

Advent Sunday ~ Sunday, November 29, 2020

“Prepare Him Room: The Seed”

Genesis 3:1-24

*Joy to the World* calls us to \_\_\_\_\_ amidst the busyness of the season; and the uncertainty, frustration, and fear caused by COVID, to intentionally \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts for the coming of Jesus—not just as a baby in Bethlehem; but also as King of Glory at the end of the age.

This call to prepare for the coming of Jesus has been going on in Scripture from the very \_\_\_\_\_. And across the Old Testament, the prophets and people of God have been calling us to prepare for, and \_\_\_\_\_ to, the person and work of Jesus.

Genesis chapter 3, describes how Eve succumbed to the serpent’s \_\_\_\_\_ to eat the forbidden fruit and how Adam, who was standing beside her the whole time, abdicated his spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ by not doing anything thing to stop her.

The day of \_\_\_\_\_ is swift, as God comes to them in the garden—even though they hid themselves from Him in \_\_\_\_\_.

“God asked; ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ (Genesis 3:12-13)

The moment of sentencing has come; and God pronounces three \_\_\_\_\_, three words of divine judgment.

“‘Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly, you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel...I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain, you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you... Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:14-19)

God doesn’t just \_\_\_\_\_ Adam and Eve for their transgression; He curses all of \_\_\_\_\_ and the world in which we live. The Westminster Shorter Catechism perfectly summarizes this curse as the “\_\_\_\_\_ of sin and misery” into which we’ve all fallen in the wake of Adam’s first transgression.

The language of moving on his belly and licking the dust in verse 14 is intended to be a double entendre. It describes simultaneously the behaviour of a snake and provides a graphic metaphor of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

The woman will have pain in childbirth and along with it, she’ll endure the constant \_\_\_\_\_ of her most intimate relationship.

However, right in the middle of it, there shines a note of \_\_\_\_\_. “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” (Gen 3:15)

We worship a God who loves to bring good out of evil; \_\_\_\_\_ out of curses.

### THE THREE PERSPECTIVES OF GENESIS 3:15

#1. **Genesis 3:15 and \_\_\_\_\_.**

“I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring.” (Genesis 3:15a)

In speaking this word of judgment on the serpent, God establishes human history as one long record of spiritual \_\_\_\_\_.

Across all the ages, a terrible conflict rages between two \_\_\_\_\_ into which all people are divided. We’re either the seed of the serpent or we’re the seed of the woman. We either live in the grip of Satan’s \_\_\_\_\_ or we’re the heirs of redeeming \_\_\_\_\_, and children of God. And between these two groups, God says there will be perpetual \_\_\_\_\_.

Right from the very beginning, at the dawn of human history, we’re told that life for a child of God is going to mean \_\_\_\_\_. In fact, the announcement of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem is more than just “good news of great joy for all people,” but also a declaration of \_\_\_\_\_.

We should never forget to cultivate a wartime \_\_\_\_\_.

“flesh and blood, against the rulers and authorities and the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Eph 6:12)

And the weapons we use in this spiritual battle aren't \_\_\_\_\_—we don't use guns and bombs to fight this war. We fight by wielding the \_\_\_\_\_—the Word of God—and by being clothed in the \_\_\_\_\_. Praying always that God's \_\_\_\_\_ through us might be seen.

## #2. Genesis 3:15 and the \_\_\_\_\_.

“He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:15b)

At the heart of this age-old conflict stands a climactic \_\_\_\_\_ between one individual and the serpent. This passage is telling us that of the many who are of the \_\_\_\_\_ of the woman, one shall come who will be our \_\_\_\_\_

“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

“Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.” (1 John 3:8)

Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, is the seed of the woman of whom God speaks as He \_\_\_\_\_ the serpent. As the heir of this ancient promise, He's the One who will do what Adam should have done in the first place, but didn't. He will be a second and \_\_\_\_\_ Adam who will \_\_\_\_\_ the serpent's head.

When God pronounces sentence on our sin, Jesus doesn't throw us under the bus or shift the blame—He \_\_\_\_\_ it!

God provides the only adequate \_\_\_\_\_ for their shame, though it required the \_\_\_\_\_ of blood.

Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman, will \_\_\_\_\_ Himself to the condemnation of God that we might live, and by the shedding of His own blood at the cross, provide the true \_\_\_\_\_ for our sin.

There are many things that we can turn to to \_\_\_\_\_ our guilt. We can turn, as is common in this season, to the trappings of \_\_\_\_\_. Or, equally common this season, we can run to \_\_\_\_\_ in an attempt to hide from our guilt. We can immerse ourselves in the \_\_\_\_\_ of work to drown out the condemning voice of our guilt. Or we can fill our days with \_\_\_\_\_ in the vain attempt to offset our guilt with good behaviour. However, in the end, all we have is fig leaves \_\_\_\_\_ sewn together in an attempt to cover our shame.

To be a Christian is to give up the futile \_\_\_\_\_ that we often make to cover our own sin; and instead to receive the only adequate covering that God provides—the covering of Jesus' blood, and \_\_\_\_\_.

We need to stop sewing fragile, feeble fig leaves together—our own best efforts to cover and hide. And we need to \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ who's the only one who can adequately cover our shame.

## #3. Genesis 3:15 and the \_\_\_\_\_.

Over and over again in the Scriptures, there are \_\_\_\_\_ to this passage as the Bible talks about the final \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ at the end of the age and the victory of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God along with Him

The Biblical message is clear: Jesus Christ, the seed of the woman, the baby of Bethlehem, the man of Calvary, the Lord on the throne, \_\_\_\_\_—His victory \_\_\_\_\_.

“They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.” (Isaiah 65:23-25)

One day soon, God is going to make everything \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. And His people will dwell in \_\_\_\_\_ through the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ.

“The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” (Romans 16:20)

The day is surely coming when the head of the serpent will be crushed; when all \_\_\_\_\_ will end; and every \_\_\_\_\_ will cease. This is the promised \_\_\_\_\_ of the seed of the woman—a victory that we'll all someday \_\_\_\_\_ in.

We can face the days and weeks ahead, not in \_\_\_\_\_, but with bright \_\_\_\_\_, that even in the darkest moments, the Lord Jesus—the Light of the World—shines brightly like the morning star shining in the darkness of the blackest night. Reminding us that though things may look bleak, \_\_\_\_\_ is coming soon.

**The question is: Has this hope captured your heart?**