

B.C.C. - Before Christmas Christ: The Seed

Genesis 3:15 (NASB)

*“And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
and you shall bruise him on the heel.”*

In Genesis 3 after the fall God already had a plan and it would be fulfilled in Jesus, the seed of a woman who would destroy the power of sin, death, and the devil. Often we read Isaiah 53 at Easter as it is the prophecy of His coming sacrifice on Good Friday, but today I want you to read it seeing the Christmas message in Isaiah 53. God’s plan is eternal and it stands firm!

Isaiah 53(The Message - for Christmas)

²⁻⁶*The servant grew up before God—a scrawny seedling,
a scrubby plant in a parched field.*

*There was nothing attractive about him,
nothing to cause us to take a second look.*

*He was looked down on and passed over,
a man who suffered, who knew pain firsthand.*

One look at him and people turned away.

We looked down on him, thought he was scum.

*But the fact is, it was our pains he carried—
our disfigurements, all the things wrong with us.*

*We thought he brought it on himself,
that God was punishing him for his own failures.*

*But it was our sins that did that to him,
that ripped and tore and crushed him—our sins!*

He took the punishment, and that made us whole.

Through his bruises we get healed.

We’re all like sheep who’ve wandered off and gotten lost.

We’ve all done our own thing, gone our own way.

*And God has piled all our sins, everything we’ve done wrong,
on him, on him.*

The Christmas Story, Read Luke 2:17

(Remembering the conditions of Jesus’ birth)

- How do you see the Christmas message in Isaiah 53?

Isaiah 53:2 describes a child, **born** into life but chosen for a purpose. It also shows how his situation was humble and unattractive. Like a child born in a manger, away from the glitz and glamour, fame and fortune, that is how Jesus was born and grew up. People paid no attention (with the exception of a few shepherds to whom God sent his angles). Even they would have missed it had it not been for God's intervention.

Galatians 3:15-20 The Law and the Promise

¹⁵ Brothers and sisters, let me take an example from everyday life. Just as no one can set aside or add to a human covenant that has been duly established, so it is in this case. ¹⁶ The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say “and to seeds,” meaning many people, but “and to **your seed**,” meaning **one person, who is Christ**. ¹⁷ What I mean is this: The law, introduced 430 years later, does not set aside the covenant previously established by God and thus do away with the promise. ¹⁸ For if the inheritance depends on the law, then it no longer depends on the promise; but God in his grace gave it to Abraham through a promise.

¹⁹ Why, then, was the law given at all? It was added because of transgressions until **the Seed to whom the promise referred had come**. The law was given through angels and entrusted to a mediator. ²⁰ A mediator, however, implies more than one party; but God is one.

²¹ Is the law, therefore, opposed to the promises of God? Absolutely not! For if a law had been given that could impart life, then righteousness would certainly have come by the law. ²² But Scripture has locked up everything under the control of sin, so that what was promised, being given through faith in Jesus Christ, might be given to those who believe.

- After reading these verses from Galatians 3, what is God saying to you about the plan and purpose of the promised seed?

Jesus' birth was a plan from the beginning for the purpose of bringing the grace of God to man and the blessing of His promise to those who would believe in Jesus.

- How should this message change most people's understanding and focus of the Christmas celebration?

Rather than our Christmas focus being completely on decorating, holiday parties, exchanging gifts, waiting for Santa, we should realize that the birth of Christ is about God fulfilling His promise to be our God and to have us dwell in His presence forever for those who would believe in Jesus. Without Christmas, we are left without hope.

- Who do you know that needs to hear the true message of Christmas?

Have people think and pray about people in their lives that celebrate Christmas for all the reasons and ask God to open the door to God's message of grace this Christmas.

Take a moment and pray that this Christmas season would be one that brings many people to see Jesus as God's plan of salvation and to worship Him. Pray that they would understand that Christmas is about so much more than just a reason for a party and a few presents.