

December



Advent 2016

—THE GENESIS OF CHRISTMAS—

“Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.”

—Galatians 3:16

“MARY & THE PROMISE OF GENESIS 3:15 ”

Introduction

- The Bible as a whole begins with the storyline centered on a family (Genesis 1–3) as do the infancy narratives (Matthew 1–2 and Luke 1–3)

Eve: Our First Mother

Genesis 1:26–28 stresses the _____ of value and shared mission of the man and woman.

Genesis 2:18, 21–25 accentuates the distinctions between the man and woman, particularly his _____ over her. The description of her as a “helper” emphasizes her importance in carrying out the commands of God in Gen. 2:15–17.

Point of Emphasis—Both passages emphasize their collective work, implying that their choices as individuals will effect the one another.

Genesis 3:1–7

- Eve’s role is _____ in the sense that she engages with the Serpent, accepting his word and then eating of the fruit and giving some to her husband.

⇒ This act was a rejection of the Word of the Lord and a rebellion against His authority over them.

“The First Gospel”

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” —**Genesis 3:15**

- Notice that the role of the _____ is emphasized in the carrying out of this promise.

“offspring”—This term can be either singular or plural in Hebrew and Greek just as it can in English.

⇒ In its plural sense, the **offspring** are the people of God who the serpent and his people will seek to destroy.

- * The emphasis is on the vital role that this woman (Eve) and all subsequent women will play in the fruitfulness of God’s people.

⇒ In the singular sense, the **offspring** is to be understood as a certain individual who will come in the future and deal a death blow to the Serpent, the enemy of God’s people.

- * The emphasis is on the role of the woman in bearing this child who will be the rescuer of his people.

Why is the woman the focus of the promise?

Genesis 5:1–3 seems to convey that the “image” is passed down from the father. After the fall, the “image” was distorted by sin with the result that all subsequent children inherited the guilt of Adam’s sin as well as a proclivity towards sin themselves.

⇒ This is perhaps why the promised Rescuer is disassociated from the man and is described only in relation to the woman.

Development in the Prophets

- The prophets anticipate the coming of Messiah who will defeat the enemies of God's people and who will rule over them in peace forever.

Isaiah 7:14—Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Mary of Nazareth in the Light of Genesis 3:15

The Annunciation—Luke 1:26-33

About Mary:

The Content of the Announcement:

- ⇒ She will have a child who she is to name Jesus (Joshua- "Yahweh is Salvation") —**Josh. 23-24**
- ⇒ He will be called "Son of the Most High" —**Isa. 9:6**
- ⇒ He will sit on the throne of David and reign over Israel —**2 Sam. 7:4-17**

Mary is going to be the mother of _____ who is also the "offspring" of Genesis 3:15!

Mary's Question & Response—Luke 1:34-38

Question: "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

Luke 1:35—And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

- **The promised Rescuer could not have an earthly father. (He is distinct among humanity!)**
 - ⇒ In order to be a "New" or "Second" Adam, the child would have to have _____ alone as his father just as Adam did.
- **The promised Rescuer had to be fully human in order to identify with those he came to save. (He is truly human!)**
 - ⇒ His birth, coming in the normal manner of all mankind, demonstrated that he shared our humanity.

Response: "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."

- This response serves to distinguish Mary from her first mother, Eve.

Eve accepted the word of the Serpent and subsequently acted in rebellion against God

In contrast, Mary accepted the Word of the Lord and subsequently acted in _____ to God.

What do we learn about Jesus?

What do we learn as Christians?

What do we learn about the role of women?