

## **Recognising Jesus 認出耶穌**

**John 約翰福音 1:1-14**

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In 1961 the Russian, Yuri Gagarin, was the first person into space. Nikita Khrushchev was the Russian premier at the time. Khrushchev said that when Gagarin went into space, he discovered there was no God there.

1961 年，蘇聯的尤里·加加林成為第一個進入太空的人。當時的蘇聯總理尼基塔·赫魯曉夫說，加加林進入太空後，發現那裡並沒有神。

In response to this, the Oxford Professor, CS Lewis wrote an article called "The Seeing Eye". Lewis writes that if there is a God who created us, they would not be discovered by going up into space. God would not relate to human beings the way a person on the first floor relates to another person on the second floor. Both are the same beings just at a different level.

作為回應，牛津教授路易斯寫了一篇名為《視見之眼》的文章。路易斯寫道，如果有一位創造我們的神，祂不會通過上到太空被發現。神與人類的關係，不會像一樓的人與二樓的人之間的關係那樣。兩者只是處於不同層次的同類存在。

Lewis wrote that God would relate to humanity the way Shakespeare relates to Hamlet. Shakespeare is the creator of Hamlet and his world. Hamlet has no way of knowing his creator unless Shakespeare was to reveal information about himself in the play.

他寫道，神與人類的關係，就像莎士比亞與哈姆雷特的關係。莎士比亞是哈姆雷特及其世界的創造者。哈姆雷特無法知道他的創造者，除非莎士比亞在劇中揭示關於他自己的信息。

Lewis' point is that the only way we can know God is if God writes himself into the story of history so that the other characters in the story can know of him.

路易斯的觀點是，我們能認識神的唯一途徑，是神將自己寫入歷史的故事中，這樣故事中的其他角色才能認識祂。

The claim of Christmas, the claim of Christianity, is that this is exactly what God has done. God did not just write information about himself, but he wrote himself into the drama of history. This is the claim of Christianity. The story of Christmas ISN'T just a good story in our heads; it's a TRUE story that happened in history.

聖誕節的主張，基督教的主張，正是神已經這樣做了。神不僅寫下了關於祂自己的信息，更將自己寫入了歷史的戲劇之中。這就是基督教的主張。聖誕節的故事「不僅僅是」我們腦海中的一個好故事；它是一個在歷史上「真實」發生過的故事。

This still leaves us with the SO WHAT question. If Christmas isn't true, we don't just lose the wonder of Christmas, we lose everything. We lose life and meaning. Good and evil. Even you and me.

這仍然給我們留下了「那又如何」的問題。如果聖誕節不是真的，我們不僅失去了聖誕節的奇妙，我們失去了一切。我們失去了生命和意義。善與惡。甚至包括你和我。

**NO NEWS STORY 沒有新聞的故事**

In his global bestseller, *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, Israeli historian Yuval Noah Harari tells the story of humanity from the beginning. Harari rejects the claims of Christianity, but he recognises its influence.

在他的全球暢銷書《人類大歷史》中，以色列歷史學家尤瓦爾·赫拉利講述了人類從起源開始的故事。赫拉利拒絕基督教的主張，但他承認其影響力。

He actually argues that our deepest moral beliefs today are not self-evident truths. They are in fact biblical beliefs. This is how he puts it: *The idea of equality is inextricably intertwined with the idea of creation. If we do not believe in the Christian myths about God, creation and souls, what does it mean that all people are equal?*

他甚至論證道，我們今天最深層的道德信念並非不言自明的真理。它們實際上是聖經的信念。他是這樣表述的：平等的觀念與創造的觀念密不可分地交織在一起。如果我們不相信關於神、創造和靈魂的基督教神話，那麼「人人平等」意味著什麼呢？

Most people in our society have a sense that human rights are good, racism is wrong, that women and men are equal, that murder is evil, and the rich should not oppress the poor. But, why? If there is no God then these are not moral facts, they are opinions.

我們社會中的大多數人都認為人權是好的，種族主義是錯的，男女是平等的，謀殺是邪惡的，富人不應壓迫窮人。但是，為什麼呢？如果沒有神，那麼這些就不是道德事實，它們只是觀點。

British historian Tom Holland makes a similar point. He stopped believing in God as a kid but after years of research found himself drawn to Jesus. This was mainly because he found that many of the values, he held dear were intimately connected to Jesus.

英國歷史學家湯姆·霍蘭德提出了類似的觀點。他小時候停止相信神，但經過多年研究，他發現自己被耶穌吸引。這主要是因為他發現，他所珍視的許多價值觀都與耶穌密切相關。

Human equality and rights, equality of men and women, love for foreigners, care for the poor, vulnerable and marginalised are specifically Christian beliefs. History shows us that it was only as Christianity spread that these beliefs became generally accepted. The ancient world laughed at them.

人類平等與權利、男女平等、愛外人、關懷貧窮人、弱勢者和邊緣人，這些都是特別屬於基督教的信仰。歷史向我們表明，正是隨著基督教的傳播，這些信念才被普遍接受。古代世界曾嘲笑它們。

The broad consensus now is we can keep the values but get rid of the God behind them. Harari explains what happens if we do: *As far as we can tell from a purely scientific viewpoint, human life has absolutely no meaning. Humans are the outcome of blind evolutionary processes that operate without goal or purpose. Our actions are not part of some divine cosmic plan...Hence any meaning that people ascribe to their lives is just a delusion.*

現在普遍的共識是，我們可以保留這些價值觀，但拋棄其背後的上帝。赫拉利解釋了如果我們這樣做會發生什麼：就我們從純粹科學角度所能判斷的而言，人類生命絕對沒有意義。人類是盲目的演化過程的結果，這些過程沒有目標或目的在運作。我們的行動並非某種神聖宇宙計劃的一部分.....因此，人們賦予自己生命的任何意義都只是一種幻覺。

There are certainly people who think their lives have no meaning, but on the most part, none of us really want Harari to be right, that meaning is a delusion. The bad news story is though, if there is

no God, we are left with the reality that we live and we die and we decay and that is it. Christmas is the alternative. The Christmas story is the good news story.

當然有人認為自己的生命沒有意義，但在大多數情況下，我們沒有人真的希望赫拉利是對的，即意義只是一種幻覺。壞消息的故事是：如果沒有神，我們就只剩下我們活著、死去、腐朽的現實，僅此而已。聖誕節提供了另一種選擇。聖誕節的故事是一個好消息的故事。

### GOOD NEWS STORY 好消息的故事

At the beginning of John's biography of Jesus doesn't start with the birth of Jesus, but the birth of the universe. He mentions a key figure who he calls "the Word". I'll read the first five verses again for us:

約翰所寫的耶穌傳記開頭，並非始於耶穌的誕生，而是宇宙的誕生。他提到一位關鍵人物，稱之為「道」。讓我為大家再讀前五節經文：

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

「太初有道，道與神同在，道就是神。這道太初與神同在。萬物都是藉著他造的；沒有一樣不是藉著他造的。凡被造的，在他裏面有生命，這生命就是人的光。光照在黑暗裏，黑暗卻沒有勝過光。」

As his biography unfolds, we discover the figure known as the 'Word' is in fact Jesus. The Bible teaches that the creator God is one God in three persons -- the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit -- who have always existed in perfect love together. At the heart of ultimate reality is perfect love relationship.

隨著他的傳記展開，我們發現這位被稱為「道」的人物，事實上就是耶穌。聖經教導說，創造主神是三位一體的神——父、子、聖靈——他們始終以完美的愛共存。終極現實的核心是完美的愛的關係。

The very first Christmas marks the moment when God the Son, the WORD, the Creator of all, became a human being with a specific purpose. John biography tells the story of our lives being part of a loving, cosmic plan.

第一個聖誕節標誌著一個時刻：神的兒子，那「道」，萬物的創造主，為了一個特定的目的成為了一個人。約翰的傳記告訴我們，我們的生命是一個充滿愛心的宇宙計劃的一部分。

I'll read it again from v9: *The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognise him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God --- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.*

讓我從第 9 節再讀一遍：「那光是真光，來到世上，照亮所有的人。他在世界，世界是藉著他造的，世界卻不認識他。他來到自己的地方，自己的人並不接納他。凡接納他的，就是信他名的人，他就賜他們權柄作神的兒女。這些人不是從血生的，不是從情慾生的，也

不是從人的意願生的，而是從上帝生的。道成了肉身，住在我們中間，充充滿滿地有恩典有真理。我們也見過他的榮光，正是父獨一兒子的榮光。」

This is saying that Jesus is the author of the story and its lead character. The God who made the universe, who creates and defines history, enters it to rescue us. Instead of celebrated, he is rejected. Instead of honoured, he is killed. The wonder of it though, is his death was written into the script as the central part. It wasn't an accident.

這是在說，耶穌既是故事的作者，也是故事的主角。那位創造宇宙、創造並定義歷史的神，進入其中來拯救我們。祂沒有被讚揚，反而被拒絕。祂沒有被尊榮，反而被殺害。然而，奇妙之處在於，祂的死被寫入劇本，成為核心部分。這並非意外。

If it is true that there is a God who made us and loves us, then that is fantastic news. Christmas is fantastic news. There is such a thing as meaning and purpose. There is such a thing as good and evil. Christmas is also terrible news, humbling news, because we all need saving from a judgement, we rightly deserve, for living as if God doesn't exist.

如果真有一位創造我們並愛我們的神，那麼這就是極好的消息。聖誕節是極好的消息。意義和目的是真實存在的。善與惡是真實存在的。聖誕節也是一個可怕的消息，一個令人謙卑的消息，因為我們都需要從我們理當承受的審判中被拯救出來，因為我們活得好像神不存在一樣。

Some of us are deeply aware of sin, even if we don't use that word. If there is a God who sees everything, knows everything, then we know that isn't good. On one level, that is good and healthy. The Christmas story, the message of Christianity, is not a self-help message where we are told we are mostly enough and God gives us an extra help.

我們當中有些人深深意識到罪，即使我們不用那個詞。如果有一位神能看到一切、知道一切，那麼我們知道這並不好。從某個層面來說，這種意識是好的、健康的。聖誕節的故事，基督教的信息，不是一個自助信息，告訴我們我們大致足夠了，神會給我們額外的幫助。

Every time we see Jesus helping someone in his biographies, its those who knew they weren't enough. They are the ones Jesus welcomes. Those who were considered too bad or too broken were the preferred company of Jesus. That's us. None of us would escape embarrassment if every thought and action and motive you've ever had was projected onto these screens and livestreamed. I would be crushed if it was just today's tally. God sees it all. This is terrible, but it's not the end of the story.

每次我們在耶穌的傳記中看到祂幫助人，都是那些知道自己不足的人。他們是耶穌所歡迎的人。那些被認為太壞或破碎不堪的人，正是耶穌所喜愛的同伴。那就是我們。如果我們曾有過的每一個思想、行動和動機都被投射到這些屏幕上並直播，沒有人能逃脫尷尬。如果只是今天的記錄，我就會被壓垮。神看見這一切。這很可怕，但這不是故事的結局。

In the Christmas story, we are told Jesus is presented with three gifts by the astrologers from the east. One of those gifts was myrrh. Any new mother would have been thrown by the gift of myrrh. It was used to embalm the dead. Myrrh was a symbol of death.

在聖誕節的故事中，我們被告知耶穌接受了來自東方的占星家呈上的三樣禮物。其中一樣禮物是沒藥。任何一位新母親收到沒藥這份禮物都會感到錯愕。它被用來膏抹死者。沒藥是死亡的象徵。

Jesus came into this world to die. That is what he needed to do to bring about reconciliation between God and humanity. Jesus would die for the sins of humanity. About 33 years after his birth, he was crucified outside of Jerusalem.

耶穌來到這個世界是為了死。這是祂需要做的事情，以促成神與人之間的和好。耶穌將為人類的罪而死。大約在祂出生 33 年後，祂在耶路撒冷城外被釘十字架。

But his death was not the end of the story because three days later his tomb was empty, and Jesus appeared to his followers and over 500 people at different times...alive. He faced death to defeat death. He paid for our sin so that we don't have to.

但祂的死並非故事的結局，因為三天後祂的墳墓空了，耶穌在不同時間向祂的追隨者和超過 500 人...活著的...顯現。祂是為了戰勝死亡而面對死亡。祂為我們的罪付了代價，使我們不必再付。

He knows our secret thoughts and deepest failures and shame, but he loves us all the way to death and back. All we have to do is trust him. This is the answer to the so what question. The good news story can be your story.

祂知道我們隱秘的思想、最深的失敗和羞恥，但祂愛我們，從始至終，直到死而復活。我們所要做的就是信靠祂。這就是「那又如何」這個問題的答案。這個好消息的故事可以成為你的故事。

### **YOUR STORY? 你的故事?**

The Christmas story is part of GOD'S STORY of time and eternity. It has four main chapters. In chapter 1, the God who stands outside of creation, and always existed, created all things by speaking it into existence. It's the only storyline, of all the storylines in the history of humanity, that has a divine being creating all things out of love.

聖誕節的故事是「神關於時間與永恆的故事」的一部分。它有四個主要篇章。在第一篇章，那位立於創造之外、永恆存在的神，藉著說話創造了萬物。在人類歷史上所有的故事線中，這是唯一一個神聖存有出於愛創造萬物的故事線。

In chapter 2 humanity rejects the authority and love of God. All people live life with no consideration for God. Relationship with God and each other is deeply fractured. All brokenness and evil in the world is connected to chapter 2.

在第二篇章，人類拒絕了神的權柄和愛。所有人都活得不考慮神。與神和彼此的關係嚴重破裂。世界上所有的破碎和邪惡都與第二篇章有關。

Chapter 3 is God's plan to reverse all that brokenness and sin. This plan is worked out through history and finds its culmination in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Christmas and Easter story. Jesus takes the judgement of God for our rebellion against God upon himself. He dies the death we should have died but rose victorious over sin. Everyone who puts their trust in Jesus is gathered back into relationship with God and each other.

第三篇章是神逆轉所有破碎和罪的計劃。這個計劃在歷史中展開，並在耶穌基督的生、死和復活中達到頂峰。這就是聖誕節和復活節的故事。耶穌為我們對神的背叛，將神對我們的審判承擔在自己身上。祂替我們死了我們該死的死，卻復活戰勝了罪。凡信靠耶穌的人，都被重新聚攏回到與神、與彼此的關係中。

Chapter 4 of God's story is not the end of the story; it's the beginning of a chapter with no ending. It's a chapter where Jesus reigns forever with his people in a world of perfection and peace. This is

the good news of the Christmas story written in history, and billions of people over the past 2000 years have found hope, and light, and meaning, and joy in this story.

神的故事的第四篇章不是故事的結束；它是一個沒有結尾的篇章的開始。在這個篇章裡，耶穌將與祂的子民在一個完美和平的世界裡永遠作王。這就是寫在歷史中的聖誕節故事的好消息，在過去的 2000 年裡，數十億人在這個故事中找到了希望、光明、意義和喜樂。

There is another story that has arisen in the last couple of hundred years. It's taken up resident in the soul of Western civilisation for the past 60 years. The technical term for it is Philosophical Naturalism. It's a fancy name for MATERIALISM. It's a three-chapter story. In the first chapter states there is no supernatural or spiritual or personal power that rules the physical universe. Everything that can be seen and measured is a result of an explosion that appeared out of nothing billions of years ago.

還有另一個故事在過去幾百年興起。在過去 60 年裡，它佔據了西方文明的靈魂。它的學術名稱是「哲學自然主義」。這是「唯物主義」的一個花哨名稱。這是一個三篇章的故事。第一篇章宣稱，沒有超自然或屬靈或個人的力量統治物質宇宙。一切可見可測之物都是數十億年前無中生有的一次爆炸的結果。

Chapter 2 of the story is that against all scientific evidence or even reason, life came from no life and eventually humanity evolved from prehistoric soup to be the dominant species on the earth. Therefore, despite what we might feel, there is no such thing as absolute right or wrong. Everything is an accident, so life has no absolute purpose. Its best to just make the most of it because chapter 3 will come. Chapter 3 is the end. The sun will burn up; humanity will become extinct and there is no form of afterlife or survival of the conscience. The story of materialism is that this life is it.

故事的第二篇章是：違背所有科學證據甚至理性，生命從無生命而來，最終人類從史前「原始湯」演化成為地球上的優勢物種。因此，不管我們感覺如何，並沒有絕對的對錯。一切都是偶然，所以生命沒有絕對的目的。最好只是盡情享受，因為第三篇章終將到來。第三篇章是終結。太陽將燃燒殆盡；人類將滅絕，並且沒有來世或意識的存續。唯物主義的故事就是：此生即是全部。

The Christmas story says we have a loving creator who has triumphed over evil at great cost to himself to love you dearly, and we look forward to a day when everything wrong will be made right and we'll live with him in blissful joy for eternity.

聖誕節的故事說，我們有一位慈愛的創造主，祂以巨大的自我犧牲戰勝了邪惡來深深地愛你，我們期待著有一天，一切錯誤將被糾正，我們將與祂在永恆的福樂中同住。

Which story is your story? The The Christmas story might be hard to believe, but it is unbelievably good news. But to get to the point of it being good news, we must start by seeing humanity is, we are, the villain in the story. Jesus is the hero This Christmas get written into Jesus' story by giving your life to him. Make your story a good one, one that will go on living, as Jesus himself goes on living.

哪個故事是你的故事？聖誕節的故事或許難以置信，但它卻是好得難以置信的好消息。但要體會到它是好消息，我們必須首先認識到，人類——也就是我們——是故事中的反派。耶穌是英雄。在這個聖誕節，藉著將你的生命獻給祂，讓自己被寫入耶穌的故事。使你的故事成為一個好故事，一個將繼續活下去的故事，如同耶穌自己永遠活著一樣。