

INTRO: Christmas preparations, usually tree, lights, decorations. God's been at it since the week after Creation. I'll cover 4,000 years of preparations in one sermon. It may take a while. Prophecies were God's preparations.

#### I. A PROPHECY TO ADAM AND EVE

- A. Why it was needed
  - 1. perfect creation; simple obedience test of 1<sup>st</sup> commandment
  - 2. deadly, eternal consequences of disobedience
- B. Some specifics of this prophecy
  - 1. seed/descendant = a human being
  - 2. able to defeat powerful Satan; some injury or pain in the process
- C. Frequent erroneous ideas
  - 1. Eve – I have gotten a man, the Lord
  - 2. we want it on our schedule, terms; God took 4,000 years

#### II. A PROPHECY TO ABRAHAM

- A. Lots of history ensued
  - 1. moral degeneration and Flood
  - 2. always a God of mercy, promise; relayed by Patriarchs
- B. Seed promise repeated to Abraham and Sarah (Gen.22:18)
  - 1. 2,000 years after Eve's prophesy; totally God's initiative to Abraham
  - 2. despair of childlessness = no 'seed'; 'Seed' + nations from one man
- C. Abraham is a prototype of all believers
  - 1. a couple of Abraham's sins detailed; yet passed Isaac sacrifice test
  - 2. extolled in Romans and Hebrews as exemplar of faith
  - 3. all who believe as Abraham are his seed; faith counted as righteousness

#### III. A PROPHECY TO MOSES

- A. After Abraham, 2 generations, then 'national' enslavement
    - 1. not unlike original enslavement to sin
    - 2. Abraham-Isaac-Jacob = Israel (Joseph story) then 400 years in Egypt
  - B. The Exodus as prophesy exemplified
    - 1. helpless people delivered (Paige: why didn't they fight?)
    - 2. blood of Lamb as sign of deliverance; one life for others' rescue
    - 3. ritual sacrifice; scapegoat on Yom Kippur as atonement lesson
- (continued)

- C. Deuteronomy 18:15 The Lord will raise up a Prophet like me, from your midst, from your brethren
  - 1. True Man; Israelite
  - 2. hence the question to John the Baptizer, "Are you the prophet?"
  - 3. John 1:14 Word became flesh = ultimate message from God

#### IV. A PROPHECY TO DAVID

- A. Israelites' dissatisfaction with God (a surprise?)
  - 1. unhappy with theocracy of priesthood and judges
  - 2. wanted king like neighbors
  - 3. ah, the temptation of media and news
- B. Era of kings mostly checkered
  - 1. Saul sought witchcraft; David anointed
  - 2. musical Psalmist; repentant adulterer/murderer
  - 3. desired to build temple: ...your seed...shall build a house for My name... I will establish the throne of His kingdom forever
- C. David's royal descendant is Jesus
  - 1. Matthew 1:6 & 17 David in geneology of Jesus via Joseph, legal father
  - 2. Matthew 21:9 amid palms, Hosanna to the Son of David
  - 3. Luke 23:3 king of Jews? As you say (to Pilate)
  - 4. John 18:35 My kingdom is not of this world (contra Zionists)

#### V. A PROPHECY TO ISAIAH

- A. Around 750 BC
  - 1. lengthy career; good and bad kings; before Babylon
  - 2. prophecies often cited in New Testament; two today; more later in series
- B. About the birth of the promised 'Seed'
  - 1. Isaiah 7:14 virgin conceive ... Emmanuel, i.e., God with us
  - 2. Luke 1:26 Gabriel to virgin betrothed to...Joseph, of the house of David
  - 3. Isaiah 9:2 unto us a child is born...throne of David
- C. About the death of the promised 'Seed'
  - 1. Isaiah 53 He was wounded, bruised
  - 2. God laid on Him the iniquity of us all; the purpose of all Scripture/prophesy
  - 3. the summary of the doctrine: Christ for us; vicarious atonement

CONCLUSION: God spent 4,000 years preparing the world for the birth of Jesus by numerous prophecies of His coming. We have only spent minutes reviewing those words from God. Let's continue to focus on Jesus Who came, is coming through Word and Sacrament, and will come when this world ends. Amen.