

CHRISTMAS IS A PROMISE KEPT

Galatians 4:4-5

Introductions: What is your reaction to someone who makes you a promise? Have you ever had a promise made to you that was never carried out? What are your feelings toward someone who makes you a promise about something a long, long way off?

What do you think about the promises of God? Do you think that all of God's promises are kept? Christmas is one of God's promises.

I. GOD PROMISED TO SEND A SAVIOR THROUGH A WOMAN

1. Satan separated man from God in the garden of Eden (*Genesis 3:1-13*)
2. God promised that Satan would one day be destroyed by a descendant of Eve. (*Genesis 3:15*) 3,975 B.C.
3. God was silent for centuries. Had He forgotten His promise?

II. GOD PROMISED ABRAHAM THAT ALL NATIONS WOULD BE BLESSED THROUGH HIM

1. God started with Abraham (2,000 B.C.) and promised him that through his descendants, all the world would be blessed. (*Genesis 12:3*)
2. From Abraham's son Isaac came Jacob, then 12 sons that became 12 tribes and of the 12 tribes, Judah became the chosen tribe by God (1660 B.C.).
3. David came from the tribe of JUDAH in 715 B.C. and Joseph and Mary came from the lineage of David. (*Jeremiah 23:5 Luke 2:4-5*)

III. PROPHETS SPOKE OF GOD'S PROMISES

1. Balaam spoke of a STAR and a KING coming from Jacob (1500 B.C.) (*Numbers 24:17*)
2. Isaiah spoke of the savior being born of a VIRGIN (*Isaiah 11:1-2*), from JESSIE, named EMMANUEL (God with us), a RULER, sought by the GENTILES (700 B.C.) (*Isaiah 7:14; 60:3*)
3. Micah spoke of the savior being born in BETHLEHEM. 700 B.C. (*Micah 5:2*)
4. Jeremiah spoke about a KING coming from DAVID. 600 B.C. (*Jeremiah 23:5*)

IV. GOD MOVED TIME AND HISTORY TO KEEP HIS PROMISE

1. God moved Abraham from his homeland.
2. God moved Abraham's descendants into Egypt (Joseph, then his father and family).
3. God moved Abraham's descendants, now called Israel, into the wilderness to form them into a nation with Moses leading them.
4. God moved Israel into a land of their own, led by Joshua.
5. For centuries God moved nations and history to bring about events that would bring about His promise to fulfillment at the exact moment.

V. IN THE FULLNESS OF TIME, GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE

1. God caused Caesar Augustus to order a census, thereby causing every Jew to go to his home town to register (*Luke 2:1-4*)
2. Mary and Joseph, God's chosen to see after His promised Savior, were of David's lineage, therefore they had to go down to BETHLEHEM to register.
3. Mary and Joseph were ENGAGED, she was still a VIRGIN, but then married upon the angel's announcement of God's choice of them to care for His Son.
4. Angels came, Shepherds came, a Star came, Wise Men came, EVERYTHING EXACTLY AS GOD HAD PROMISED.

CONCLUSION:

1. God gave His Word, a Promise, over 2,000 years before it happened, BUT, IT HAPPENED!
2. God moved in history and men and women's lives to bring about His promise to mankind - A SAVIOR!
3. Would you now say that God keeps His promises?
4. If God kept THAT promise, what about all the others He has made?
 - Eternal life to those who believe in His Son Jesus.
 - Hell for those who reject His Son.
 - A place called Heaven for those who believe in His Son.
 - New bodies for those believers.
5. God has promised that His Son would return someday for all who have believed in His Son and that His Son would RULE THIS WORLD.
6. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD KEEPS HIS WORD?
7. Now, do you see that Christmas is all about God Keeping His Promise?
8. Have you accepted God's promise about His Son?