

Christmas – A Promise Fulfilled

Sermon Notes

December 25, 2022

In today's message we will see how God presented the gift of Jesus to us hidden inside of gift boxes as it were. We will unwrap one gift box at a time to gain a better understanding of the gift we have received. Gaining understanding of the gift we have been given will help us to live in this time in-between the first coming of Christ and his second coming with hope and anticipation.

The first gift box contains "The Gift of a Promised Victory."

Genesis 3:15 (KJV) – Speaking to the serpent the LORD God said,

"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

This gift benefits all of humanity, but it has a particular redeeming factor for women.

1 Timothy 2:14-15

¹⁴ And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. ¹⁵ But women will be saved through childbearing—if they continue in faith, love, and holiness with propriety.

The promise was wrapped up in the curse spoken to the serpent. The seed of the woman, not the seed of a man, would crush his head. In this way the woman, along with all of humanity, would be saved.

The second gift box contains "The Gift of a Promised Blessing."

Genesis 12:1-3

¹The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

² "I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³ I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Through Abram all nations of the earth would be blessed reversing the curse placed upon humanity in the Garden of Eden. How did the gift of a blessing to Abram come to be a blessing for all people? The blessing would come through Abraham's seed.

Galatians 3:16

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ.

Contained within a blessing spoken over Judah, a descendant of Abraham, was a promise that a king would come through his line.

Genesis 49:10

The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he to whom it belongs shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his.

The next gift box contains the “Gift of a Promised King.”

The first king from the tribe of Judah was King David, and it was to him that this gift was presented.

2 Samuel 7:8-9

⁸“Now then, tell my servant David, ‘This is what the LORD Almighty says: I took you from the pasture, from tending the flock, and appointed you ruler over my people Israel. ⁹I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name great, like the names of the greatest men on earth.

The LORD Almighty appointed David as king. He cut off his enemies and made his name great, but the real gift was yet to come.

2 Samuel 7:16

“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”

Through the prophet Isaiah God continued to remind his people of the coming king.

Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,

establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness

from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

How would the LORD Almighty accomplish this? The answer to this question is found in Isaiah 7:14 and brings us back full circle to the promise made to Eve by way of the curse pronounced upon the serpent.

Isaiah 7:14

¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

This leads us to the last gift box to be opened.

The Last Gift Box contains, “The Gift of a Promise Fulfilled.”

Luke 1:30-38

³⁰But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail.”

³⁸“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

The gift of Jesus should confirm this truth in our hearts: No word from God will ever fail.

How are we, the recipients of such a glorious gift, to respond?

We are to follow the example of Eve, Abraham, King David, and Mary and believe the word of the Lord and receive the gift that has been given.

Eve acknowledged that the LORD was with her when she gave birth to her first son Cain:

Genesis 4:1b

She said, “With the help of the LORD I have brought forth a man.”

When God affirmed his covenant with Abraham that that he would have a son and that his descendants would be as numerous as the stars in the sky:

Genesis 15:6

Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

When God made his promise to King David that he would establish his house and his kingdom and his throne forever, David responded with praise, thankfulness, and confident prayer:

2 Samuel 7:25-26

“And now, LORD God, keep forever the promise you have made concerning your servant and his house. Do as you promised, so that your name will be great forever. Then people will say, ‘The LORD Almighty is God over Israel!’ And the house of your servant David will be established in your sight.”

And when the angel Gabriel came to Mary, to announce to her that she had been chosen by God to give birth to his Son, Mary responded with belief and obedience:

Luke 1:38

“I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

And Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit pronounced a blessing over Mary:

Luke 1:45

“Blessed is she who has believed the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!”

Let us join those who have gone before us in belief and obedience. Let us receive the gift of the Messiah and let us believe his promise that he will come again and take us to be with him.

Surely, Christmas is a celebration of a promise fulfilled and an anticipation of the promise of Christ’s return. As we wait for his return, let us remember that no word from God will ever fail and that he has promised to be with us always, even to the end of the age.