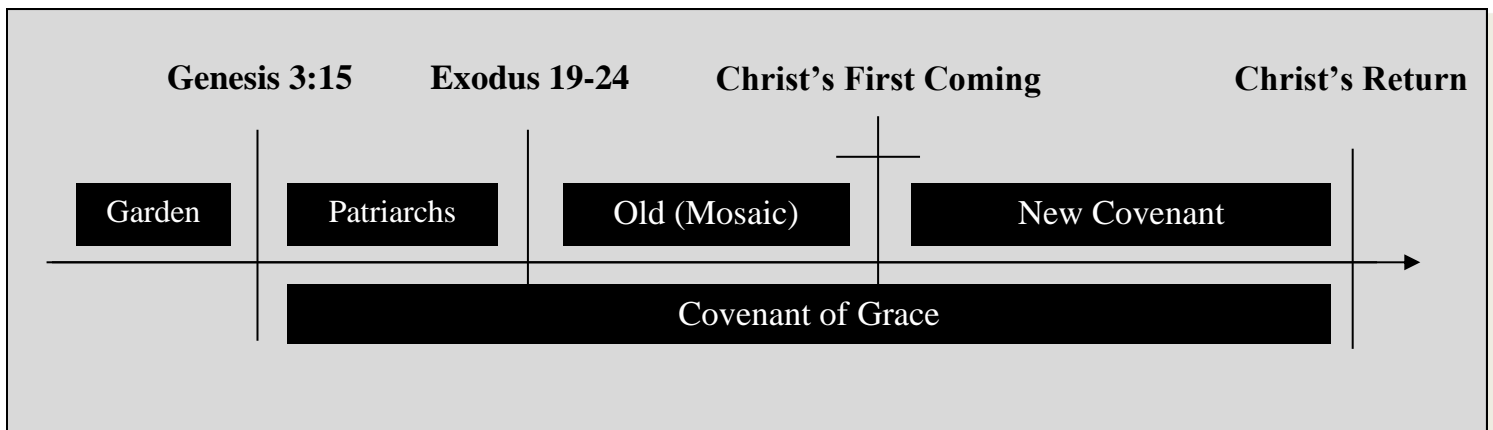


God's Covenant Faithfulness Demonstrated in Jesus Christ

Luke 2:1-14

God's covenant faithfulness on full display

1. God made a covenant with Adam – life is granted upon perfect obedience (Gen. 1:15-17)
2. After Adam sinned, God promised hope in the midst of the curse (Gen. 3:15)
3. Major covenants administered
 - a. Noah – common grace (Gen. 9)
 - b. Abraham – an eternal promise of a place (Canaan, Heaven) and a people (Israel; the Church - Gen. 17:1-8)
 - i. Collective offspring – offspring will be as numerous as the stars
 - ii. Particular offspring - Jesus (Gal. 3:15-16)
 - iii. God promises to fulfill the covenant obligations (Gen. 15:7-21)
 - c. Moses – through the law Israel is shown their inability to obey the law and pointed to Christ (Ex. 20:1-21; Gal. 4:15-29)
 - d. David – Shepherd boy made king; through David's Son, God's eternal kingdom will be established (Jer. 14-18)
4. Prophets – pointed to the day when God would act definitively by sending the messiah (Isaiah 9:2-7; Isaiah 11; Isaiah 52:13-53:12)
5. John the Baptist – the last of the great prophets under the Old Covenant
 - a. Zechariah's prophecy (1:72-76)
6. Jesus – God himself acting on our behalf
 - a. In Jesus, the covenant curse is atoned for (Hebrews 10:8-18)
 - b. In Jesus, the covenant obligations are perfectly kept (2 Cor. 5:21)



God's sovereignty and mankind's actions collide in His providence

1. God, in his infinite wisdom and providence had foreordained this time and place for Him to act upon His promise. (Gal. 4:4-5)
2. Caesar Augustus (2:1-2)
 - a. The imperial power of Rome was consolidated under Augustus.
 - b. He was the first Caesar to have the title of Emperor, achieving godlike status.
 - c. The Pax Romana flourished and he was praised for bringing peace on earth – it came at great cost to nations and people.
 - d. Israel was a client state of the Roman Empire (locally governed by Herod, overall ruled by Caesar Augustus).

3. Bethlehem (2:3-5)
 - a. A somewhat insignificant town
 - b. God used Bethlehem to be the epicenter of redemptive foreshadowing.
 - i. The story of Ruth – ends with a link to David
 - ii. The birthplace of David – a type of the true king to come
 - iii. The coming Messiah was to be born there (Micah 5:2)
4. Mary and Joseph (2:4-7)
 - a. Joseph – his lineage went back to King David, this is significant because the messiah was to come from the line of David (mentioned in 1:27; 2:4; alluded to in 1:69)
 - b. Mary – betrothed to Joseph, found favor with God
5. God's providential guiding of all things (2:1-7)
 - a. God used the most powerful man in the world to set forth the stage for the birthplace of the true savior of the world.
 - i. All it took was a word from Caesar and people across the vast empire were set in motion. (2:1-3)
 - ii. This political, financial, controlling action by Caesar was part of God's plan to move Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem to fulfill what God had promised. (2:4-5)
 - b. WSC Q. 11. What are God's works of providence?
 - i. God's works of providence are, his most holy, wise, and powerful preserving and governing all his creatures, and all their actions.

A proclamation of good news

1. Good news for the Covenant people of God
 - a. Good news...for all *the* people (2:10) – the covenant people of God
 - b. A pronouncement of peace (shalom) for the elect (those with whom he is pleased - 2:14)
2. Good news for the outcast – a message for shepherds (2:8-14)
 - a. They lived in the fields and they were ceremonially unclean.
 - b. Were regarded as liars and thieves – their testimony was inadmissible in court
 - i. God entrusted these men to be the first to give testimony about Jesus.
3. Good news that brings great joy (2:10)
 - a. Fear not – a common phrase as the heavenly realm interacts with mankind (1:13, 30)
 - b. Unto you – a child is born to a family – they receive the blessing of that child's life – here the blessing extends beyond the immediate family – unto you, shepherds, you are recipients of the gift of this child
4. Good news of the revealed messiah who has come to redeem His people (2:11)
 - a. Son of David – Royalty, king
 - b. Savior – one who rescues people from death and destruction
 - c. Christ – anointed one, the one who had been promised
 - d. Lord – this is the first time Luke uses the term Lord with Christ and not with God – Jesus is God in flesh, the one who brings salvation
5. Good news that results in glory to God (2:13-14)
 - a. The announcement ends as a multitude of angels join together in an outburst of praise to God.