lived long lives...

Now the HERO is the New Man, the New Creation!

God of Peace will soon crush Satan under Your feet.

Never underestimate the significance of any life!

John 3:16 For God so **loved** the world, that he **gave** his **only Son***, that whoever **believes** in him **should not perish** but **have eternal life**.

2Cor 9:15 Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift! [slide 7]