

Sermon outline notes:

God's Plan of Salvation

Introduction

The stories that Mary told the young Jesus came from the Old Testament. So did the songs he sang. When Satan tempted Jesus in the wilderness, Jesus quoted these scriptures in response. Jesus' own story is rooted in the history of Israel. Old Testament wisdom, revelation and prophesy shaped his world view. The Old Testament tells the story that Jesus completes and the Old Testament makes the promise that Jesus fulfils.

We need to consider Jesus in the light of the Old Testament and to read our Old Testament in the light of Jesus.

1) A Fallen World

- (a) God created a very good world, Genesis 1 v31.
- (b) However from Genesis 4 to Genesis 11 we have the unfolding story of moral and spiritual decline.
- (c) This decline reaches its climax with the Tower of Babel story– the nations become cursed by God. A question is asked—can the nations of the earth ever be restored to the blessing and favour of God?
- (d) The call of Abraham and a threefold promise:
 - a great nation
 - a land
 - all nations will be blessed.
- (e) Two promises are fulfilled by the sixth book of the Old Testament (see Joshua 21 vv43-45).
- (f) The third promise is fulfilled through Jesus, see Galatians 3 vv 6-9; 3 vv 15-16; Revelations 7 vv 9-10 and Acts 1 vv 7-8. Nations are invited to the blessing of the Gospel.

2) A Creation Promise

- Many Bible scholars understand God's statement in Genesis 3 v15 as the promise of Jesus.
- The serpent symbolises Satan, the reign of sin, death and the power of evil. God is saying 'I will do something about the catastrophic fall

of man.' We can hear echoes of Genesis 3 v 15 in Galatians 4 v 4 and Hebrews 2 v14.

3) Matthews Genealogy: Matthew 1 vv 1–17

- (a) In beginning his Gospel in this way Matthew is saying that we will only understand Jesus properly if we see him in the light of the Old Testament story which Jesus completes and brings to its climax.
- (b) Have you ever thought about why the early church chose Matthew as number one in the order of the Gospels? There is a reason!
- (c) Matthew's genealogy is the 'interface', the link between the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Points to Ponder

- (1) Share communion in your group this week.
- (2) Was anything said in the sermon which particularly spoke to you?
- (3) Look carefully at Matthew's genealogy. Does anything surprise you? Is it a complete list of Jesus descendents? If not, what is Matthew doing?
What does the phrase 'Son of David' mean?

Notes: