“The Covenants of Christmas: A Promise Pictured”

Genesis 12:1-3; 2Sam. 7:12-13; Heb. 7:25

(Notes based on the sermon by Pastor Steve Massey, Hayden Bible Church, 12/18/22)

Christmas reminds us that Christ has come to bring us peace with God. The entire Bible shows God’s unfolding plan to redeem His people from sin. God’s love for us is pictured in His covenant with Noah, His covenant with Abraham, and His covenant with David. God’s goodwill toward His people and His world is the Bible’s big story, pictured in every covenant progressively through Scripture.

Isn’t it interesting that the flood didn’t eradicate sin! God didn’t send the flood to fix humanity, but to preserve humanity until all of His covenant promises would be fulfilled by Christ. All the cycles of nature should remind us of our promise-keeping God. Will we embrace our identity in Christ, or will we just go through the motions?

Grace from God initiated the Abrahamic covenant (Gen.12:1). For the Davidic Covenant, Saul’s successor was not chosen by merit, but by God’s grace and God’s choice. We can see in all three of these covenants that nothing will prevent the fulfillment of God’s promise to redeem His people and His world.

Jesus is the last Adam and the final covenant: The Father sacrificed His own Son to atone for our sins. This new covenant is FOR God’s people, mediated by Christ. Remember, you are not saved by the strength of your faith; you are saved by the strength of your Savior! Faith is the hand that takes God’s gift of salvation. Salvation is by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

**QUESTIONS**:

1. What do the covenants mentioned in the Old Testament passages have in common? How are they different?
2. WHY was sin still present after the flood?
3. How is the new covenant in Christ better than all the rest?

“Oh, Come All Ye Faithful” (Wade)

O come, all ye faithful,

joyful and triumphant!

O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold him,

born the King of angels.

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest: [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,

born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory giv’n!

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: [Refrain]