

How To Measure Up to God's Standard, Part 2

***“Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says:
‘Look! I am placing a foundation stone in
Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a
precious cornerstone that is safe to build on.
Whoever believes need never be shaken. I will test
you with the measuring line of justice and the
plumb line of righteousness.” (Isaiah 28:16-17a
NLT)***

In Part 1 of this post, we left Israel in limbo waiting through 400 years of silence from God. I can't imagine living my whole life without any sign or word from God. Finally, God breaks His silence, and He does it through a series of spectacular angelic visitations.

- The angel Gabriel appears to Zacharias the priest when Zacharias is burning incense in the temple of the Lord. Gabriel explains that Zacharias and Elizabeth (who are elderly and childless) will be blessed with a baby who will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. (Luke 1:5-25)
- Appearing with even more astounding news, Gabriel also visits a virgin Mary to tell her that she is blessed among women because she has found favor with God and will bear the Son of the Highest. (Luke 1: 26-38)
- An angel of the Lord appears to Mary's fiancé, Joseph, in a dream and tells him to not be afraid to take Mary as his wife, because the child she carries is conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18-25)
- An angel of the Lord appears to shepherds in a field to tell them of the Savior's birth, and then a whole host of angels lights up the sky before them rejoicing. (Luke

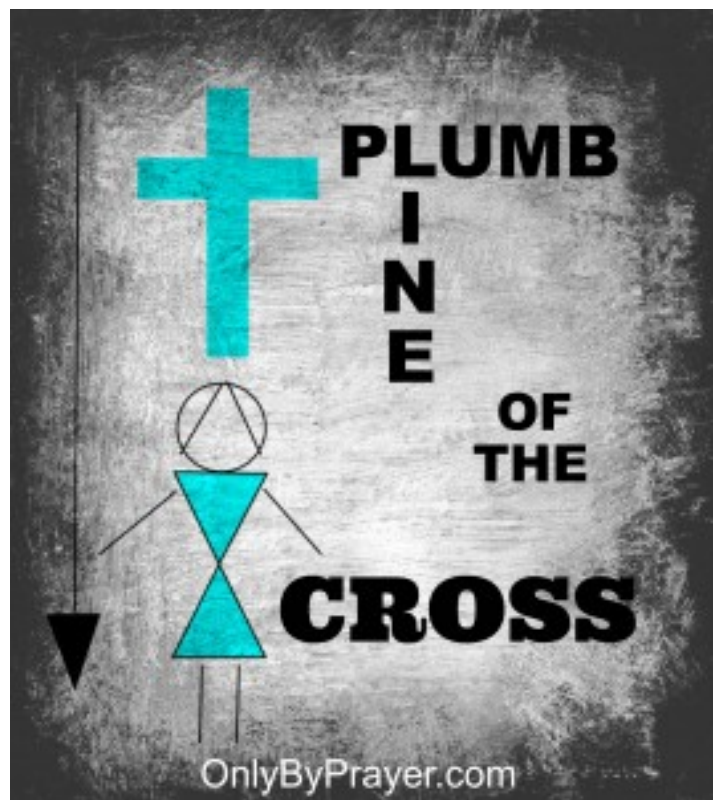
2:8-20)

- Three wise men from the East are divinely warned in a dream not to return to Herod after they have seen the baby Jesus. (Matthew 2:12)

Exit Law Enter the Grace of the Cross

To our eternal benefit, God sends a heavenly baby to earth and in that action He does away with the law as a means of forgiving sin. No one had been able to keep the law until, that is, Jesus came to earth and lived a sinless life. Jesus did what no one before Him was able to do and no one after Him will ever be able to do. God put the penalty of the world's sin on Jesus. His death on the cross included payment for my sin and your sin. God then forever broke the power of sin and death with Jesus's spectacular Resurrection three days after His death.

We now have a new plumb line: the cross.



When we confess our sins and accept Jesus' payment for them on the cross, we are forever in true with God because of the plumb line of the cross! And each day, we can align ourselves

with Jesus and the Holy Spirit to make sure we are continually transformed into the image of Christ (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God has always provided a plumb line for us. For the rest of history, that plumb line is Jesus and the cross.

No matter how crooked your life may look right now, the plumb line of the cross can straighten you out with God. You can start your journey with God by praying this simple prayer:

Dear God,

I admit that I am a sinner. I ask that you forgive me for my sins. I realize on my own I can do nothing to make up for them. I accept Jesus' death on the cross as payment for my sins, and I ask Him to take charge of my life. Amen.

If you just prayed that prayer and you are able to do so, please leave us a message below in the comments. God bless you.

Pray on!

Jane