

Promises Fulfilled

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

Galatians 4:3-7

December 10, 2023

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Imagine that you have a distant relative that has recently passed away and left you a rather large surprise inheritance. What would be the first thing you do with your inheritance? Why?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

We are in **Week 2** of our Advent series: Promises Fulfilled. **Last week**, we looked at the Promise of God's Presence throughout Scripture as God dwelt with His people. **Today**, we're going to focus on several Scriptures that reveal God's love for His creation as He fulfills His plan to bring the Messiah. In the Old Testament, God consistently sent prophets to remind His people of the promised Savior, assuring them that He hadn't forgotten His promise. He also used the prophets to reveal how the people would recognize His coming. The Messiah would be a King to rule from the line of David [2 Samuel 7:16], would be born in Bethlehem and would be the Son of a virgin [Micah 5:2], and - in the fullness of time - would bring redemption [Galatians 4:3-7]. For generations, God's people watched and waited, filled with longing and expectation for God's promised Rescuer. And then, on a regular/ normal night, God came - just as He said He would. The Messiah came, in the form of a baby. His name was Jesus. He is fully God and fully man and He has come to be with His people and to rescue them from their sin.

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read 2 Samuel 7:12-16.

In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, God has a heart-to-heart with King David through the prophet Nathan. In these verses, God **promises** that David's heir would build the Temple and that David's family line will always have someone ruling as king. This covenant reflects God's commitment to the lineage of David. In addition, this passage is seen as a precursor to the Messianic promises fulfilled through Jesus Christ.

Question 1: In **verse 16**, what do you think God means by stating, "**And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever...**"?

- Have someone in your group now read **Matthew 1:1 & 1:16**.
- How do you see Nathan's prophecy in **2 Samuel 7:16** fulfilled in Jesus' lineage [Matthew 1:16]?
- Last week we read **Genesis 3:14-15**. Just now, we read a passage about God's promise to David [2 Samuel 7:16] and the fulfillment of that Promise in **Matthew 1**. **Regarding our salvation**, what do these Scriptures reveal to us about God's plan?

Have someone in your group read **Micah 5:2 & Isaiah 7:14**.

Question 2: Considering the prophecies from **Micah 5:2 and Isaiah 7:14** - how are these prophecies

fulfilled in Jesus' incarnation/ birth in **Matthew 2:1** [*incarnation = God took human form in the birth of Jesus Christ*]?

- Consider the events from **Genesis 3** to the reasoning why Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem. What do these events tell you about God's promises? God's Sovereignty?

Question 3: At any time - when Jesus was in the womb or when He was an infant - did Jesus ever lose any of His "Godness" [ie: His Deity]? **[No!]**

- Did He lose His place in the Trinity? **[NO!]** Did He lose any of His Holy Attributes? **[For example: His omnipotence? His omniscience? His omnipresence? The answer is No - at no time did He give up any of His Holy attributes.]**
- Understanding this, **wrestle** with this quote by Athanasius [On the Incarnation]:

The Word [Jesus John 1:1] was not hedged in by his body, nor did his presence in the body prevent his being present elsewhere as well. When he moved his body he did not cease also to direct the universe by his mind and might. . .

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is a deep mystery, *but* by sending Jesus Christ we can understand that God did not leave us alone in our sin but - at just the right time - He entered into the brokenness of this world in order to provide salvation to us and rescue us from our sin.

Finally, have someone in your group read **Galatians 4:3-7**

Question 4: Look at Paul's timeline in **Galatians 4:3-5**. What was our identity at birth? What did God do?

- What does the timing of Christ's coming teach you about God's providence in the world and in our redemption?

Question 5: Could anyone other than Jesus have reconciled us to God?

Question 6: Which aspects of Jesus Christ's coming, identity, and work do you find challenging to believe?

BEGIN

Response and Prayer

What is one hope you have for yourself, your family, or your community as you begin the Advent season? How will you make it a reality?

Pray for yourself and for those around you, asking God to open your eyes and heart to what He has for you this Advent season.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Blue Letter Bible: **Galatians 4:** Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: **Galatians 4:** Check out the QR code to learn more.

