

Christmas in Genesis 2015-12-20

2 Cor 1:16-22

JC brackets all of time. Gen 1:1, 26, Jn 1:1-3, Rev 22:21, Jn 5:39, Heb 1:1-2, Col 1:15-17

- If JC in Gen **just person of Trinity** then He is **impersonal, distant** Creator & **types/shadows** still **hidden** from our **understanding**. Gen 2:9, Rom 5:14, Gen 3:21, 4:4, Gen 14:18, Heb 7:3, Gen 22:8
- But Christmas is in Gen: **promise of coming Savior**. Gen 3:15, 12:1-3, 13:16, 15:4-5, 17:7 & 19, 21:12, 22:18, 26:3-4, 28:14, 49:10

Covenant **promises sure** because of **God's** unchanging **truthfulness & confirmed** by **Incarnation**.

- Probably **not imagine** male **descendant**, special "seed" who **defeats serpent & brings blessing** to all nations, be **God Himself** dwelling w/us.
 - If JC **only a man**, then **Cxnty only human religion w/sinful, human savior**. No savior at all. Mt 1:23, Col 2:9, Heb 1:3a & 4:15, 1 Jn 3:5, 2 Cor 5:21

Because JC (Immanuel) **sinless**, died & rose so **all promises** of God **true** for us

- **promises:** grace, **mercy**, forgiveness, **pardon**, justification, **sanctification**, guidance, **peace**, joy, **hope**. Heb 4:16, 13:5-6, Ps 68:5, Phil 4:19, Rom 10:9-10, 1 Cor 10:13
 - His **truthfulness lost** if **promises not kept!** Not possible.
- **Promise world of no sin**, sorrow, or **death...**but it is **not this world**.
 - **Never promised: no difficult/bad things, heal every illness, reverse consequences** of sin/unwise decisions.
- **Have faith** in God's **ability & desire** to **fulfill all His promises** to you.
 - He **is** who **He says** & will **do** what **He says**. Josh 23:14, Is 26:3-4
 - **Believing** God to **fulfill promises** when **not materializing** demonstrates **faith & glorifies God**. 2 Cor 5:7, Heb 11:1

All promises God made to **Abraham & his seed** (Cxns) are **certain** because **fulfilled & secured in JC**. Rom 15:8, Jn 3:17, 2 Cor 1:20-21, Col 1:19-20

- "Yes" Greek= **certain/true**, "Amen" Hebrew=**already accomplished**.
 - God **not for us today & against us tomorrow** because **promises based** on God's **mercy** not our '**worthiness**'
- God **always for** because **JC received** God's **wrath** for Cxns @ **cross**.

Greatest, most wonderful promise of **all** is **JC Himself, not His gifts**.

- **Heart of Abrahamic covenant promise:** God will **be our God**. Gen 17:8, Jer 32:38-41, 2 Pet 3:8-9, Gal 3:29, Rom 8:31-32
 - **Love moved** God to **give/fulfill** this spectacular **promise** to you.
 - *Present Gospel*

Purpose of Christmas, of Christ's coming, is to **confirm** God's **truthfulness & glorify God** who is **end of future & beginning of past**:

- **JC stands** at **end of every path** upon which **every human** being who ever lived **travels**.
 - He is **Immanuel**, our **promise keeping God** who is **with us**.

2 Cor 1:16-22

I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia, and to come back to you from Macedonia and have you send me on my way to Judea. 17 Was I vacillating when I wanted to do this? Do I make my plans according to the flesh, ready to say "Yes, yes" and "No, no" at the same time?

18 As surely as God is faithful, our word to you has not been Yes and No. 19 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I, was not Yes and No, but in him it is always Yes.

20 For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

21 And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.