



Christmas Series: Promise
From sermon 12.1.19

Read *Matthew 1:21-23*

Questions, Answers, and Review from Sunday's sermon: there are some great words associated with Christmas and the Christmas story. The world has successfully hijacked many of them. Gabriel reminded Joseph (and us) that God made a binding promise the Christ (Christmas) would come. The details of that promise were revealed progressively throughout the Old Testament. Remembering that God kept His promise and worked out the smallest details should give us hope and joy that He'll do the same for us ...and, that Jesus will return.

How early in man's history did God promise a Redeemer/Messiah? Immediately following the Fall. As He is pronouncing the curse on Satan, Adam, & Eve, He also issues the Promise.

See *Genesis 3:15* [Note: He also sacrificed animals to cover them = symbolic atonement]

What is the Passover? Holiday and solemn observance, instituted by Jesus Himself, that had each family sacrifice a spotless lamb and use its blood as a sign of faith, saving them from certain death. How is it also a Foreshadow of Messiah and what He would do? Jesus is the perfect, once-for-all-time sacrifice. Being under His blood saves from the wrath of God. See also 1 Corinthians 5:7

Read the following verses. Write down and discuss the promise they contain.

- Psalm 2:7—God was sending His only Son. The Messiah would be divine.
- Isaiah 7:14—the Virgin Birth, Messiah would also be fully man, & He is "God with us"
- Isaiah 9:6-7—He will be a ruler. He would come from David's line (Judah). His Kingdom will be eternal.
- Micah 5:2—He would be born in Bethlehem, yet has always existed.

Now consider Luke 2:10-11—*Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord."* Next: draw a line from words and phrases in this passage to the Promise listed above.

What parts of the Christmas story show that God's people had forgotten His Promise? Various answers. Those who knew the scriptures best didn't show up in Bethlehem. The magi were dismissed (except by paranoid Herod). Everyone expected Jesus to overtake the Romans and re-establish Israel's glory. No one could conceive that Messiah had to die = deal with their sin, not just the sin of everyone else/the Gentiles.

What are some blessed promises of God you easily forget? Various Answers

What are some ways you can better remember them in 2020? Spend more time in the Word, seeing how God is faithful. Write some of those promises on cards to keep with me. Memorize God's promise(s). See also *Hebrews 6:17-18*

Discuss the amazing way God kept His Promise(s) in the intricate details that had to fall into place that first Christmas. David's royal line had to be preserved. (it was down to one heir, at one time). Israel had to be in the Land. She had to be foreign occupied. Joseph and Mary had to be in Bethlehem that very night Jesus would be born.