

LOVE Fulfilled a Promise

Series on Advent: Christ is Our Hope in a Broken World
Genesis 22:2/ 1 John 2:2

United Community Church, 12-24-23

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Truth: God's promise to send a Savior to die for our sin and reconcile us to Him reveals His great love for us.

Abraham's Story & the Story of Jesus

- Isaac and Jesus were sons of God's promise – Sarah was barren, but God allowed her to bear a child because of His promise to Abraham to give birth to His people (Gen 17:19, 21:1). God visited Mary, a virgin, and conceived Jesus through the Holy Spirit to fulfill His promise of salvation to all who believe and turn to Him (Matt 1:20).
- God told Abraham to name his son Isaac (Gen 17:19). God told Mary her son would be called Jesus which means "God saves" (Luke 1:31). Jesus Hebrew name is Yeshua or Joshua in English.
- God commanded Abraham to offer Isaac as a burnt offering as an act of devotion to God (Gen 22:2). In the Old Testament, burnt offerings served as atonement for sin (Lev 1:4). Jesus died on the cross as an atonement for the sin of the world (1 John 2:2 NIV).

God's LOVE for Us

1. God's love for us does not overlook sin; God's love for us sent His Son, Jesus, to the cross for our sin.
2. God's love for us fulfilled a promise to reconcile us to Him through faith in His Son Jesus Christ and a life of devotion to Him.
3. God's love for us can never be bought, earned, or secured through anything we can do ourselves. Salvation is offered to all who believe in Christ and turn to Him. Life in Christ produces transformation through the Holy Spirit who lives in us just as God promised.

BOTTOM LINE

The True meaning of Christmas is the love of God demonstrated through His eternal promise through His Son Jesus Christ. "God demonstrated His love for us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom 5:8).