

Application Questions:

1. All the promises in Old Testament were built upon the foundation of God's promises which were secured in Jesus Christ. How should this reality impact how we read the Old Testament with all of it's promises?
2. In the birth of Christ, God is shown to be a promise keeper. How should this affect *how* we wait for promises God made that haven't yet been brought to completion?
3. Are there any promises God has made to you as a son/daughter that you have forgotten or begun to doubt in the midst of the waiting in this life?
4. If Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection has secured all the promises of God for his children, how should this inform how intentional we should be about meditating upon what Jesus has accomplished and completed?

Christmas – Remember and Anticipate

David Traugott
December 14, 2008

Christmas should strengthen our faith...because it was in Jesus coming that all God's promises were secured

1. Promises Made

Genesis 3:15

Abraham...

Genesis 12:7, Galatians 3:16

Isaiah...

Isaiah 7:14, 9:6

The OT believers responded to God's promises by believing in faith, but their lives were still characterized by **waiting for fulfillment**

Genesis 15:6

Hebrews 11:39

Martyn Lloyd-Jones – “Nothing is more important than for us to realize that the whole of the Old Testament is looking forward to [Christ's earthly ministry]...Let us never make

the mistake of imagining that they had everything. All they ultimately had was the promise. But it was enough. Thank God it was enough. But they had nothing more than that...What they received was the promise of the promise, the certainty that the promise would be fulfilled.”

2. Promises Kept

Mary

Luke 1:54-55

Zechariah

Luke 1:68-73

Simeon

Luke 2:26, 29-32

Because Jesus came, we can be certain of the fulfillment of all other promises of God
2 Corinthians 1:20

Joni Eareckson Tada – “God announced his intentions about the Messiah when he made a promise to Abraham. And what did Abraham do? Romans 4:3 tells us that he believed God...But I wonder how Abraham felt two weeks later. Or months later. How did his children feel many years later? And what about his descendants, thousands of years later? How long did these people wait before they finally stopped believing? The fact is, many did stop believing. They had no faith. They didn’t reckon God was a promise keeper...But others continued to believe. They dreamed of the day, they hoped for the future, they put their confidence in the promise of God...On this side of eternity, Christmas is still a promise. Yes, the Savior has come...but the story is not finished.”

Hebrews 10:23

1 Corinthians 13:12

Jesus is *himself* the fulfillment of hope and perfection of delight.

Our response to Christmas: confident hope and rock-solid anticipation in all the promises of God!

3. Future Fulfillment Secured

The Christian life between Jesus’ first and final coming is both now and not yet