

EMMANUEL

THE KINGDOM OF KEPT PROMISES

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The Promise Kept

Remember

1. God gave a wild promise to King David: God's presence & God's king

2 Sam 7:13 "He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ... **16** And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever."

2. This promise sustained God's people in times of trouble

Psa. 132:11 "The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back: "One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne. ... **13** For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place: **14** "This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it."

A thousand years later, Jesus proved to be this promised One.

Luke 1:67 "And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying, **68** 'Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people **69** and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, **70** as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,"

2 Tim. 2:8 "Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel,"

God unfolds the benefits promised to David.

1. Easy to identify: Jesus connects both to Abraham & David.

Luke 1:71 "that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us; **72** to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant, **73** the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us"

Luke 1:69 "and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David, **70** as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,"

2. Comfortable to be with: We will be in God's presence without fear, yet holy.

Luke 1:74 "that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear, **75** in holiness and righteousness before him all our days."

3. Freedom from guilt: We become a people forgiven.

Luke 1:76 "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, **77** to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,"

4. Wallowing in God's mercy: We perpetually greet the sunrise from heaven!

Luke 1:78 "because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high **79** to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

But we still wait? What to do, what to do?

1. We are just like David & Israel waiting for centuries: Promises yet unrealized!

2. We have a connection already with Jesus.

Col. 3:1 "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. **2** Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. **3** For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

3. We have a standing already as God's children.

1 John 3:2 "Beloved, we are God's children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; ..."

4. We must connect the dots from now to fulfillment.

Col. 3:4 "When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

1 John 3:2b-3 "... but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. **3** And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure."

Reflection Questions

1. How does God's faithfulness to his 3,000-year-old promise to a Jewish king make you feel toward him? How does his kept promise encourage your trust in his yet-to-be-fulfilled promises?
2. In Luke 1:67-70 Zechariah was both excited and filled with joy because the promise of Jesus' coming was now kept. Think of a time or two when you were excited about what God had done or was doing. If you feel comfortable in doing so, please share your experience with another.
3. We listed four (4) examples of God's unfolding benefits due to the first coming of Jesus. Which do you find most exhilarating, and why?
4. Our lives are to be lived in anticipation of the promise of Jesus to return one day for us, His people. For each of the passages we listed (Col 3:1-4 & 1 John 3:2-3) how do they help us focus on the promise of Jesus' return for us? What specific steps can we take so as to be filled with this hope of Jesus coming for us? What will be your first response to seeing Jesus? What question do you most want to talk with Him about?

SONGS

"ANGELS FROM THE REALMS OF GLORY" - James Montgomery

"GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN" - John Wesley Work, Jr.

"NAMES" - Tiffany Hudson, Amanda Lindsey Cook, Jason Ingram

"O HOLY NIGHT" - Adolphe Adam, Placide Cappeau

BUDGET

GIVING LAST WEEK: \$44,058.99

WEEKLY NEED: \$35,272.00

YTD GIVING: \$1,758,842.86

YTD GENERAL NEED: \$1,763,600.00