



PATHWAY NEWSLETTER

# IN THE KNOW

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024



## MARK THE CALENDAR

**Giving Campaign Closes**  
*Church Campaign*

December 15, 2024

**Kids Christmas Concert**  
*Church Event*

December 15, 2024

**Christmas Eve Service**  
*Church Service*

December 24, 2024

# THE PROMISE

ANDREW SHERMAN

Genesis chapter 3 is a very pivotal chapter in Scripture. It deals with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and their decision to sin, causing all of humanity to fall under the curse. This chapter is well known but, it isn't often that we relate it to Christmas. There is reason to link it to this time of year however because of one particular, world changing verse.

## **Genesis 3:15**

*"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."*

This verse points out the beautiful promise that one day, God would deliver us from our sin into relationship with Him again. He tells Eve that out of her line will come the Savior and that Savior will crush the head of the serpent. It comes at a price of "bruising His heel" but, crushing a skull is a far worse wound than bruising a heel. This absolutely links to Jesus Christ's sacrifice on the cross for the sins of man but, it also links to His coming to earth in the form of a human.

Jesus being born of a virgin was something that was predicted in prophecy many times throughout the Old Testament and something that the Jewish people looked for from the time of Genesis 3 onward. Another that looked for His coming was Satan. He immediately began trying to thwart God's promise to save mankind by interrupting the line of Adam and Eve through their son, Cain. He knew that the day would come when his head would be crushed but it is fair to think that he had no idea who would be the One that would come so he started trying to eliminate the potential candidates from the start. Throughout the Old Testament we see Satan, time and again, trying to throw wrenches into the works of God and ultimately it plays into God's plan for salvation because there is nothing Satan can do but wait for the day that his head would be crushed by the seed of Eve.

Jesus being born to Mary was the moment that mankind was waiting for. Jews had been hoping and praying for the Messiah since Genesis 3 knowing that they were separated from God due to their sin and needing reconciliation that was more permanent than the sacrificial system. When Gabriel went to Mary in chapter 1 of Luke he brought hope of this coming Messiah.

## **Luke 1:31-33**

*"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and there will be no end of His kingdom."*

This promised King, Messiah, Prophet from God had finally come, and He came down to earth in the form of a baby. There was no riding on clouds or trumpets blaring. Just a simple birth in a small manger in the town of Bethlehem. Very inconspicuous and yet, the most momentous occasion of all of human history up to that point.

Remember that even if you cannot see Him moving, Jesus has come and He is still at work in this world, planning forward to the day when He will come down on the clouds in glory and trumpets will sound at His coming. We don't always feel it but, during Christmas time it is good to remember that God keeps His promises and that He is always working things together for His purpose and His glory.

*- Pastor Andrew*

Merry Christmas Pathway Family,

Consider the marvelous truth of our Savior's birth. Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, took on flesh, arriving not in splendor but in a humble stable. This is no small thing! He who spoke the stars into existence was laid in a feeding trough, showing us the depth of His love and humility.

Let us not keep this truth confined to a season. If Christ's coming means anything to us, let it transform us. Here are some practical ways to live in light of His birth:

- First, each morning, thank the Lord for His presence with you. Pray for a heart that reflects His humility and compassion. Begin each day remembering that God is with us.
- Second, find a way to give of yourself as Jesus gave. Whether by sharing a meal with someone in need or reaching out to the lonely, let your life overflow with His love. Don't wait for someone else to act—be the hands and feet of Christ right where you are.
- Third, keep Jesus at the center of your conversations. When you speak, let your words be full of grace, as if He Himself were standing beside you. Let others see the peace and kindness of our Savior in you.
- And finally, gather often with other believers. We are encouraged and strengthened by one another's faith. Pray together, share what Jesus is doing in your lives, and remind each other of the hope we have in Him.

So, family, live with hearts full of wonder. Let His birth be the guiding light in all you do. Keep your eyes on Jesus, for He is worthy of our lives, our love, and our praise.

In Christ's love,

*- Pastor Rob*

# FAMILY ADVENT CALENDAR

<p>Read the story of how God sent joy to the world with the gift of His Son, Jesus, with this Advent reading plan. We've also included some ideas on the back for your family to celebrate the season together and with others.</p>		<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Read Isaiah 7:14</p> 	<p><b>2</b></p>  <p>Read Isaiah 9:6-7</p>			
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>Read John 3:16-17</p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-28</p> 	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:29-31</p> 	<p><b>6</b></p>  <p>Read Luke 1:32-33</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:34-38</p> 	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:39-40</p> 	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:41-45</p> 
<p><b>10</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:46-56</p> 	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 1:18-25</p> 	<p><b>12</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:1-5</p> 	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:6-7</p> 	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>Read John 1:14</p> 	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:8-9</p> 	
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:10-14</p> 	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:15-17</p> 	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:19-20</p> 	<p><b>19</b></p> <p>Read Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 2:17-18</p> 	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:25-35</p> 	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>Read Luke 2:36-38</p> 	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 2:1-12</p> 
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 2:13-15</p> 	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Read Matthew 2:19-23</p> 	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>Read Luke 1:26-2:38</p> 				

# Advent Activities

These activities can be done at any time during the month of December. Put them on your family calendar, or randomly select one to do when you have time.

## Acts of Kindness

Make a list of holiday-inspired acts of kindness you can show to those in service industries, such as delivery drivers, grocery store employees, or hospital employees. Make a plan to do at least one act of kindness this week.

## Holiday Package

Create a holiday care package for someone who needs some extra holiday cheer. Include a card, photos, and a few special treats.

## Holiday Dinner

Head to the library to grab some books about how other cultures celebrate the holidays. Find a restaurant to visit to enjoy some native foods.

## Celebrating Gifts

Make a note of the gifts/abilities you notice God has given each of your family members. During a meal time, share with each other what you believe those gifts are.



## Experience Advent in a new and meaningful way.

The Advent Experience Box includes everything you need to inspire simple moments that require little planning to create a Christmas with meaning —Scripture readings, activities, discussion questions, and more all in one box!

**BUY YOUR BOX** →

