

## **PROMISES FULFILLED**

(Luke 2:1-20)

### **Introduction:**

1. We have had many Christmas sermons over the years. We have talked about the fact that we do not know when Jesus was born, but we can almost assuredly say it was not in December. We have remarked at how strange it is that Jesus was born more than likely 4 years Before Christ! We have discussed the many mistaken narratives attached falsely to the story of Jesus' birth over the years by pseudo-religious groups. We have discussed how the religious observation of the birth of Jesus is not in the Bible but is a construct of man.
2. But with all of that said and understood, the birth of Jesus is the focus of much of the world at this time of year, and it remains the most amazing of events in the history of mankind.
3. Let us, therefore, consider the Promises of Salvation, the Promises of the Kingdom of Heaven, and the Power of God fulfilled that day (whenever it was☺).

### **Discussion:**

#### **I. Salvation Promises Fulfilled.**

- A. In the light of man's fall into sin and our continuing sin problem, God made promises that were fulfilled one night in Bethlehem.
- B. Just a few of the promises of God:
  1. The promise that a seed of woman would destroy Satan and his works (Gen. 3:15).
  2. The promise that the Seed of Abraham would bless all mankind (Gen. 22:18).
    - a. The reaffirmation of that promise to Isaac (Gen. 26:4).
    - b. The reaffirmation of that promise to Jacob (Gen. 28:14).
  3. The promise of a Prophet who would bring God's words to all and by whose words all would be judged (Deut. 18:15-19; cp. John 1:19-21).
  4. The prophecy of the One who would come and be the propitiation of mankind's sins (Is. 53; 1 John 2:2).
  5. The final promise/prophecy of the coming Savior and His forerunner (Mal. 3:1; 4:1-6).

#### **II. Kingdom Promises Fulfilled.**

- A. Although tied to the promises of the coming Savior/Prophet, the promises regarding the coming Kingdom of Heaven were fulfilled one night in Bethlehem.
- B. Just a few of those promises:
  1. Authority would reside with the tribe of Judah until Shiloh (He to whom it truly belongs) come (Gen. 49:10).
  2. David, because of his humility and devotion to God, was promised that through him would come the one who would have a everlasting Kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16).
  3. Because of the unfaithfulness of Israel there came a time when the rule was taken away from the nation (Ezek. 21:24-27).
  4. The prophecy concerning the coming Kingdom of Heaven revealed to Nebuchadnezzar via a dream, and explained by Daniel (Dan. 2:44, 45).
  5. The prophecies of the coming Kingdom of Heaven (Is. 2; Mic. 4).
  6. The very specific prophecies concerning the coming King of that Kingdom (Mic. 5:1-4 = born in Bethlehem of Judah; Zech. 9:9 = would come to Jerusalem riding on the colt of a donkey).

#### **III. Power Promises Fulfilled.**

- A. The most powerful Being that has ever walked the earth came into this world in a poor area without even a guest room, born in the common room (with the animals) in the sleepy little town of Bethlehem.

- B. The counter-intuitive nature of the expression of God's power, or Spiritual power versus worldly power. The Kingdom of Heaven would be established by crushing all other kingdoms and would never end (Dan. 2), and yet the All-Powerful King of that Kingdom would suffer and die for His citizens, and would not even break a reed or put out a smoking bit of flax. (Is. 42:3; Matt. 12:16-20).
- C. Note that the world was saved and world powers destroyed by a man crucified on a cross. The works of Satan and the might of the world was conquered by a man seemingly crushed under the boot of the Roman Empire. That most amazing of realities began on a night in Bethlehem (1 Cor. 1:18-31).

**Conclusion:**

1. The great and awesome promises of God that He would deliver to lost and helpless mankind a Prophet, Priest, and King were fulfilled on a night in little Bethlehem.
2. Emmanuel, the unthinkable "God-with-us", was fulfilled long ago in the most humble of circumstances in Bethlehem of Judah, in the boon docks of the Roman Empire. A King over all kings, a Lord over all lords cried out into the night in Bethlehem as He drew his first breath. To God be the glory!!
3. Invitation.