

THE PROMISE OF A MESSIAH

November 19, 1995

Ever since Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden, God has promised that one day he would send a perfect sacrifice to take away mankind's sin. In fact, even before God made the universe, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit had made the plan for man's salvation. Because God knew, even before man was made, that man would rebel against God's will, and come under the curse of death. But because God is love, he planned to redeem, or by back, his rebellious creature, man. When we speak of man in this way, we speak of every man, woman, and child, that has ever lived, or will live in the future. So that includes you and me. We too have that rebellious nature that hates to obey, so each one of us is under the curse of death.

The first place that we see God's promise of hope for sinful men, is in Genesis chapter three verse fifteen. Immediately after Adam and Eve's act of rebellion against him, our loving God promised that someday a descendent of Eve would have a son that would crush that old serpent, Satan. He also said that the promised one, who triumphs over Satan, will be bruised because of our sin.

From that time on, throughout scripture, God promises again and again that he will send a redeemer, to buy men back from death and sin. In Genesis twelve verse three, God tells Abraham that the Messiah will come through his family, and that all the earth would be blessed through him. Then in Genesis forty-nine verse ten, Abraham's great-grandson Judah is promised that the saviour will come out of his family.

Then in I Chronicles seventeen, verses eleven to fourteen, we see that David's family will bring forth the Messiah. Throughout the scripture, we see that God continues to remind the people of Israel and the world that he will send a Messiah, to rescue men from the power of Satan and sin. He gives exact details of where and how and to whom this Messiah will be born. Then God tells how the Messiah will be treated by those who should know him. And finally he tells us the price that must be paid by the Messiah for our sin.

As we look forward to the celebration of the Lord's birth, let's consider all the prophecies that God made thousands of years before it happened. Let's think of all those people, long long ago who believed what God told them and looked forward to the day when Messiah would come.

God gave his people an exact map of what to look for when the time was right for the Messiah to be born, and those who were really looking for him, knew him when he came.

In the same way, the Bible tells us that Jesus will come a second time to take those who love him to be with him for ever. If we study his word, and look for his appearing we will not be surprised at his coming, but we will be anxiously waiting for him. The signs to look for are written in his word, one of them being that Israel will once again be a nation after hundreds of years with no place of it's own. God fulfilled that promise in 1948. Are you watching the signs and waiting for his coming?

Some prophecies

of the Lord's First Coming: Psalm 132:11; Isaiah 11:1-10; Jeremiah 23:5;
Isaiah 53; Micah 5:2; Psalm 22; Zechariah 9:9

Some prophecies

of the Lord's Second Coming: Revelation 19:11; Matthew 24:3-39; Isaiah 11:1-9;
Isaiah 63:1-6; I Thessalonians 5:1-9; II Timothy 4:1-5

LEARN: Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day no the hour wherein the Son of
man cometh. Matthew 25:13