

The Forgotten Promises of Christmas

Luke 1:26-33

Introduction:

- As we saw this morning, Christmas was a fulfilled promise by God. Praise the Lord, He always keeps His promises!
- I recently read an interesting article by Dr. Reagan regarding the forgotten promises of Christmas.
- Here in our text, we see seven glorious promises. Four of them relate to the First Advent of Christ and so they have already been fulfilled:
 - Mary did conceive and bear a son.
 - His name was called Jesus.
 - He was great (Person and Work)
 - and He was called the Son of God (Most High).
- The last three promises which Gabriel made to Mary have not been fulfilled. They relate to the Second Coming of Jesus:
 - He will be given the throne of David.
 - He will reign over the house of Jacob.
 - There will be no end to His kingdom.
- These last three promises are forgotten promises in most churches today!
- Illustr- forgotten promises of parents, employers, spouses, etc. (Your mouth is writing a check that the rest of your body can't cash!)
- The reason why many churches have forgotten these promises is because many have "spiritualized" them. They allegorize- in other words they take the position that the Bible does not mean what it plainly says. We believe in a normal, literal interpretation of Scripture. God created language, and He communicated to us truth that He wanted us to know and believe!
- The most well known view that does this is the Amillennial View

- We are Premillennial- in that we believe in a literal return of Jesus before he establishes his literal 1000 year kingdom
- Postmillennialists believe that Christ will return after the kingdom, after a “golden age.”
- Amillenials deny that there will be a literal kingdom altogether.
- Thus, in their interpretation of this passage from Luke, they convert the throne of David into the throne of God and the house of Jacob becomes the Church, and decide that the promises are being fulfilled right now.
- The problem with that view is that it makes God a liar to Abraham, to David, and to His prophets throughout the OT. God promised them claim to land, a King to rule over them, and many other blessings. God is no liar, He always keeps His promises!

I. The Throne of David

- a. There is no doubt that Jesus is currently on a throne right now, in a position of authority. But to identify that reign with the one promised to Mary takes a great leap of imagination.
- b. He is not on David’s throne literally ruling the earth (Jer. 23:5-6, Isaiah 9:6-7)
Have you seen the news lately?
 - i. He currently rules in the hearts of believers
 - ii. He is seated in Heaven on God’s throne
 - iii. The throne of God is not the throne of David. David’s throne will be here on earth, in Jerusalem
- c. He will occupy the throne of David when He returns to earth to reign from Mt. Zion in Jerusalem (Isaiah 24:21-23).
- d. This will be in literal fulfilment to the Davidic Covenant where God promised David an everlasting dynasty to reign over His people.
- e. The first time he came as a suffering servant, but the next time as King!

II. Reign Over the House of Jacob

- a. The “house of Jacob” is not the Church. This is an Old Testament term for the children of Israel (Exodus 19:3). The Church is never referred to in Scripture as the house of Jacob.
- b. This is one of the distinguishing marks of who we are as dispensationalists
- c. The Bible teaches that a remnant of the Jews will one day accept Jesus as their Messiah at the end of the Tribulation (Zechariah 12:10 and Romans 9:27, (Jeremiah 30:7)
- d. The Jewish remnant will be gathered to the land of Israel and will be made the foremost nation in the world (Zechariah 8:22-23). Jesus will then rule over the house of Jacob.
- e. We should not forget the Jewish roots of our faith, and the Jewish future either! God is not through with Israel!
- f. Why does this matter for us- This is a great application for us as Christians, that God is a faithful God- even when I am unfaithful to Him.

III. Kingdom Without End

- a. The Church Age will end- at the Rapture
- b. The Millennial Kingdom has Christ reigning in Jerusalem- but that ends after 1000 years. (Rev. 20:1-7)
- c. The eternal kingdom described here is the Eternal State in the New Heaven and New Earth- Revelation 21:1-8

Conclusion:

- Remember the crown of thorns placed upon His head in mockery? Many still mock Christ’s coming to rule. We should all make sure we are ready!
- If the promises God made to the Jews did not mean what they said, then how can we be sure that His promises to the Church mean what they say? I believe God means what He says.
- During each Christmas season I praise God for sending His Son to die for my sins.
- I also pray that God will soon send His Son again to fulfill the “forgotten promises” which Gabriel made to Mary. I thank God that He never forgets a promise.

- As we celebrate Christmas, remember that every prophecy regarding Christ's first coming was accurately fulfilled, and every prophecy regarding His second Coming will be accurately fulfilled also! Are you ready?