

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: All is Well, Jesus Brings Hope, Genesis 3:15, Micah 5:2, Luke 2:1-7
Date preached: December 1, 2014
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INTRODUCTION: Satan appeared as a serpent and deceived Eve. We know about the curse... we know about the Garden of Eden... we know about Satan appearing as this serpent, evil, cunning, and deceiving Eve... we know that towards the end of this part of the story God pronounced a curse. He cursed man, He cursed women or He pronounced a curse that would affect man, woman and Satan.

SCRIPTURE: Genesis 3:15 *“¹⁵And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”*

EXPLANATION: “and I will put enmity”, God is speaking to Satan here, in other words God is drawing a line in the sand between him and Satan. God desired no friendship or alliance between himself and Satan. The two were declared as enemies. Then He says “between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed.”

First: THE HOPE OF CHRIST IS REVEALED IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN

The Christmas story in the Bible begins earlier than you might expect, several hundred years earlier, in the Old Testament. One Old Testament prophecy after another promised the coming Messiah. You may not know it, but the first promise of the coming Christ was given in the very first book of the Old Testament, in Genesis 3:15.

Satan appeared as a serpent and deceived Eve. As God delivers his curse for disobedience, he gave the woman her curse in verse 16 and to the man in verse 17. Their curses are difficulties in life, but the curse to Satan is complete defeat.

“And I will put enmity”

God spoke to the serpent that is identified as Satan. God desired no friendship or alliance between himself and Satan. The two were declared as enemies.

“Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed.”

God’s distinction between “your seed” and “her Seed” is clear. Satan’s seed would be evil, and her “Seed” would be Jesus.

Notice there is no mention of Adam’s seed. This foreshadows the virgin birth.

“He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

In this scripture God predicted the defeat of Satan by the coming of Christ, the Messiah. God drew the battle lines between himself and Satan.

“He shall bruise your heel” refers a temporary wound. The crushing of Satan’s head means a lethal blow to Satan.

Even at the fall of mankind, God extended grace. Here, Satan bruised the heel of Jesus, but looking ahead to the cross, Satan’s head will be crushed.

I think of it as an image like this: Jesus stomps Satan’s head so hard that it bruises his heel and crushes Satan’s head.

The way to escape Jesus’ crushing blow is to join Jesus today be repenting and asking him to save you.

Second: THE HOPE OF CHRIST WAS RECORDED IN OVER 300 PROPHECIES

Some say that there are over 450 prophecies in the Old Testament referencing Christ.

Many people find the Bible hard to understand. It’s easy for me to understand why many people believe the Bible is difficult to understand. It’s a compilation of many books by different authors, inspired by God. In the Bible we have history, laws, teaching, poetry, prose, mystery, and songs. Over 40 authors wrote its 66 books. These books stretch over thousands of years. To accept such a complex book as the

Word of God takes faith. Archeology, anthropology, and the study of ancient languages continue to prove the incredible historicity and accuracy of the Bible.

There are many interesting things that link these books. Prophecy of the coming Messiah and the fulfillment of prophecy connect these links.

- 1) Messiah would be born of a woman.
Prophecy: Genesis 3:15
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:20, Galatians 4:4
- 2) Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
Prophecy: Micah 5:2
Fulfillment: Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-6
- 3) Messiah would be born of a virgin.
Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:26-
- 4) Messiah would come from the line of Abraham.
Prophecy: Genesis 12:3, Genesis 22:18
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:1, Romans 9:5
- 5) Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac.
Prophecy: Genesis 17:19, Genesis 21:12
Fulfillment: Luke 3:34
- 6) Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob.
Prophecy: Numbers 24:17
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:2
- 7) Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.
Prophecy: Genesis 49:10
Fulfillment: Luke 3:33, Hebrews 7:14
- 8) Messiah would be heir to King David's throne.
Prophecy: 2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:7
Fulfillment: Luke 1:32-33, Romans 1:3

- 9) Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.
Prophecy: Psalm 45:6-7, Daniel 2:44
Fulfillment: Luke 1:33, Hebrews 1:8-12
- 10) Messiah would be called Immanuel.
Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:23
- 11) Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.
Prophecy: Hosea 11:1
Fulfillment: Matthew 2:14-15
- 12) A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.
Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15
Fulfillment: Matthew 2:16

ILLUSTRATION: A college math professor engaged students from all his classes and posed the question. What are the chances that one person could fulfill only 8 prophecies?

The students took into account many things, including the population of the world, geographic information and a whole list of considerations. The students took their figures and scrutinized them, making their number as conservative as possible. Then they presented their findings to the professor, who scrutinized them even more, making the figure even more conservative.

In the book "Science Speaks" by Peter Stoner, he applies this modern science of probability to just 8 prophecies he reported what the professor said. The teacher applied the modern science of probability to just eight prophecies regarding Christ. He says, "The chance that any man might have ...fulfilled all eight prophecies is one in 10 to the 17th. That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000." (one hundred quadrillion).

To illustrate, let's say we take 10 to the 17th silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state 2 feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly... Blindfold a man and tell him he can

travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up [that one marked silver dollar.] What chance would he have of getting the right one?" (Science Speaks, Peter Stoner) That's an estimate of one person fulfilling only eight prophecies. What would the number be for fulfilling 300?

Third: THE HOPE OF CHRIST BECAME REALITY IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

SCRIPTURE: Micah 5:2. Here Micah told exactly where Christ would be born, *"²But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah (means fruitful), though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel whose origins are from of old from ancient times."*

EXPLANATION: Distance between Nazareth and Bethlehem: 70 to 90 miles depending on either a straight walk or winding around hills and valleys. Some say 80. Either way, Mary was 9 month pregnant and nowhere near Bethlehem. So to fulfill the prophecy, God used a non-believer to fulfill the prophecy.

SCRIPTURE: Luke 2:1-7 *"¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register. ⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them."*

EXPLANATION: Once the prophecy was fulfilled, we see more about this wonderful hope!

The birth of Christ gave hope!

Although the hope of Christ was reality in the Old Testament as much as the New Testament, the difference is that in the New Testament he entered human time and

became a person. The theological word for this is the incarnation: God becoming man.

EXPLANATION: What does this hope that became reality do for us? James Boice said, “Jesus endured a human birth to give us a new spiritual birth. He occupied a stable that we might occupy a mansion. He had an earthly mother so that we might have a heavenly Father. He became subject so that we might be free. He left his glory to give us glory. He was poor that we might be rich. He was welcomed by shepherds at His birth whereas we at our birth are welcomed by angels. He was hunted by Herod that we might be delivered from the grasp of Satan. That is the great paradox of the Christmas story. It is that which makes it irresistibly attractive. It is the reversal of roles at God’s cost for our benefit.” [James Montgomery Boice. *The Christ of Christmas*. (Chicago: Moody, 1983) p. 59]

The birth of Christ gave hope also the Jesus’ resurrection provides hope!

SCRIPTURE: I Corinthians 15:12.¹² *But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?* ¹³ *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then not even Christ has been raised.* ¹⁴ *And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.* ¹⁵ *More than that, we are then found to be false witnesses about God, for we have testified about God that he raised Christ from the dead. But he did not raise him if in fact the dead are not raised.* ¹⁶ *For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either.* ¹⁷ *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.* ¹⁸ *Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost.* ¹⁹ *If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.*

²⁰ *But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead,*

EXPLANATION: This is saying we’re to be pitied if we just, have a hope in Christ that doesn’t take us anywhere so it’s not just the birth of Christ that gives hope it’s the resurrection of Christ that fulfills the hope. We also see that the scripture talks about the hope that Jesus gives of eternal life.

Jesus gives hope of eternal life!

SCRIPTURE: Titus 1:2 “² in the hope of eternal life, which God, who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time,”

The Second Coming of Christ is known as the **Blessed Hope!**

SCRIPTURE: Titus 2:11 “¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹² It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,”

EXPLANATION: So we see that the reality of the hope of Christ is revealed in stages: prophecies of his birth, his birth, his resurrection, second coming, eternal life. Right now we are in the stage waiting on his Second Coming. Just as people of old waited for his first coming to Earth, we are waiting on his Second Coming.

Fourth: THE HOPE OF CHRIST IS RELEVANT IN TODAY’S WORLD

We have massive problems in this world which appear to be unsolvable. Wars, failing economies, famine, epidemics, and pandemics. It’s all man can do just to stay ahead of it all. And experts tell us that we are much more vulnerable to more of this than we realize.

World religions seek answers. World leaders seek answers. And yet man’s solutions are only temporary. Sometimes man’s solutions are complete failures.

And then individuals seek answers to their own problems.

To get answers, people turn to anything they think that will help them get answers.

People turn to various religions, philosophies, meditation, intellectual communities, drugs, crystals, palm readers. But any belief without Jesus is a dead end street.

Jesus is the hope of the business person in a tall building in New York City. Jesus is the hope of the farmer in a small town, the factory worker, the school teacher, the sportsman, the handicapped, man, woman, boy, child.

ILLUSTRATION: Jesus is the hope of people in the most remote parts of the world. Just last week, an acquaintance of mine who is a missionary in Ecuador took a bus to a river, then he and some others took motorized canoes for several hours until they got to a remote village. There, they met villagers waiting to hear more about this Savior they'd heard about. Two families came to faith in Christ.

We can gather Christians from all over the world of different races and different colors. All the people will have different political persuasions, different socio-economic situations, different languages, yet all these Christians will agree on one thing, that Jesus Christ is Lord.

It is amazing to me that wherever I go, I will find someone who shares the same Savior and speaks the same language of Christianity.

ILLUSTRATION: I read a story of a man from Scotland years ago whose ship hit an iceberg somewhere off the coast of Greenland. Everyone on the ship perished except him. When the boat fell apart, part of it ended up on top of the ice including the section that had food and other supplies. He lived for weeks on the things that did not sink. When the weather was favorable he decided to venture out. In the distance he saw some Eskimos with dogsleds. He called out to them and they were afraid. In desperation, he yelled, "In the name of Jesus Christ, stop!" They stopped because they knew the name of Jesus.

Our hope in Christ is a LIVING HOPE...

SCRIPTURE: I Peter 1:3-6 *"³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, ⁵ who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials."*

CONCLUSION: What any of you maybe going through this morning. What any believer anywhere in the world may be going through today it's only temporary, because of the hope in Christ. I want to ask you today where is your hope? Is your hope insecurities that you have stockpiled? That's only temporary. Is your hope in

your health? That's only temporary. Is your hope in someone else? The scripture tells us that the arms of flesh will let us down. The only enduring hope is the one that is offered to everyone who will accept the free gift of hope and that's Jesus Christ.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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