



From Our Vicar

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God Keeps His Promises

From time to time. I hear a parent say to a child (often in movies) 'I promise!' I find myself wincing at such words, especially when it is about something beyond the parent's control. As my mother-in-law of beloved memory was famed to say, 'A promise is a promise!' The scriptures even teach that it is better not to make a vow at all than to do so and not to keep it.

God is not like that. His word is his bond. God does not change his mind, saying yes and no in the same breath.

From very early on God promised Abraham that he and Sarah would have a child through whom all nations would be blessed. God promised to send another prophet like Moses, who the people were commanded to listen to. David was promised that he would always have a descendant on the throne – a promise which seemed to have failed when kingship was no more. Yet the prophets spoke of a Righteous Branch from David's line that would emerge and bring justice and peace and be a light to the nations.

Hints were given that this One would be of ancient origin, born of a young maiden (implicitly a virgin), born in Bethlehem, descended from David, and much else besides in terms of his life, the manner and purpose of his death and his resurrection!

Christmas provides within history overwhelming evidence that God keeps his promises.

It also warns us not to presume on the manner of how that promise will be kept. Who would have expected the Messiah to be born in a cattle-shed, and lowly shepherds and Gentile Magi to be among those chosen by God to bring him worship? Who would have expected him to grow up in obscurity in such a forgotten and despised backwater as Nazareth?

Christmas reminds us that God can be trusted with our lives. Mary dared to do so and all over the world we call her blessed. We also therefore can rely on God's promises to us. Especially the promise that those who seek him with all their heart will find him and be found by him. Jer 29:13

Take heart and dare to trust your needs and your life to Jesus. God keeps his promises!

A blessed Christmas to all,

Wayne