



Creation ... Salvation ...

Planned in the mind of God before time began ...

*before the creation of this world ...

Everything that God has revealed to us, he planned before the beginning of time as we know it—what we refer to as eternity past. An infinite, eternal God planned and created the finite world of humans. But in this realm of God’s created world, the finite creatures are born with the eternity of God set in our hearts. God does this.

- (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NLT) Yet God has made everything beautiful for its own time. He has planted eternity in the human heart, but even so, people cannot see the whole scope of God’s work from beginning to end.
- (Isaiah 57:15 NLT) The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this: “I live in the high and holy place with those whose

spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts.”

Amazement ... The high and lofty one lives with those who are lowly and humble.

Love and glory ... We should be able to see from the very beginning that salvation comes in the context of God’s love and glory even before the creation of our world. God is love, and he dwells in glory, so no surprise then that his salvation plan flows from the wellspring of his love and glory.

The plan and purpose of God ...

The plan and purpose of salvation were formed within the mind of the holy trinity—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—which means

that salvation was conceived within the context of the eternal character and love of God from which comes the “for-God-so-loved-the-world” love of John 3:16.

Before the creation of the world ... Everything that we could even imagine began before the creation of our world in the mind of God.

The eternal context of “Christmas” ... The eternal God stepped into time as a human to bring us to himself in eternity. The Child was born; the Son was given.

- (Isaiah 9:6 NKJV) For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

More amazement ... Jesus came to do the will of the Father—to make a way for us to share in the eternal love and glory of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Before the creation of the world ...

- (John 17:22–24 NIV) I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. “Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am, and to see my glory, the glory you have given me because you loved me before the creation of the world.”

Before the creation of the world ... The Father chose us in our Lord Jesus Christ before

the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight—the necessary preparation of our lives to be forever with God. God is taking us to him and his glory. We must be made ready for our relationship with him in every way ... redemption ... adoption as sons ... everything made ready for the glory of God to the praise of his glorious grace.

- (Ephesians 1:3–6 NIV) Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will—to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Before the creation of the world ... Christ was chosen as the Lamb of God before the creation of the world.

So when John the Baptist spoke of the Lamb of God, we receive more insight into the mind of God from eternity to eternity.

- (1 Peter 1:18–20 NIV) For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.