

The Promise of Christmas

Promised Deliverance

Hosea 11:1

It's Christmastime and although we can't celebrate, travel, gather or party like we used to, Christmas is all about God keeping his promises! Each week of this Christmas season, I will show you another of the promises (also known as prophecies) that God kept in the birth of Jesus.

Deliverance: The dictionary defines deliverance as *the action of being rescued or set free*. Hopefully this word brings to mind something deeply spiritual and theological, because one of the major themes of Scripture is that God is a Deliverer!

"Scripture teaches that God's ultimate goal in history is to rescue people from the curse of sin, death, Satan, and hell." **Walter Elwell (Tyndale)**

Sin, Death, Satan & Hell: From the very beginning, we have needed to be delivered from the curse that began in the Garden of Eden. And God PROMISED that He would provide that deliverance in a very specific way...

"I will put enmity between you & the woman, & between your offspring & her offspring; he shall bruise your head, & you shall bruise his heel."

Genesis 3:15

Promise: Only 61 verses into the Bible, we have already seen God create a world that is very good, humans bring a curse of sin, **but now** God is promising to deliver the human race through the seed of a woman (virgin) that will be hurt (bruised heel), but will ultimately defeat the curse (bruised head). And in the following 31,000 verses in your Bible, God keeps this promise through two very powerful relationships: The Nation of Israel & The Person of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Main Idea: God Promises to Deliver Those who Trust in Him

"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

Hosea 11:1

Two Ways to Remember the Promise of Christmas from Hosea 11:1

I. Remember Past Deliverance

"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery." **Exodus 20:2**

The Israelites' time in Egypt definitely felt like punishment, but God was working through it to accomplish His ultimate will for them. And, at the appropriate time, God sent Moses to deliver them from Egypt so they could enter into His promises. And throughout scripture, the Jews remember God as the one who *"brought them out of Egypt."*

"I sought the LORD, & he answered me & delivered me from all my fears."

Psalms 34:4

"He has delivered us from the domain of darkness & transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son." **Colossians 1:13**

II. Hope for Future Deliverance

*"Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream & said, 'Rise, take the child & his mother, & flee to Egypt, & remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' And he rose & took the child & his mother by night & departed to Egypt & remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'" **Matthew 2:13-15***

"I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have not restrained my lips, as you know, O LORD. I have not hidden your deliverance within my heart; I have spoken of your faithfulness & your salvation; I have not concealed your steadfast love & your faithfulness from the great congregation." **Psalms 40:9-10**

"The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD."

Lamentations 3:25-26

"The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed & bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever & ever. Amen." **2 Timothy 4:18**

The promise of Christmas is fulfilled in Jesus, being born of a virgin, crucified on a cross & then rising again three days later. Do we deserve to be the recipient of God's promises? Absolutely not, but we are!

The Promise: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."* **John 3:16**

Do you need deliverance from the curse of sin? God keeps his promises, even when we do not. God Promises to Deliver Those who Trust in Him...**will you trust in God?**

Sources & Further Reading Opportunities:

- *Tyndale Bible Dictionary* – Elwell & Comfort (2001)
- *Expository Outlines on the OT* – Warren Wiersbe (1993)
- *Tyndale Concise Bible Commentary* – Huges & Laney (2001)
- *New Bible Commentary* – D.A. Carson, R.T. France (1994)
- *Critical & Explanatory* – Jamieson, Fausset & Brown (1997)

