

Notes for the Ekklēsia Meeting

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The Seed of Redemption

by Dan Trygg

“And Yahweh God said to the serpent, ‘...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall strike you on the head, and you shall strike him on the heel.’” Genesis 3:14,15

“I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens, and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of his enemies. ¹⁸ And in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...” Genesis 22:17-18

“I will raise up your seed after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.” II Samuel 7:12-13

“...in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, ...it will crush and put an end to all these kingdoms, but it will itself endure forever.” Daniel 2:44

“...unless a seed... falls into the earth and dies, it remains by itself alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.” John 12:24

The drama of redemption begins right after Adam and Eve sinned. As God confronted them, and the serpent, about their actions, He uttered the prophecy that the **“seed of the woman” would strike, or crush, the head of the serpent.** This is the first clue of what He intended to do to save humanity. We learn that **it will be a human offspring who will defeat the powers of darkness.** In freeing humanity from the serpent's curse and domination, the “seed of the woman” will be “struck” by the serpent. It sounds like *both* parties receive a potentially fatal wound. The language is peculiar, in that you would expect that it would be the “seed of the man”, not that of a woman.

The next passage mentioning “seed” is Genesis 12:7. **God called Abram** (ca. 1880 B.C.) **to leave his country and his family to go to a land He would show him. Once there, God promises to give this land to his “seed”.** As time goes on, God extends this promise to possession of the land “forever” (13:15,16), and tells him that **his “seed” will be as innumerable as the dust of the earth.** After Abram had been in the land for ten years, and remained childless, he inquired of God, and Yahweh reassured him that **his seed would be as numerous and incalculable as the stars of heaven.** They will wander as strangers in a land not theirs for 400 years. They will experience slavery and hardship, but in the 4th generation, they would return with wealth to take possession of this land (15:13,16). **Abram believes God, and is counted righteous** before Him. Then in chapter 17, when Abram is 99 years old, God appears to him, saying, “Now I will establish My covenant with you.” He changes his name to Abraham (‘Father of a Multitude’), saying, “I will make you the father of a *multitude of nations*.” **Yahweh very clearly predicts the birth of Isaac, and promises to extend the covenant through him.** Isaac is born, as God had predicted (21:1-5).

Then in chapter 22, God asks Abraham to offer up his son, Isaac, on an altar as a burnt offering. It was a test of faith. People of his day had come to believe in many gods. Many of them required human sacrifices, especially children, as part of their worship. He had no way of knowing what Yahweh desired of those who worshiped Him. Isaac was a miraculous child of promise, the heir given to him in his old age. **For God to ask him to offer up Isaac seemed incredulous, but Abraham decided that he had to trust Yahweh.** As he prepared to kill Isaac, **God stopped him and showed him a ram stuck in the thicket as a substitute for Isaac.** Because he had been willing to offer up his only son, **God knew Abraham's love and trust were total. As a result, God said, “through your seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed”** (22:18). Moreover, the “seed” is to come through Isaac (26:3,4).

The promise of Abraham is passed down through Isaac's son, Jacob (28:4,13,14; 32:13; 35:10-12). Jacob and his “seed” went down to Egypt (46:6,7). **The prophecy of Genesis 15 comes to pass. Israel multiplies and becomes a threat to the Egyptians, who enslave and oppress them under the sign of a serpent** (the cobra was the royal symbol of Pharaoh)! Then, at the precise time, **God delivered them with a mighty hand** as they are led out by Moses. **They leave Egypt with the great wealth freely given to them by the Egyptians** (Ex. 12:35,36). After a nearly 50 day journey, they come to Mt. Sinai in the wilderness. **There God makes a covenant with the children of Israel. If they keep this covenant, God will make them to be a kingdom of priests and a holy nation** (19:6).

There are several other prophetic covenants made with individuals and their “seed”, but the next one in our lineage of the Seed of Redemption is found in II Samuel 7. There **David has finally been established as king over the twelve tribes of Israel. He had settled into his palace, and Yahweh had given him peace on every side.** He realizes that while *he* is living in a *palace* of cedar, the *ark of God* dwells in *tent* curtains. **He intends to build a house for God,** but God sends Nathan the prophet to stop him. It was good that he intended to do this, but he was not the man to do it. **Instead of building a house (temple) for God, God would build a house (dynasty) for him.** Yahweh declared that He would raise up a “seed” after David, one who would come from his loins, and the Lord promised to establish *his* kingdom. Furthermore, **this “seed of David” would build a house for Yahweh, and**

Yahweh will establish his kingdom forever. David's house (lineage) and his kingdom (dynasty) would last forever before God, and David's throne would be established forever.

Then, in a seemingly disconnected prophecy, Isaiah, nearly three hundred years later, tells the Davidic king of his day, Ahaz, that **a young woman would bear a child, and they will call his name Immanuel, meaning "God is with us"**. In the immediate circumstances, the import of this was that before this boy child would be old enough to tell the difference between right and wrong, the two kings threatening Ahaz would no longer be a threat. This was fulfilled in the days of Isaiah and Ahaz. As an unimagined bonus, however, when this passage was translated from the Hebrew into the Greek Septuagint translation, about 250 years before Christ, the translators chose to use a Greek word, *parthenos*, which means "virgin". Thus, **for over two hundred years, Greek-speaking Jews were reading "the Lord will give a sign to you, 'Behold, a virgin will be with child, and will give birth to a son, and you will call his name Emmanuel."** In chapter 8, however, because the people rejected God's help, Isaiah prophesied that the Assyrians would come through like a flood, and take away the northern kingdom. They will experience distress, gloom and be driven away into darkness. Nevertheless, **God was not done with them, nor with His promise to David.** In chapter 9, this very land which God had treated with contempt, later on "He will make it glorious, by the 'way of the sea' (the caravan route running on the western side of the sea of Galilee), ... Galilee of the gentiles. **The people who walk in darkness will see a great light**" (vss. 1,2). **God will give them a child, a Davidic king, whose name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Father of Eternity. There will be no end to the increase of His government, or of peace** (vss. 6,7). It will not be by human design, but "*Yahweh's zeal will accomplish this*".

Another contemporary of Isaiah's, **Micah, prophesied that one "whose goings forth are from ancient times, from days of eternity" will come from Bethlehem to be ruler in Israel** (Mic. 5:2).

In the intervening centuries, between Isaiah's original prophecy, and its translation nearly half a millennium later, the Jewish people *were* defeated by their enemies and taken into exile. **While Daniel and his friends were in Babylon as young men, King Nebuchadnezzar had a dream that alarmed him.** In the dream, he saw a figure. The head was of gold, the chest and arms of silver, the belly and thighs of bronze, the legs of iron, and the feet were partly iron and partly clay. As he watched, **a stone was cut out, without hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron mixed with clay, and crushed them.** Then the *whole statue* was crushed by the stone and *was blown away* by the wind, so *no trace of it could be found.* **Then the stone became a great mountain that filled the entire earth** (Dan. 2:31-35). In the interpretation (vss. 36-45), each metal portion of the statue represented a succeeding kingdom or empire. Nebuchadnezzar was the head of gold. We know from history, the Babylonians were defeated by the Medio-Persian alliance, and they became the next empire. They, in turn, were conquered and overrun by Alexander the Great, so the Greeks became the next ruling empire. The Romans defeated the Greeks in 146 BC, and they reigned for 1500 years. Daniel's interpretation said, **"In the days of those kings (the Romans), the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed,** and that kingdom will not be left for another people; it will crush and put an end to *all* these kingdoms, but it will itself endure *forever*" (2:44).

When the angel announced that Mary would bear a son to be the Davidic king, she asked *how* this would happen. The angel replied that **she would conceive in her virgin womb by the power of the Holy Spirit, so that this holy offspring would be called the Son of God.** She was to call Him Jesus (Yahweh's salvation). He would *rule on the throne of David, and His kingdom would never end* (Lk. 1:26-33). Then, the Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, commanded that all the people of his empire should return to their father's home town, so they could be enrolled and pay a tax. Because both Mary and Joseph were from the house of David, they had to go to *Bethlehem*, their ancestral home. Thus, **Jesus, the Davidic seed, was born of a virgin in Bethlehem in the days of the Roman kings.** He was here on a mission, ...a mission from His Father. **He was the seed of the woman, who would strike and crush the head of the serpent.** Narrowly escaping a preemptive strike by Satan (Matt. 2), God directed his parents to return to Nazareth in Galilee. **His life was full of symbolism and fulfilled prophecy.** For example, **He was a builder by trade, a craftsman and a constructor of houses.** Peter's confession of Jesus as the Anointed-King (Matt. 16:18), was the "bedrock" that He will use to build (lit., 'house-build') His called-out people. **He is going to build a house for God,** and "Hades gates will not be strong against" them. Jesus' people are to be *on the offensive* against Satan. Yet, Jesus' influence is not won the world's way, by force and domination. **God loved us enough to send His Son to be the ram in the thicket,** wrapped up in thorns and sacrificed to take *our* place, break Satan's power, and purchase us for Him. Whereas Yahweh had multiplied and preserved Abram's descendants, He had sent Jesus, the eternal-Word-made-flesh, to fulfill that *Abrahamic* promise. **He came to redeem us from bondage to the oppressive serpent, to gather for Himself a people who are willing to live for God, ...a kingdom of priests from many nations. He was the Seed who was willing to lay down His life to release the power of love and forgiveness to draw many others, and bear much fruit.** Those who are His are *also* called to lay *their* self-lives down, to expand His Kingdom on the earth.