

Next Week Sermon

Characters of Christmas: Zechariah

Luke 1:5-25

PREACHER

John Lee

10 December, 2023

Characters of Christmas: Mary

Luke 1:57-80

PREACHER

William Ngeow

17 December, 2023

Characters of Christmas: Simeon

Luke 2:22-35

PREACHER

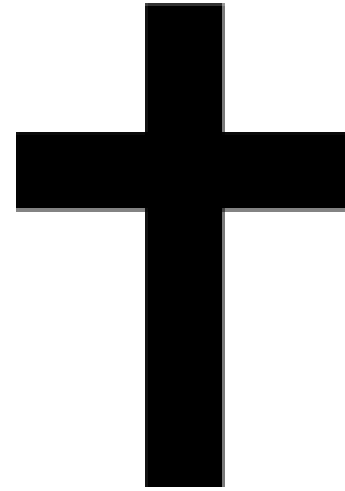
Lee Yee Dian

We are still at Ephesians!

**but we preach Christ crucified: a
stumbling block to Jews and
foolishness to Gentiles, but to those
whom God has called, both Jews and
Greeks, Christ the power of God and
the wisdom of God.**

~ 1 Corinthians 1:23-24 NIV

- Inside out
- Upside down
- Forward back



The inside out, upside down and forward back wisdom of the Gospel

Ephesians 1:3-10

What many people think the Gospel is

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ **In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace** ⁸ **that he lavished on us.** With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-10

But the Gospel is much more than that

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-10

UPSIDE DOWN



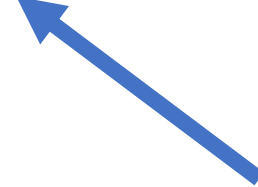
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Ephesians 1:3-10

INSIDE OUT



FORWARD BACK



HONOR/SHAME

³ 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. ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, ⁹ he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, ¹⁰ to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.

Ephesians 1:3-10

GUILT

- We tend to lump both guilt and shame together, not being able to distinguish between the two.
- Guilt and shame are two similar yet very distinctively separate emotions.
- Guilt and shame are strong emotions that affect our understanding and willingness to repent of our sins

Guilt and Shame should be viewed through God's grace

⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, **in accordance with his pleasure and will—** ⁶**to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.**

⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, **in accordance with the riches of God's grace** ⁸**that he lavished on us.**

Ephesians 1:4-7

Guilt is an emotion that results from a acknowledgement one has sinned

⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace ⁸ that he lavished on us.

Ephesians 1:7



Acknowledgment of sin?

Dogs when they do something wrong:



Cats when they do something wrong:



¹⁰ Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. ¹¹ See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

Search me, O Lord...



Search me, O Lord...



Shame is an emotion connected to our identity

⁴For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ, in accordance with his pleasure and will— ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Ephesians 1:4-7

- God does not love us because we are worthy.
- God loves us because we are in Christ who alone is worthy.
- Everything that is Christ's is ours when we are in him.

John Calvin, Institutes, III.11.10.

- 
- Is God ashamed of me?



- Is God ashamed of me?



- Am I ashamed of myself?



-



- Is God ashamed of me?



- Am I ashamed of myself?



- How I project myself to others



What is the difference between the 2 below:-

- I feel guilty/shameful/sorrowful/terrible for what I did which I acknowledge is wrong before God.
- I feel ashamed of who I am.

Definition of shame

“An intensely painful feeling or experience of believing we are flawed and therefore unworthy of acceptance and belonging.”

Brené Brown, “Shame Resilience Theory: A Grounded Theory Study on Women and Shame,” *Families in Society* 87.1 (Jan-Mar 2006)

“We feel guilty for what we do, we feel shame for what we are.”

Lewis Smedes, *Shame and Grace: Healing the Shame We Don't Deserve* (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1993).

Search me, O Lord...



- Guilt
- Shame
- Empathy

The devastating effect of worldly guilt and shame



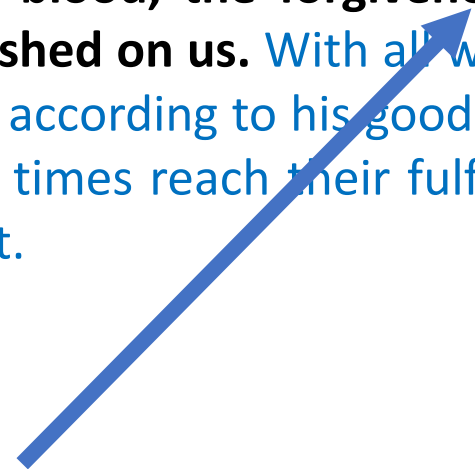
SHAME



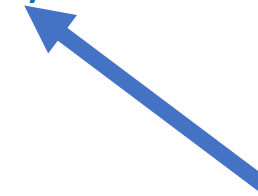
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Ephesians 1:3-10

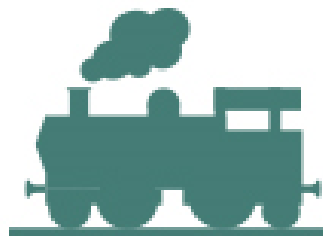
GUILT



WONDER

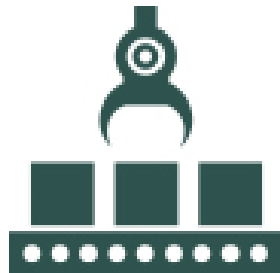






The 1st Industrial Revolution
18th Century

Steam engine
based
mechanization
revolution



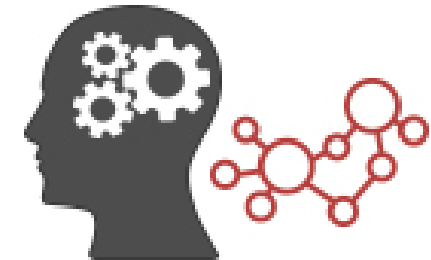
The 2nd Industrial Revolution
Early 19-20th Century

Electricity based
mass production
revolution



The 3rd Industrial Revolution
Latter Half of the 20th Century

Computer/Internet
based knowledge
and information



The 4th Industrial Revolution
Early 21st Century-

Big Data/AI/IoT
based
hyperconnectivity
revolution

THE KARDASHEV SCALE

The Kardashev scale is a method of measuring a civilization's level of technological advancement. First proposed by Soviet astronomer Nikolai Kardashev in 1964, the scale is based on the amount of energy a civilization is able to harness and utilize. The scale is hypothetical, but it puts energy consumption in a cosmic perspective and helps us understand how advanced we may become as a civilization.



TYPE I CIVILIZATION PLANETARY

A Type 1 civilization is able to harness all of their planet's energy from the parent star. This type has control over the entire planet's natural forces, such as volcanoes and weather.



TYPE II CIVILIZATION STELLAR

A Type 2 civilization is able to harness all of the energy of their entire host star using the hypothetical concept of a Dyson Sphere. This type is interplanetary able to occupy other planets and moons in the solar system.

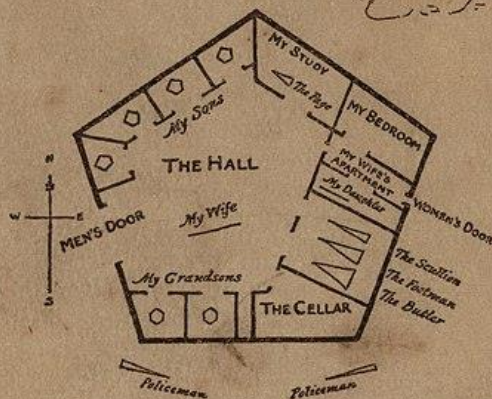
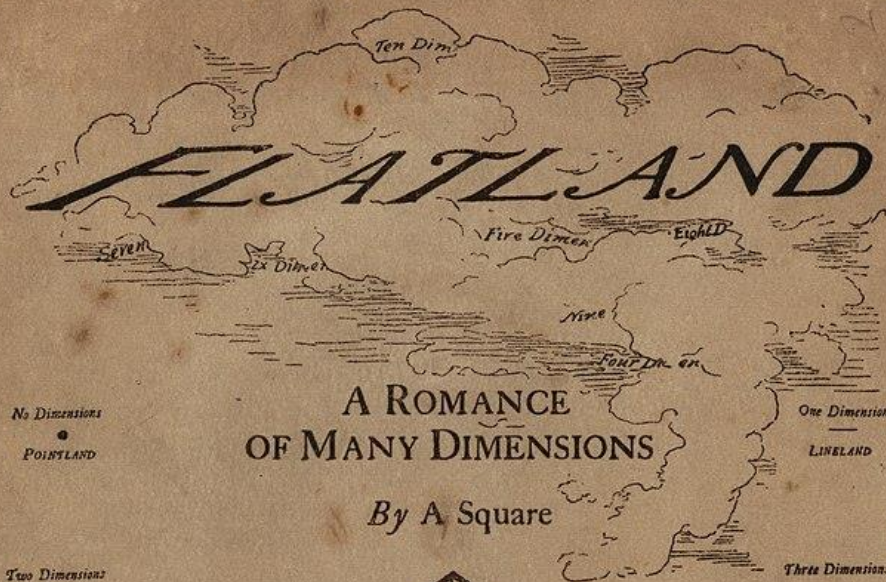


TYPE III CIVILIZATION GALACTIC

A Type 3 civilization is in control of energy on the scale of their entire host galaxy. Type 3 are galactic travelers, able to move from star to star, colonizing multiple star systems across the entire galaxy.

W.4/2

"O day and night, but this is wondrous strange"



LONDON
SEELEY & Co., ESSEX STREET, STRAND
Price Half-a-crown

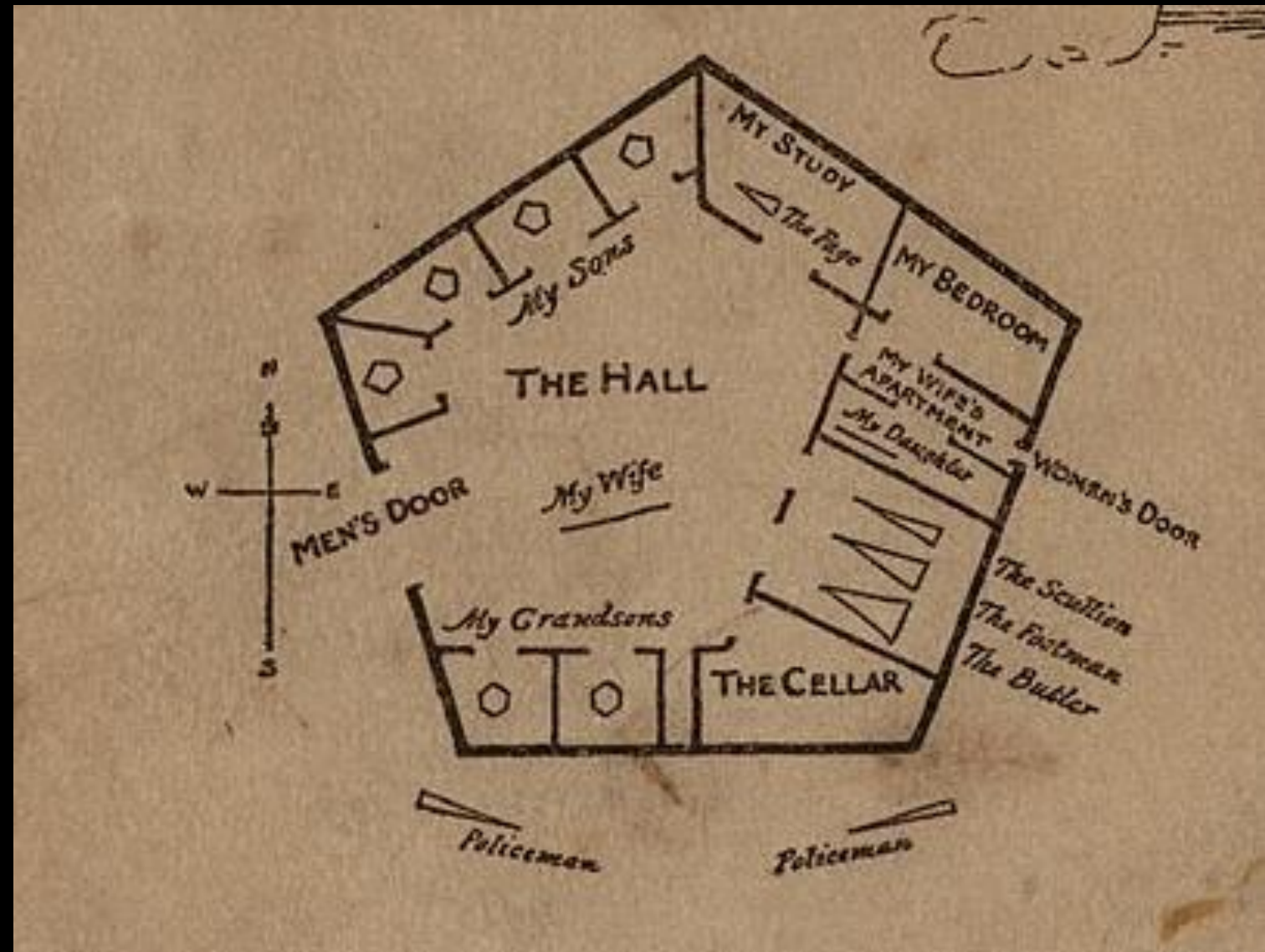
"And therefore as a stranger give it welcome"

FLATLAND

EDWIN A. ABBOTT



A ROMANCE OF MANY DIMENSIONS



FLATLAND

A Romance of Many Dimensions



Edwin A. Abbott

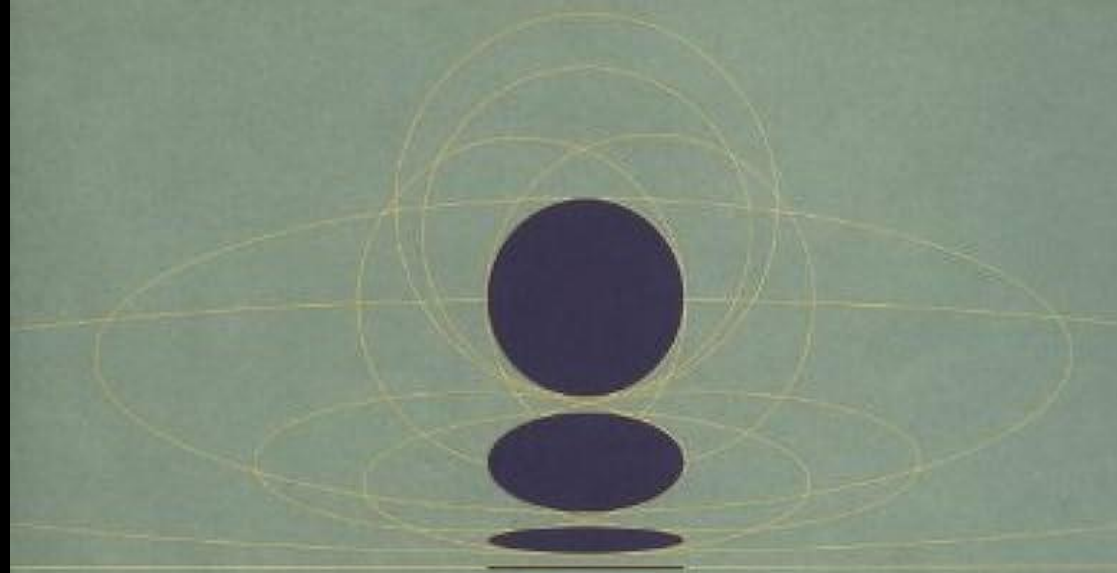
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FLATLAND

A ROMANCE OF MANY DIMENSIONS



INTRODUCTION AND NOTES BY IAN STEWART
AUTHOR OF FLATTERLAND

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CLASSIC REPRINT SERIES

THE MESSAGE OF THE SON OF MAN



by
Edwin A. Abbott

Forgotten Books

Infinity stepped down into our finite world

⁹The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹²Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

John 1:9-13

**For this reason I kneel before the
Father,** ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven
and on earth derives its name.
Ephesians 3:14-15



- Guilt
- Shame
- Empathy
- Wonder
- Love

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸ may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:18-19

¹⁸ I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, ¹⁹ and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength ²⁰ he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, ²¹ far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Ephesians 1:18-21

- Guilt
- Shame
- Empathy
- Wonder
- Love
- **Courage**

²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Ephesians 3:20-21

Together with my church family and by
the grace of God, I am more than I
can imagine myself to be”