

Resurrection – A Mother’s Promise

May 8, 2011

Texts: Luke 2:21-38

The proud parents gaze in wonder over their new baby boy, so perfect, so full of promise. As any parent knows, this is an experience that they would never forget. All the months that led up to this day filled with expectation and experiences –

- getting a place ready for the new arrival,
- facing the rapid changes in her body, discomfort and nausea. (In our daughter-in-law’s case it was nine months of morning sickness in varying degrees.)

But, in that moment when they may embrace this gift of new life in their arms the sting of pregnancy and preparation vanish.

So it must have been for Mary and Joseph, their precious promise, the baby Jesus, born out of time, but none the less loved. Jesus is presented to the priest in the temple on the eighth day in observance of the ancient rites

- dedication for a first-born boy-child,
- circumcision,
- naming and redeeming with a gift, and
- purification of the mother after childbirth.

Since all first born both human and animal offspring belonged to the Lord, the law specified offering for the redemption of the firstborn was a lamb. That being a fairly high price, a provision was made for the poor who couldn’t manage it was a turtledove. For the purification of the mother, another turtle dove was required. They bring two turtledoves, known as the offering of the poor.

No doubt Mary had similar hopes and dreams as other mothers feel. Yet, there was the astonishing announcement by the angel, Gabriel concerning this child. He proclaimed this boy to be the one to take David’s ancient throne as the **holy Son of God FOREVER. Jesus** would be his name which proclaims, “**God is SAVIOR!**” Nine long months of pregnancy then the labor, a near child herself, would not dim Mary’s memory or hope. Even the grueling journey from Nazareth in the north to Bethlehem in the south in the final days before the baby came did not dampen the expectation she must have felt. As she and Joseph approached the altar, a figure approaches, a grandfatherly character of considerable age, Simeon. Beaming with joy he speaks of God’s salvation through this child, bringing light to all humankind, the glory of Israel. God’s promise to him was complete, that he would live to see the deliverer of his people, a baby boy whom he lifts high in praise – much for her to ponder and treasure in her heart (2:19).

OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO MAKES PROMISES.

His words that day carried far more than thanksgiving. They not only promise but pain:

- The falling and rising of many in Israel
- opposed by many
- a sign from God exposing the true intentions of hearts
- and a sword shall pierce your own heart, Mary.

These indeed would be his destiny:

1. The descendent and rightful heir to David’s throne
2. The One who would demonstrate the life of sacrificial love God demands
3. Raising up the downtrodden, the outcast, the hopeless to the very presence of God
4. Whose path of sacrificial love would indeed pass through the heart-piercing devastation of crucifixion and entombment

None would expect this of their Messiah, nor Mary of her precious son. Who would expect, much less embrace such a role for the one who establish the glorious eternal kingdom of Israel? He was forsaken by all...save the one who bore him and her closest friends. The promise she had tended and treasured, her own hope and dreams were crushed under the hammer that drove the nails through his flesh. And with each blow like a blow to her own flesh, the spear in his side, a sword piercing her own heart. This one of whom the angel said, "Hail, O favored one..." was left with nothing but a promise. Mary stood at the foot of his cross and watched him die, followed to the tomb, watched them roll the stone over the door. She had nothing left but God's promise,

He will be the Son of God most high, reigning on David's throne.

Name him JESUS – GOD IS SAVIOR

OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO MAKES PROMISES

Three days she waited for God to remember HIS promise. But, when it seemed there was nothing left to **wait** for, her flickering hope burst forth, victorious over sin, death, and the grave to glorious new life. **HE IS ALIVE!**

She could not place her trust in her son as wonderful as he was. His body they destroyed. **But, she waited and trusted in the God who makes promises.**

THE RESURRECTION WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF HER PROMISE.

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

So many others throughout the history have clung to God's promises to get them through their dark valleys. Job, from the Old Testament book by the same name, was also suffered more than anyone could believe or endure, at no fault of his own. He was living as righteously as any on earth. He lost his property, all his children, even his health, and his wife even turned against him. He was left with nothing and no one to trust in. He could not place his hope in things or even those closest to him. After waiting what must have seemed a lifetime, at the depths of his "valley of the shadow of death", he cries,

I know my Redeemer Lives! (Job 19:25)

OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Isaiah wrote: ***Your Redeemer is the HOLY ONE of Israel.*** (Isa. 41:14)

OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Mary is not alone in this world. How many mothers, sisters, daughters, or fathers, brothers, and sons for that matter, have experienced such devastation of having all they had hoped and dreamed wrapped up in the life of one so precious to them crushed and destroyed? How many wives or husbands have felt the pain of death as they watched their "better-half" endure unspeakable pain? Where does one turn when, like Mary, it seems all is lost? Wait on the Lord. God is faithful.

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Thousands suffered unbelievable loss the last few weeks, hundreds have perished in the tsunami, the wild fires, the floods and the storms. For some it seems like all is lost, nothing worth living for. Perhaps you know that feeling having suffered devastating loss in your life. Maybe you have wondered where your friends or family were when you needed them. Where was God when you needed him the most? Wait on the Lord. The Lord is faithful.

THE RESURRECTION WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF MARY'S PROMISE.

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Resurrection – A Mother’s Promise NOTES

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Texts: Luke 2:21-38

Proud parents gaze in wonder over their baby boy full of promise and wonder

-Months of preparation and discomfort

All forgotten in moment they embrace gift of new life

Mary & Joseph’s promise- Jesus

Present him at temple on his eighth day

- dedication for a first-born boy-child,
- circumcision,
- naming and redeeming with a gift, and
- purification of the mother after childbirth.

Bring an offering of redemption for child

and offering for her purification- two turtledoves

Mary had similar hopes and dreams as all mothers

-Announce she is favored by God

-She will have a son who will take David’s throne

-He will be the Holy Son of God, forever

-Name him Jesus, “God is Savior”

OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO MAKES PROMISES

Simeon appears, delivers God’s word

- The falling and rising of many in Israel
- opposed by many
- sign from God exposing true intentions of hearts
- a sword shall pierce your own heart, Mary.

These indeed would be his destiny:

1. The descendent and rightful heir to David’s throne

2. The One who would demonstrate the life of
sacrificial love God demands

3. Raising up the downtrodden, the outcast, the
hopeless to the very presence of God

4. Whose path of sacrificial love would indeed pass
through the heart-piercing devastation of crucifixion and entombment

-Not what they expected for their son

- Not what everyone expected for their Messiah
- Forsaken by all, except the one who bore him
- Hammer drove nails, like crushed her own flesh
- Mary stood at foot of cross watched him die, tomb,
stone rolled over the door,
- sealed everything but her hope in God's promise

Son of God most high, King forever

Name- Jesus – GOD IS SAVIOR

OUR GOD IS A GOD WHO MAKES PROMISES

Three days waiting for God to remember promise.

She could not place her trust in anyone, even son. When nothing left to wait for, her flickering hope burst forth, victorious over sin, death, grave

HE IS ALIVE!

She waited and trusted in the God who makes promises.

THE RESURRECTION WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF HER PROMISE.

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

Others in history have clung to God's promises:

- Job, at the depths of loss and despair
I know my Redeemer Lives! (Job 19:25)

- Isaiah wrote: (Isa. 41:14)
Your Redeemer is the HOLY ONE of Israel

OUR LIVING GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES

Mary not alone, many have suffered loss of all they hoped and dreamed in- mothers, fathers, daughters, sons, brothers, sisters, spouses, unspeakable pain.

Where does one turn, like Mary, when all is lost?

Wait on the Lord. God is faithful!

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.

Thousands suffered loss, tsunami, fires, floods, storms. Everything lost for many, loss of life. Wondering where are those who care about them? Where is God when we need him most?

Wait on the Lord. Our God Is Faithful.

THE RESURRECTION WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF MARY'S PROMISE.

THE RESURRECTION PROVES OUR GOD IS FAITHFUL TO KEEP HIS PROMISES.