The promise of a savior

Christ to the World Ministries

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The Promise of a Savior

Read Isaiah 7:14; 9:6-7; John 3:16; and Galatians 4:4-5 in your Bible.

The Old Testament is the record of God preparing the world for the coming of his Son to be our Savior. God worked over many centuries to make things ready for Christ to come to earth. He gave many promises that the Savior would come.

God Loves Every Person

God created the universe. Then he made humankind. He created our very first parents, Adam and Eve. God created them perfect and without sin. God made them to have fellowship with him and to rule over the earth.

But sin entered God’s world. Adam and Eve both sinned, so, from that point on, sin affected the entire human family. But God was not caught off guard. He was not surprised. God loved humankind with an everlasting love that sin could not destroy. From the very beginning, before God created the world, it was ordained that the eternal Son of God would provide redemption and be the Savior of humankind.

Over many generations, the world became increasingly sinful. God brought judgment and destroyed the world with a flood. But God did not give up on the human race; his love continued. Noah, a man who trusted God, and his family were saved from the flood through an ark that God told him to build. Then the descendants of Noah repeated the pattern of turning away from God. Many years went by. And still God loved.

God Prepared the World for the Coming of the Savior

Then God called one man, Abraham, through whose family the Savior would come. God gave a very special promise to Abraham: “In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed” (Gen. 12:3).

The descendants of Abraham increased and became a great multitude. They spent many years as slaves in Egypt, until God delivered them through Moses and brought them back to their homeland and made them a nation.

Many prophets, over hundreds of years, spoke about the coming of the Messiah. They spoke about his coming, his ministry, his death, his resurrection, and his triumphal reign. The prophet Micah explicitly prophesied that the Savior would be born in the town of Bethlehem. (See Micah 5:2.

The promises of a Savior reached their highest point in the preaching of the prophet Isaiah. The prophet promised to the people a Savior. He said, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

The name “Immanuel” means “God with us.” The child born to the virgin would be the presence of God with the people. This came true over 700 years later when Jesus was born as a baby to the virgin Mary. (See Matthew 1:18-23.)

God’s people were carried away into captivity by other nations. But God loved them even there and watched over them. He never forgot his promises.

The Old Testament closed around 425 B.C. with the prophet Malachi prophesying that the prophet Elijah would come and announce the coming of the Messiah. (See Malachi 4:5.) We learn from the New Testament that John the Baptist came in the power of Elijah to announce the appearance of the Savior. (See Matthew 17:11-13.)

Two great truths stand out in an overview of the Old Testament: God loves every person in the world, and he prepared the world for the coming of the Savior.

God Continued to Work

The approximately 400 years between the Old and New Testaments seemed to be a time when God did not speak. No prophet arose to guide the people. But God worked during these years to prepare the world for the coming of the Savior. He never stopped loving the world, and he never stopped preparing for his Son to come to earth. There remained alive among many people the hope that one day God would send the Messiah to save his people.

A number of other nations ruled Israel in the years that followed: the Persians, the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Syrians, and finally, the Romans. Rome appointed Herod to be king over Judea in 37 B.C. But the Jews detested Herod. It seemed as though God had forgotten his people. Still, the hope for a Messiah burned in the hearts of many people. God had promised. Would God keep his promise?

And then God sent his angel Gabriel to a young girl in a small village in Galilee to announce that the time had come for the birth of the Savior.

God waited long centuries before sending his Son into the world. But he controls history, and his Son came at just the right time. God loves every person and wants everyone to receive forgiveness of sins and receive eternal life. Jesus came to redeem us.

Pray this prayer: “Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for love and for coming into my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”

Welcome into God’s family!

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Ask for baptism in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis. Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.