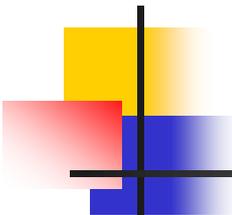


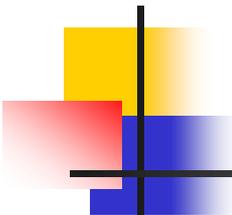
A Plan for the Ages





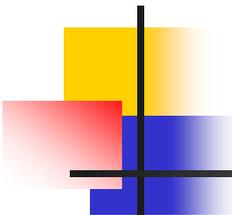
God's Eternal Plan

- John 1: 1-5 - In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
2 [a]He was in the beginning with God.
- 3 All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.
- 4 In Him was life, and the life was the Light of men. 5 The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not [b]comprehend it.



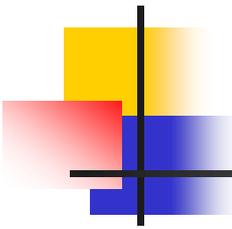
God's Character Revealed

- God is a Planner – from before time began, He knew our need and prepared a plan to take care of us
- God is a Creator – Yes He made flowers and trees and puppies and kittens, etc., and ... YOU.
 - But His blueprint also allowed for sin and ugliness and darkness
- God is a Deliverer – and He had a plan for that, too



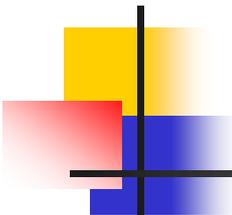
Light versus Darkness

- What is light?
- Simply stated, light is GOD'S way of transferring energy through space. We can complicate it by talking about interacting electric and magnetic fields, quantum mechanics, and all of that, but just remember--*light is energy*.
- What is darkness?
- A place where there isn't any light
- NO energy, no life, no peace, no hope - nothingness



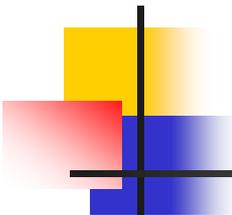
Zoroastrianism

- Persian – perhaps the religion of the Magi who came from the East to worship baby Jesus
- Battle between TWO equal forces
- Ahriman – god of light (goodness)
- Ormuzd – god of darkness (evil)
- Rooted in Dualism – to equal forces battling to see which side would win



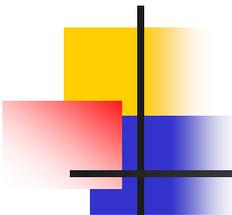
Jesus Brings Life and LIGHT

- The darkness **COULD NOT** comprehend it
- Katalambanein – darkness can't:
 - Understand this life and light
 - Can't overtake it in order to overwhelm or control it
 - Can't put it out or stop it – not then, not now, not ever
 - No matter how dark it may seem at times in this world **or in your life**, JESUS HAS ALREADY WON – Darkness is a temporary deception



John 19:30

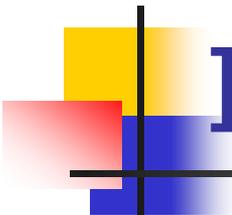
- Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.
- Tetalestai – a perfectly completed work, a debt paid, and plan brought to a successful conclusion
- This was always the plan, from before time began, the darkness never saw it coming
- The darkness you are facing now has now power over it either



It Is Finished - Gaither

There's a line that is drawn through the ages
On that line stands an old rugged cross
On that cross, a battle is raging
To gain a man's soul or it's loss

On one side, march the forces of evil
All the demons, all the devils of hell
On the other, the angels of glory
And they meet on Golgotha's hill



It is Finished, 2

The earth shakes with the force of the
conflict

And the sun refuses to shine

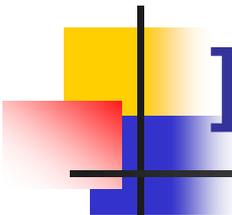
For there hangs God's son, in the balance

And then through the darkness he cries

It is finished, the battle is over It is finished,
there'll be no more war

It is finished, the end of the conflict It is
finished and Jesus is Lord

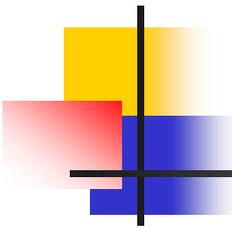




It is Finished, 3

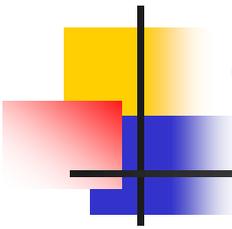
Yet in my heart, the battle was still raging
Not all prisoners of war had come home
These were battlefields of my own making
I didn't know that the war had been won

Oh, but then I heard the king of the ages
Had fought all the battles for me
And that victory was mine for the claiming
And now praise his name, I am free



It is Finished, 4

It is finished, the battle is
over It is finished, there'll be
no more war
It is finished, the end of the
conflict It is finished and
Jesus is Lord!



Outrageously Amazing Message!!

- deeply loved by God,
- fully accepted by God,
- completely and permanently forgiven by God,
- lavishly blessed by God,
- and eternally, perfectly embraced by God as his child; a child who brings Him unspeakable JOY