GOD'S SALVATION PLAN

Genesis 3:14-15

Genesis 12:1-3

Matthew 1:20-23

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- What is the craziest, most far-fetched thing someone has asked you to believe or to just trust them about?
- How do you define a covenant? How is a covenant different than a contract?

Discover why God's plan for salvation is unexpected and unfathomable by human standards. See how God is consistently with and caring for his people, even when we can't see him, and how he stays true to his word, even though we continually show our tendency toward selfishness. By entering into a covenant relationship with us, God promises a plan of salvation. When we trace God's salvation plan through the stories of the Bible, we can readily see the consistent theme of redemption and how Jesus' humility, weakness, and human presence conquer death, bringing about salvation once and for all.

Listen:*God's Salvation Plan*

Reflection

- Reflecting on the story of Abraham, host Dave Bast notes, "God's purpose from the very beginning has been to be a universal savior, a universal blesser of the whole world." Can you think of other Bible stories in which we see God work through one to reach many? Do you think he still works this way today? Why or why not?
- In segment 2, Dave offers this description of how Israel must have felt after 400 years in Egypt: "Israel's spiritual fuel tank is on empty as Exodus opens." Dave and host Scott Hoezee then go on to recap the stories found in the book of Exodus that demonstrate God's activity and that he had not left Israel at all. Scott then reminds us that Israel's story is the "sneak preview" of God living with us. Where have you seen this reality in your life or in the life of your community? Has God ever seemed absent for an extended period of time in your life, but then 1 year, 5 years, or even 10 years later you can see how he was working and living with you all along?
- Toward the end of segment 3, Scott remarks that the Bible tells just one story. Why is it important to trace the theme of redemption in scripture, through the Israelites, the prophets etc? What does it teach us about God? What does it teach us about his plan for salvation? What insights have you gained about God or his plan for salvation by tracing the theme of redemption through all of scripture?

Related Passages

- **Exodus 40:34-35**
- **Ezekiel 10:18-19**
- **Genesis 15:9-18**
- **Luke 1:30-33**
- **John 1:14**

Conclusion

As Scott closes the program he observes that “Jesus came as a humble servant of all, and the Church exists that way today. We are not out here to grab political power or to force people to do anything. We are here also, to be the servants of the Christ who, precisely by being weak—precisely by being one of us—fulfilled all those promises of God...the Devil would try to get him, but never could; and through sacrifice, through humility, through that little child born and laid in a donkey’s feed bunk, salvation has actually come.”

As you ponder and reflect on Scott’s observation, consider: How does this reality encourage you as a servant of Christ? In what ways does it challenge you to sacrifice yourself, your thoughts or opinions, and become more like Jesus Christ your Savior? Write or journal your responses and pray through them.

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