

~ Promises of His Coming ~

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper IN THE THING whereto I sent it. Isaiah 55: 11

During the month of December, our thoughts turn to the meaning of Christmas amidst the hustle and bustle of shopping, cooking, wrapping, and gathering with family and friends. Our thoughts turn to the basis for the holiday – the birth of the babe Jesus. We may retell the story to our children of Joseph and Mary traveling to Bethlehem, Jesus being placed in a manger, and wise men and shepherds visiting the child Jesus.

The announcement of the birth was a fulfillment of a promise made nearly 4000 years before. Mary appeared to understand the prophecy of a promised seed as she said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word”. (Luke 1: 38) This prophecy was understood by Simeon and the holy Spirit revealed to him that he would not see death before seeing the promised messiah. (Luke 2: 25-32) Have you considered what scriptures may have informed these believers of God’s promises? Let’s look at a few Old Testament scriptures referring to a savior.

The first reference is found in Genesis 3: 15; “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.” The seed of Eve is the Messiah, which will bruise the head of the serpent, Satan. God’s promise to Adam and Eve of a son to restore the blessing lost after being removed from the Garden of Eden was retold throughout the generations.

The next reference to consider is found in Genesis 22: 18; “And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.” Because of obedience to God’s word, Abraham was blessed by God with a son and a promise. In their old age, Abraham and Sarah were blessed by the birth of Isaac. This promise was renewed Genesis 26: 4 with the birth of Esau and Jacob. In

Genesis 32: 12. God gave this promise to Jacob. Jacob, the father of the nation of Israel, did become a great nation of people who are still recognized today by the world. Has this nation blessed the world? Not yet!

Moses, God's mediator of the law covenant with the Israelites in the wilderness, foresaw a better mediator to come. "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken." (Deuteronomy 18: 15) Moses knew that neither he nor others could reach the hearts of men to develop and practice righteousness. This would be the work of the promised seed. Apostle Paul adds to our understanding in Galatians 3: 18, 19; "Wherefore then *serveth* the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; *and it was* ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator."

The prophet Isaiah spoke of the seed coming from King David. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD." (Isaiah 11: 1, 2) Isaiah also gave the many titles to describe the promised seed. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this." (Isaiah 9: 6, 7)

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke show the lineage of the promised seed from Adam and Eve through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse, and David to Mary. Jesus revealed that he was the promised seed in Luke 4: 16-21; "This day is the scripture fulfilled..." He also acknowledged being the promised seed; "For the Son of man ("son of David" in Matthew 12: 23) is Lord even of the Sabbath day." (Matthew 12:8) Finally, Jesus spoke of his second coming in Matthew 16: 27, 28. He promised his disciples, "And if I go and

prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.” (John 14: 3)

As the world has been celebrating the birth of the promised seed for nearly 2000 years, the Scriptures reveal the timing and manner of his second coming. For those watching, like Simeon, the presence of our Lord has been revealed. As those angels sang of joy for the birth of the son of man, let's all read and understand his return. Accept our offer of a free copy of *I Will Come Again*. It will give you additional information concerning god's plan. Click **REPLY**, and send an e-mail asking for this booklet. Include the name of this publication, your name, and your mailing address. ♦