Sunday School talk 26/12/21 Years 5, 6, Bible and College class

I don’t know if you like chocolate advent calendars, but in our family it’s been a tradition for the last few years for each of us as we count down the days to Christmas. I’m sure you know that as you open each day’s door, there will be a sweet or chocolate behind the door. This one I’ve got today is completely empty as we’ve eaten all the goodies that were in it.

Today, I thought we’d do our lesson based around a simple advent calendar. Only 6 doors to open as it were. So, let’s open the first one and see what’s behind this. *Invite one child to take the first number and see what’s behind it – It’s an Old Testament text and invite the child to read the text aloud, then the child will receive a sweet.*

The first text is from Genesis 3:15 “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel”. Why are we thinking about this text today? Well today is of course Boxing Day, the day after Christmas Day, but just because 25th December has come and gone, it is still important to think about the Lord Jesus Christ and why He came into the world. This verse is the first prophecy or promise given in the Bible about the coming of the Lord into the world.

I’m sure you remember that the first book of the Bible is Genesis, and this book tells us about how God created the heaven and the earth. At the end of the first chapter of Genesis, it says that after God finished His work of creation on the sixth day, he looked at all that He made and declared it very good. The Lord then rested on the seventh day. Everything seemed so wonderful in that early period of Earth’s history, but then comes Genesis 3, the saddest part of the Bible. I’m sure you remember about the Fall of Man, when Adam and Eve sinned by eating the fruit that the Lord had told them not to eat. As a result of Adam’s sin, the Lord cursed His creation and death came into the world. All of Adam’s descendants, and that includes you and me, are now stained and corrupted by Adam’s sin. We are now separated from God because of our sin, and we deserve God’s anger and judgement. However, this verse was the first promise that God would make a way of salvation for Adam & Eve and their descendants. The seed of the woman would come who would bruise or crush the head of the Serpent, Satan. That seed of the woman is of course none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

So, let’s move on. *Invite 2nd child to turn over door 2 and read that text out.* This is from later in Genesis chapter 22 verse 8 “And Abraham said, My son, God will provide Himself a lamb for a burnt offering”. Do you remember a couple of weeks ago at Sunday School we say how the Lord arrived in Jerusalem? We thought back to God’s dealings in the Old Testament. When the Lord came to the Temple, where was that? Remember how we learnt that it was Mount Moriah where the Temple would later be built? And what happened at Mount Moriah? Abraham was commanded by the Lord to sacrifice his son, Isaac. Remember how Isaac said to Abraham “Where is the offering for sacrifice, father?” Abraham’s reply was that God would provide Himself a lamb. That particular day, as the Lord called out to Abraham to stop just as he was about to kill Isaac, the Lord provided a ram caught in a thicket which they offered in Isaac’s place. The lamb that Abraham referred to was the promised seed of the woman who would come to bruise Satan’s head.

*Invite 3rd child to turn over door 3 and read that text out.* This text is from Deuteronomy 18:15 “The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto Him ye shall hearken”. The Lord brought the Israelites out of Egypt into the wilderness. When they came to Mount Sinai, Moses was given the Law on tablets of stone. Because of the Israelites’ sin and unbelief, they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years before they were allowed to enter the promised land. But just before Moses died, he gave the Israelites this great promise of a Prophet who would arise from the midst of thee, of thy brethren. He would be a Jew like them and when He would come, the Israelites were commanded to hearken or listen to Him. Who was this Prophet? None other than the Lord Jesus Christ, Who had been promised as a saviour from sin. The Bible makes it clear that the Lord Is Prophet, Priest and King to His people. It is the Lord Who will reveal the truth of His word to us.

*Invite 4th child to turn over door 4 and read that text out.* This text is from 1Chronicles 17:11-12 “I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish His kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will stablish His throne for ever”. Do you remember in that same lesson a couple of weeks ago when we thought about Abraham at Mount Moriah that we also learned of how David prepared the site for the Temple to be built? Again, this was at Mount Moriah, the same place where Abraham was going to sacrifice Isaac. David was a great man of God, but he wasn’t to be allowed to build the Temple. The Lord revealed to him that one of his sons would build the Temple. It was Solomon of course who built the physical Temple at Jerusalem on the site of Mount Moriah. But this prophecy went even further than Just Solomon. Is Solomon alive today? Of course not, he died nearly 3,000 years ago. But this prophecy spoke of one whose throne would be established forever. This was a prophecy of a future descendant of David, who would come as King. None other than the Lord Jesus Christ, the same seed of the woman, the same Lamb given by God for a burnt offering and the same Prophet as revealed to Moses.

*Invite 5th child to turn over door 5 and read that text out.* Our 5th text is from Isaiah 7:14, which we read in our Bible reading “Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel”. The Lord would give a great sign, not to the Jews in that day, but one day, the Lord promised that a virgin should conceive and bear a son. Well I’m sure you know well how the Bible tells us the Holy Spirit came upon Mary and she conceived the Lord Jesus in her womb and He was born at Bethlehem. His name was Immanuel. Can anyone tell me what that means? It means God with us. This was something so amazing that God Himself would come to earth and be with His people. Wonder of wonders that God should come into the earth as a baby. We must remember that the Lord Jesus Christ was not just a man, not just a prophet, not just a great teacher, but He was and is God and because man. He is the seed of the woman (or the seed if you like of the virgin), the Lamb of God, the Prophet promised by Moses, the Son of David and Immanuel, God with us.

*Invite 6th child to turn over door 6 and read that text out.* Again from Isaiah 9:6, which we read earlier “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”. A great promise of a child being born, a son being given, who would rule the world and look at these great names given to Him. Wonderful – do you see Him as wonderful and amazing because you should? He is Counsellor, a faithful friend to all who would believe on Him. He is the mighty God, Who has become man amongst us. He is the everlasting Father. Not to confuse us because it’s not talking about God the Father, but this is telling us that Christ would be like a Father to His people, leading and guiding them through life – He is everlasting, eternal, no beginning and no end. And He is the Prince of Peace, a great ruler Who will bring Peace, peace with God, peace from sin and death.

These thoughts should fill us with wonder about our great Saviour Who came into the world as a babe at Bethlehem. Remember that the Lord Jesus Christ is the promised:

Seed of the woman

The Lamb of God

The great Prophet of His people

Son of David

Immanuel, God with us

Wonderful

Counsellor

The mighty God

The everlasting Father

The Prince of Peace