

The Promises of God - Lesson 4

Introduction:

1. In 2 Peter 1:4, the promises of God are described as "*exceeding great and precious.*"
2. In our study we have observed several principles that will help us to fully appreciate and properly understand God's promises.
 - a. To help us fully appreciate God's promises, we have shown that:
 - 1) they are "effective"
 - a) God's promises will have a positive effect upon those who trust them.
 - b) Abraham, Sara, Isaac, and Jacob illustrate this principle -- trusting God's promises led them to serve Him faithfully (Hebrews 11:13-16).
 - 2) they are "trustworthy."
 - a) God "*is not slack concerning His promise*" (2 Peter 3:9).
 - b) God's promises are believable because He cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18).
 - b. To help us properly understand God's promises, we have shown that some of them are "conditional."
 - 1) God's promise of eternal life illustrates this principle (Titus 1:2).
 - 2) An important condition is revealed in Revelation 2:10 -- "faithfulness."
3. With these principles in mind, let us concentrate on "God's promise to send Jesus."

Discussion:

- I. THE COMING OF CHRIST WAS BASED ON GOD'S PROMISE
 - A. Even though Christ is a member of the eternal Godhead, He came to earth in the flesh (John 1:1-3, 14).
 - B. His coming in the flesh fulfilled:
 1. the Law and the prophets (Matthew 5:17)
 2. God's promise (Acts 13:23, 32-33).
- II. THE DETAILS OF GOD'S PROMISE TO SEND JESUS DEVELOPED OVER MANY CENTURIES
 - A. The first mention is in Genesis 3:15 -- God announced that "the seed of the woman" would bruise the head of the serpent.
 - B. He would be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Genesis 12:3; 26:4; 28:14).
 - C. He would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:8, 10; 1 Chronicles 5:1-2).
 - D. He would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
 - E. He would be a descendant of David with great authority (Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6).
 - F. He would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- III. GOD KEPT HIS PROMISE TO SEND JESUS
 - A. When the time was right, God sent Jesus who was "*made of a woman*" (Galatians 4:4).
 - B. The Lord's genealogy indicates that He is a descendant of David, Judah, Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham (Matthew 1:1-6).
 - C. Jesus born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18-25).
 - D. Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1-6).

Conclusion:

1. God promised to send Jesus, and God kept His promise.
2. Because God kept this promise we can be redeemed and be adopted as His children (Galatians 4:4-7).