

You Are Here – Part 2

God's Promise to Save!

First Wednesday in Advent – 2012

December 5 → 11:00 & 7:00

Wednesdays (12/5, 12/12, 12/19): Services 11 & 7; Meals 12 & 6

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ, in part 1 of this series we looked at *God's perfect creation* and *mankind's fall into sin*. So where does that leave us? We have all fallen *and we cannot get up!* Even worse, sin has killed our spiritual lives – *and there is nothing we can do about!*

Therefore, *immediately after the first sin*, God promised to save, to rescue, to undo the work of the devil. Then, *at various times before the first coming of the Christ*, God kept reminding us of His promise to save us from our sins! Today we will focus on *the promise* and *some of those reminders*.

1. **Genesis 3:14-15 ESV:** At the beginning of Genesis 3, mankind fell into sin; then, *after the LORD questioned Adam, then Eve*, the Bible records these words:
 - a. ¹⁴ **The LORD God said to the serpent** [*not to the devil, but to the reptile created by God*], **“Because you have done this** [*allowed the devil to use your body to tempt mankind to sin*], **cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life** [*“Instead of walking upright, the serpent was hereafter to wind itself along in the dust...”* (Kretzmann, 1:9)].

- b. ¹⁵ **I will put enmity** [*a strong feeling of hatred*] **between you and the woman, and between your offspring** [*all the forces of evil*] **and her offspring** [*all people*]; **he** [*her most important offspring, the promised Christ*] **shall bruise your head, and you** [*the devil*] **shall bruise his heel.”** // Immediately following that very first sin, the LORD promised to *eventually* destroy the devil through the Christ! Yes, the devil would hurt the Christ – *bruising His heel*, but the Christ would destroy the devil – *bruising, thus crushing, his head!*

2. **Genesis 12:1-3 ESV:** Now, jumping ahead about 2,000 years, the Bible records these words: ¹ **Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.** ² **And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.** ³ **I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”** //
 - a. Wow, how could the LORD bless “all the families of the earth” through Abraham? Because the LORD chose to make the descendants of Abraham into a nation, *the nation of Israel*; then, when the time was right, *the Christ would be born as a citizen of that nation!*
 - b. But what about all the people who lived prior to the coming of the Christ? **They** were all called to repent and believe *in the promised Savior!* **We** are all called to repent and believe *in the Savior who has come!*

3. **Genesis 49:8-12 ESV**: Now, jumping ahead about 200 more years, Jacob (a.k.a. Israel, Gen. 32:28), at the end of his life, spoke a prophecy about each of his twelve children. These are the words he spoke about his son Judah, through whom would come the Christ: ⁸ “Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father’s sons shall bow down before you [Judah would be prince and conqueror among his brothers, pointing ahead to the Christ – the King of the Jews and conqueror of the devil]. ⁹ Judah is a lion’s cub; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down; he crouched as a lion and as a lioness; who dares rouse him [from a young age Judah showed the character of a lion; the Christ is the Ultimate Lion, as displayed in Bethlehem’s stained glass window]? ¹⁰ The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples [those words especially point to the Christ being King of kings and Lord of lords]. ¹¹ Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey’s colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes [those words especially point to the abundance and peace of the eternal kingdom of God]. ¹² His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.” // Dr. Kretzmann made this comment about the Christ: “In Him we have the fullness of those gifts which will bring us true happiness here and eternal salvation beyond the grave.” (1:108)

4. **Isaiah 9:6-7 ESV**: Now, jumping ahead another 1,100 years, to the time of Isaiah, about 700 years before the Christ, we find another major reminder about the

promised Savior. All the horrible news of sin, death, and hell are defeated by these facts:

- a. ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given [sons are not given to nations, but to families; however, THIS SON, God’s Son is given to US – to all people, for the eternal benefit of all people of all time]; and the government shall be upon his shoulder [again, He is King of kings], and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor [His ways are always best], Mighty God [no one can defeat Him], Everlasting Father [always providing, protecting], Prince of Peace [establishing the wonderful reality of peace between us sinners and the holy God by taking away our sins].
- b. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore [most of what we know today is very temporary, but life in Christ is forever]. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this [the LORD is able and will do exactly as He has promised].

Conclusion: God’s perfect creation—very good; mankind’s fall into sin—very bad; God’s promise, follow-up reminders, and actual fulfillment—super-wonderful! The picture of world history is now coming more into focus, but much is yet to come! We are HERE – getting ready to celebrate the first coming of the Christ, AND living in constant anticipation of His promised return! By grace through faith we are ready! And all God’s people said: **Amen!**

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