

Promises of the Old Testament

Bible Class Notes; 7/17/2016; Tri City church of Christ

I'm sure all of you, whether you're Star Wars fans or not, remember the release of the new Star Wars movie last December. It was advertised everywhere. It was a huge deal in the media. It was bringing back classic, original characters, changing the timeline from the three previously released movies, the franchise was under new ownership, and everyone was wondering if it would live up to the hype. Especially the nerdy Star Wars fans, like myself! It was all over social media. People posted about it all over Twitter and Facebook. It just seemed like everything around you was pointing to the release of this new movie. It built up so much hype and suspense, and people were so curious to see what the movie would be like. Similarly, in the time of the Old Testament, everything pointed to Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One: Jesus of Nazarene. Everyone was curious as to what this man would be like, what he'd accomplish for the nation of Israel, and how he would save the nation of Israel. Just as the release of the new Star Wars movie was especially meaningful for the nerdy Star Wars fans, throughout the Old Testament, the promised Christ was especially meaningful to the nation of Israel. There are indicators and signs of His coming woven throughout the entire Old Testament and found particularly in promises of the Old Testament.

- I. God's promises are fulfilled and brought to completion in Christ
 - a. Luke 24:44 – Everything is fulfilled in Christ
 - b. 2 Corinthians 1:20a – “For all the promises of God find their Yes in him”
 - c. In Christ, the promises of the Old Testament come to fruition, and God made promises to His people since the very beginning.
 - d. Can anyone think of any promises made to a child of God in the book of Genesis?
- II. Abraham; Gen 12:1-3
 - a. Abraham was promised three things particularly...
 - i. Land
 1. This meant national identity and security
 2. This also meant a new start; the beginning of a nation that would honor the LORD.
 - ii. People
 1. This meant as he grew older he would have people to care for him
 2. This also meant he would leave a legacy
 3. Gen. 15:1-6

- iii. All the earth would be blessed through Him
 - 1. This meant that through this lineage there would arise one who would bless the nations of the earth
 - 2. Christ was the fulfillment of not only this promise but all of the promises
 - b. These things were fulfilled in ways throughout the Old Testament, but they were only a taste of what was to come
 - i. Land
 - 1. This was fulfilled in part when the Israelites conquered Canaan in Joshua, and they continued to expand through the united kingdom
 - 2. But this inheritance promised to Abraham's descendants is ultimately fulfilled through Christ because Christ inherited authority over the entire earth (Romans 4:13; Matthew 28:18)
 - 3. Christ offers all the nations of the world a chance to be a part of His Kingdom and have an inheritance of our own (Ephesians 1:11-14; Colossians 3:23-24)
 - ii. People
 - 1. When Moses led the nation of Israel out of Egypt there was already a substantial amount of Israelites, likely in the millions
 - 2. Their kingdom continued to grow far and wide through the reign of Solomon
 - 3. This offspring promised was not only a physical offspring but spiritual as well (Galatians 3:7, 26-29)
 - iii. Bless the Nations of the Earth
 - 1. Just as Abraham had a relationship based on faith with God, we have a relationship with God through Christ and we are all an heir of God's promise through Him (Galatians 3:7-9, 14)
 - c. Which son of Abraham were these promises fulfilled through? (Isaac)
- III. Abraham and Isaac (Gen. 22)
- a. Isaac was fundamental in fulfilling the promises to Abraham, and when God tests Abraham with his son Isaac, God foreshadows how

Abraham's promises would be fulfilled in Christ thousands of years later. (v. 1-18)

- i. Isaac was Abraham's only son through Sarah (v. 2); Christ was the only Son of God (John 3:16)
- ii. Isaac was to be offered as a burnt offering (v. 2), as Christ was our offering
- iii. Isaac carried the wood for the offering (v. 6), as Christ carried His cross (John 19:7)
- iv. Just as Isaac cried out to his father before the sacrifice (v.7), Christ cried out to His father before His sacrifice (Mark 14:32-42)
- v. Just as God provided the sacrifice for Abraham and Isaac (v. 8, 13), God also provided His son as the sacrifice for us (John 3:16)
- vi. Just as the ram that was offered was caught in the thicket by its horns (v. 13), Jesus, who was offered for us, was crowned with thorns (John 19:2)
- vii. Just as it was said, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided," (v. 14) God provided His son on the mount for us.

IV. Jeremiah 31:31-34

- a. This was the promise of a new covenant, not only for Israel and Judah, but under Christ
 - i. Hebrews 8:6-13 reaffirms that this promise was fulfilled through Christ
 - ii. Ephesians 2:11-16
 - iii. Romans 7:1-4
 - iv. Colossians 2:13-17
- b. Confusion regarding Matthew 5:17
 - i. Jesus didn't want to make ruin of the Old Law, because it served its purpose well, but its purpose was to be a shadow of Him
 - ii. Jesus fulfilled the Old Law; he brought it to a natural conclusion, he didn't demolish it, he completed it.
 - iii. Jesus gives two conditions for the passing away of the law: heaven and earth will pass away, or all will be fulfilled.

- iv. One good illustration I read online put it this way: It's like a parent telling their child, "You'll sit here all night unless you eat your vegetables." If the child eats their vegetables, they won't be there all night; similarly Jesus would fulfill the Old Law before Heaven and Earth passed away.