

Promises Fulfilled

ADVENT AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

December 3, 2023

Genesis 3

BELONG

Get to Know One Another

Think of a time when you were in trouble and needed help. What was the situation?

- How did you feel in that situation? Whom did you look to for help?

BELIEVE

Read this Week's Scripture

Of all the seasons on our church calendar, Advent probably feels the most familiar. Advent means **“coming” or “arrival,”** and is the traditional celebration of the first advent of Jesus in humility and the anxious awaiting of His second advent in glory. It's a time for reflection, joy, vigilance, and expectation. It's about reflecting on our sin and our need for a Savior. It's about looking around at our broken world and hoping for the second coming of Jesus. And, once we get to Christmas Day, the celebration of Jesus' birth becomes that much more spectacular and meaningful.

During this season at FBC Portland, our focus will be on the Promises Fulfilled. This involves acknowledging the personal, collective, and cosmic weight of sin and understanding our profound need for Jesus Christ and His ability to fulfill all of Scripture's promises. We'll see the promises of His presence [Hope], the promises of His lineage in regard to our salvation [Love], the promise of recreation [Joy], and the promise of life [peace].

Today, we're going to focus on **Genesis 3** [and some additional Scripture] that provide hope and reveal the promise of His presence.

BUILD

Engage and Apply the Scripture

Have someone in your group read **Genesis 3:8-15**.

In the beginning, God created a perfect world where everything functioned in harmony. Man enjoyed unbroken connection with God. But in an instant, all that changed as Adam and Eve disobeyed God's good instruction: sin entered the world; fellowship was broken; peace was shattered; creation was thrown into chaos; and **man became separated from God**. But in this chaos, God spoke a word of hope in **Genesis 3:15**, proclaiming the arrival of a Savior. This verse is considered the **“first gospel,”** - assuring that sin **would not** have the final say - and God's **promise** of rescue [*that He would never leave or forsake us*] was present from the very beginning.

Question 1: In what way does **Genesis 3:15** give us hope?

- The word translated **“offspring”** is literally **“seed.”** **Who is the seed** of the woman? What is meant by the phrases **“he shall bruise your head”** & **“you shall bruise his heel?”**
- How can understanding the story of 'The Fall' in **Genesis 3** give us an understanding of sin's impact on our relationship with God? On our need for a Savior?

Question 2: Do you see God's judgments on the serpent, man and woman as also containing blessing? How?

Question 3: Why is it so important to believe the account of [Genesis 3 \[especially vss 14-15\]](#) if we are to believe the redemption story of Jesus Christ?

Have someone in your group read [John 1:9-11](#)

In [John 1](#), we see the fulfillment of God's promise of rescue through Jesus Christ fulfilled. But we also see the response...

Question 4: How does John describe the reception given to Jesus when He entered our world?

- To whom is this reception an indictment of? **[the World, Jews and US!]**
- Do we place expectations on Jesus that He was never intended to fulfill? *[Example: health, wealth, American Dream.]*

Have someone in your group read [Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:9; and Hebrews 13:5](#)

Question 5: In [Deuteronomy 31 and Joshua 1](#), what assurance was Joshua given in regard to the Lord's presence?

- In regard to this promise, what assurance does the Lord give us in **Hebrews 13:5**?

Question 6: God often gives us seasons of waiting strengthen our faith. If you are in a season of waiting, what might the Lord be trying to teach you?

Question 7: God reveals many things about His nature and character through the advent of His Son. What attributes of God stick out to you the most in this part of the Advent narrative?

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: [Genesis 3](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.



Precept Austin: [Genesis 3](#): Check out the QR code to learn more.

