



Berean Christian Fellowship

DEVOTIONAL 97.0

December 30
2016

The Promise of Christ

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful” (Hebrews 10:23 NASB).

God first promised Jesus after the fall in the Garden, when God told Satan (the serpent), “*I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise Him on the heel*” (Genesis 3:15).

Today, it is easy for Christians to see that God was referring here to Jesus, but did Adam and Eve understand what God was promising? Yes, for we see that Eve “*conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD’*” (Genesis 4:1b). Many see Eve giving thanks to God for her child, but the Hebrew reads literally, “I have gotten/made man Yahweh,” which is why it can be translated: “*I have given birth to a male child—the LORD*” (ISV).

Eve understood the promise of God concerning the coming of the Son of God, and likely believed Cain (which means “acquired transaction” in the root and was applied to redeeming slaves) was the promised seed. Like Abraham after her, she was “*fully assured that what God had promised, He was able also to perform*” (Romans 4:21). This would also help explain why Abel’s name signifies “vanity,” because his mother probably thought him “unnecessary” as Cain was the “promised one.” Eve must have been devastated when Cain killed Abel and was cursed by God. Like many after her, she did not consider “*that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years like one day*” (2 Peter 3:8b).

I’m sure people probably mocked the promise of the Son of God to Eve in her later life, and we don’t know if she maintained her faith

like those of her children who “*died in faith, without receiving the promises, but having seen them and having welcomed them from a distance*” (Hebrews 11:13).

Eve never saw the Son of God in her lifetime, Who could save her from her sin—that honor would come 4,000 years later to her daughter Mary, for when “*the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons*” (Galatians 4:4-5). This is “*the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, ‘YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU’*” (Acts 13:32-33), “*for all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory*” (2 Corinthians 1:20).

Jesus Christ was not an afterthought revealed thousands of years later to the Prophets. God promised the Son of God from the Fall. It took much longer for Him to appear than many expected, but we know “*the Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance*” (2 Peter 3:9). We too need this encouragement as we wait for Jesus to return, for “*in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, and saying, ‘Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation’*” (2 Peter 3:3b-4). Like the men and women of faith before us, we must be fully assured that God will perform what He has promised in His timing, for “*He who promised is faithful*” (Hebrews 10:23b), and He has promised, “***I am coming quickly***” (Rev. 3:11a). Amen.