



Week 7 – The Anticipated King

In the message this week we looked very briefly at three specific prophecies that were also promises from God. Lets just take a few minutes to open the bible and look at these promises more closely and set them in our heart as they relate to Jesus.

Promise to Eve. Read Genesis 3:13-15.

What has just taken place? What is the current head-count of the human race? What is your first impression the word “offspring” means in verse 15a? Why does God immediately use the singular “he” and “his” in the second half of the verse? What is the nature of God’s promise? What will the outcome be?

Promise to Abraham. Read Genesis 22:16-18 (ESV preferably)

What two promises does God make to Abraham in verse 17a? What does “offspring” (or decedents) seem to mean in the first sentence of the verse?

Depending on your bible translation, the second half of verse 17 may read differently. In the NIV reads “Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies” while the ESV reads “his enemies”.

If you have a study bible you may find a note at the word “their”. The sentence in Hebrew contains the word הַיָּחִיד “hîy” – which is the singular “his” and is only used when it is emphatic. Again we have a promise of offspring that shifts from plural to singular almost mid-sentence.

Compare the blessing in verse 17 to the blessing in verse 18. Who is going to blessed in each verse? According to verse 17b we just looked at, how will this blessing come to pass?

Promise to Judah. Read Genesis 49:8-12 (NIV, NKJV, or NET)

What does God promise Judah in verse 8? Who are “his father’s sons”? how does verse 10 extend the length of this promise? Now it is the NIV’s turn for a better translation. The 3rd stanza often is translated, “until he



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to whom it belongs shall come.” (The ESV doesn’t) and it literally reads “until Shiloh comes” (see NKJV, NASB) . Shiloh is a common adjective to describe the Messiah.

What does verse 10 say will not leave Judah’s line until the one to whom it belongs comes?

Putting all these promises together, can you see the thread of God’s plan from the very beginning of human history? The story of the bible is one story, from start to finish, about one “offspring” who has finally come. What impact do these promises have on you as we enter the “Advent” season leading up to Christmas?

Part 2. Entering these promises. Read Romans 9:7-8, 3:28-29

According to Romans 9, How does Paul show that God is being faithful to Israel (as promised) and also able to bless all other nations (as promised?) Who are the true children of Israel?

If Jews and Gentiles both can be children of promise, according to Romans 3, how does that happen?

It is interesting to see how Paul stresses the importance of God’s promises being kept from the Old Testament, through Jesus, into the New Covenant. Heritage was important to Paul, but only if it was the right kind of heritage. Lets take one last look at human heritage:

Read Philippians 3:4-9. In these verses Paul makes reference to his own heritage, and credentials as an Israelite. What are some of the reasons he can claim to have “confidence in the flesh?”

When we think about our own Christian nation or family heritage today, what are some of the reasons we may be tempted to “have confidence”? Where does Paul prefer to put his confidence (v8)? Where does his righteousness come from (v9)?

Reflection:

Just because something is in your family history doesn’t mean it is in you. That counts for both the bad and the good. God redeemed a long line of horrific sinners with the arrival of His son. At the same time, Paul knew that none of his religious upbringing meant anything until he personally trusted Jesus. Looking at your own family history, what cycles of sin do you want to put an end to, or to even redeem, as God gives you opportunity? What blessings has God provided in your history that served to strengthen or to guide you into or towards faith?

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