

Theme: In the midst of the wreckage of the Fall, God gave a promise that Jesus would come to redeem and rescue us.

I. Intro - Rehearsing Key Biblical Themes

- A. JK Rowling - Harry Potter story came in a flash
- B. Eventually 7 books, 1 million words, complex storylines
- C. Today's text is that kind of kernel - all else flows from it
- D. What is the promise given here? How is it developed?

II. The Plot of Scripture

A. The plot begins - creation

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth....³¹ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning — the sixth day. Genesis 1:1, 31

- 1. The very first words - In the beginning God created
- 2. The summary of creation - it was very good
- 3. Wonderful beginning - beautiful very good creation
- 4. At center of creation was humanity - God's image
- 5. Creation is the norm - way things were meant to be

B. The plot thickens - the fall

"You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman.⁵ "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."⁶ When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 3:4-6

- 1. Serpent comes and denies God's Word of Promise
- 2. Adam and Eve believe Serpent rather than God
- 3. They disobey - and plunge themselves & creation into ruin
- 4. The result of the fall is shame, guilt, brokenness
 - a. Shame - naked and tried to cover themselves (v7)
 - b. Guilt - afraid of God and hide (vv8-10)
 - c. Brokenness - self; others; creation; God (vv12-19)
 - Broken lines, broken strings
 - Broken threads, broken springs
 - Broken idols, broken heads
 - People sleeping in broken beds
 - Ain't no use jiving
 - Ain't no use joking
 - Everything is broken

 - Broken bottles, broken plates
 - Broken switches, broken gates
 - Broken dishes, broken parts
 - Streets are filled with broken hearts
 - Broken words never meant to be spoken
 - Everything is broken

 - Seem like every time you stop and turn around
 - Something else just hit the ground
 - Bob Dylan "Everything's Broken"
- 5. The Fall is the breaking of the way things were meant to be

C. The plot resolves - redemption

1. Thankfully the fall is not the end of the story
2. This could have been like Bambi meets Godzilla!
3. But in the midst of the wreckage of the Fall God speaks a promise of coming redemption
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. Gen. 3:15
 - a. This promise is often referred to as the first Gospel
 - b. This promise is a seed from which the rest of the story of Scripture will grow
4. In redemption God begins the process of undoing the wreckage of the fall, restoring us to relationship with Him

D. The plot completes - consummation

1. It is obvious that the story is not yet complete!
2. We still await the consummation - the final crushing of Satan
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. Gen. 3:15
3. Advent is not just about the first coming of Jesus - it also looks forward to the Second Coming when all of God's Story will be completed
4. The delay in the final fulfillment of God's Promise must not cause us to despair or doubt - God will yet fully and finally accomplish all He has planned and promised!

III. The Advent Promise

- A. God promised break the alliance between humanity and the serpent
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15
 1. The Fall - humans allied with Satan against God
 2. The Advent Promise is that God will break the evil alliance between Satan and humans that plunged the universe into ruin
- B. God promised that Satan would ultimately be crushed
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15
 1. Satan and the Seed of the woman would fight, and Satan would be defeated
 2. The Advent Promise is that Satan and evil will not have the last word, but will be vanquished
- C. God promised that the victory would come through one born to a woman
And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel." Genesis 3:15
 1. The victory will come through the seed/offspring of the woman
 2. Because the fall, death and the curse came through a human, God promised to redeem and restore through a Human as well

For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 1 Corinthians 15:21

For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. Romans 5:19

- a. The problem came through one man - Adam - and so salvation from the problem comes through one Man - Jesus, the Second Adam
 - b. The disobedience of one man plunged humanity into sin and death, and so it is the obedience of one Man who must work righteousness and salvation.
3. To be certain, this is only found in seed form here - but the entire tree of the biblical story of redemption is contained in this seed and will grow out from here
4. One key area where we see this happen is related to the Promise of the Seed who will come to redeem and bless

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your **offspring** and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel. Genesis 3:15

“I will make you into a great nation and I will **bless** you; I will make your name great, and you will be a **blessing**.³ I will **bless** those who **bless** you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and **all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.**”...⁷ The Lord appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:2–3, 7

- a. God’s covenant with Abraham centered on blessing
- b. But the covenant was to be received and enacted through Abraham’s Seed

- c. In both Genesis passages “offspring” can be plural or singular. In fact it is both - it begins with many offspring, who find their focus and fulfillment in a single Offspring

The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to your seed,” meaning one person, who is Christ. Galatians 3:16

- d. The Advent Promise finds fulfillment in a single Seed who fulfills the covenant, and receives and dispenses the promised redemption and blessing.
5. The story of Scripture is the slow but sure unfolding of the coming of this promised Seed. Everything in the OT points forward to Him, and the NT presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the Great Advent Promise of the Seed Who works redemption and restoration.

IV. Applying the Word - Receiving the Promise

A. Do I see the overarching plot of Scripture?

1. Many today miss the forest for the trees!
2. Scripture is not isolated bits of encouragement
3. Do I see the overarching story - creation, fall, redemption, consummation?
4. Does this story and pattern shape my thinking and life?
5. This Advent, rehearse the story and let it speak to you and shape you

B. How do I respond to God’s promise?

1. Adam and Eve had God’s gracious Word and promise - and doubted it

2. We are always tempted to doubt and fall away from God's creative, redemptive, and restorative word
3. Have I responded to God's Promise of the Seed - the Lord Jesus, our Redeemer?
4. Am I trusting or doubting God's promises to me as His child?
5. This Advent rehearse God's past faithfulness to encourage present faith!

C. Closing prayer for responding to God's Advent Promise

The Advent Promise Given

Genesis 3:15

December 3, 2017

Prayer

Genesis 12:2-3

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas; covenant; 2nd Adam; Redemption; prophecy (Old Testament); second coming

I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you. Gen 12:2-3

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15