

Theme: In ages past God made a promise to conquer sin and death, to make known His love and mercy. Heaven and earth would be ordered to assure the fulfillment of that promise – a promise God alone could make and keep.

Introduction: Some promises are hard to keep – but worth it!

I. The Seed of Promise - Promises in the Garden

- A. You will surely die! Genesis 2:17
 - Physical death not immediate, but inescapable
 - Spiritual death was immediate – and devastating

- B. Your offspring will live! Genesis 3:15
 - 1. They will have children
 - but the curse will continue

 - 2. One of their offspring will bring peace
 - bruising the head of the serpent (deceiver)

- C. The “promise” is not forgotten

II. The Promise Takes Root

- A. Through the line of Abraham
 - 1. The Promise to Abraham
 - a. Genesis 12:1-3
 - A great nation
 - A great name

 - b. Genesis 15:1-6
 - It will be your own son
 - Abraham believed (counted as righteousness!)

 - 2. Dependent upon God, not Man
 - a. God’s oath (Genesis 15:7-21)

 - b. Sarah’s solution (Genesis 16)

 - 3. The promise is affirmed and expanded (Genesis 17)
 - Nations and Kings
 - An everlasting covenant (7,8)

- B. The line is established (in 600 years!)
 - Isaac
 - Jacob and Esau
 - The 12 tribes of Israel
 - Over a million leave Egypt

III. The Promise Firmly Planted

- With greater fullness of understanding

A. A people with a purpose

1. A people of His promise (Deuteronomy 7:6-8)
 - Established as a result of God's promise
2. An instrument of His promises
 - Means by which His promise would be fulfilled
3. Pointing to the Promised One
 - Moses as mediator, interceder

And 400 years pass

B. A great nation

1. Kings in the family
 - David, a man after God's own heart (1 Samuel 13:14)
2. An eternal King (2 Samuel 7:12,13)

And 400 years pass

C. The prophets speak of the Promise

1. Of God's judgment
 - It is still the choice of the garden
Believe and trust God
Or believe you can *be like* God
2. Of the Promise
 - a. God Himself will come
 - Isaiah 7:14, a virgin will conceive
 - Isaiah 45:21
 - b. A righteous "branch" (Jeremiah 23:21)
 - Our "righteousness"
 - c. To bear our sin (Isaiah 53)

And 600 years would pass

IV. The Fruit of the Promise

- A. At just the right time (Galatians 4:4)
- B. The plan of history revealed
- C. The Promise of eternity past (Ephesians 1:2,3)
 - With the Father and the Son
- D. New promises held in the first
 - The gift of the Spirit
 - His promised return
- E. Hope and trust to fulfill all He has promised!