

**Advent Series Themes:** Hope, Peace, Joy, & Love

Love best shown over time rather than moments of passion. God's love has been proven to us over generations: Deuteronomy 7:9, ...*he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations...*

Today we'll look at God's History of Redemption revealed throughout the Scriptures.

**GOD HAS LOVED US (HUMANITY) ENOUGH TO:**

**#1 Create us in His own image**

- God's love was foundational in His decision to create us. He created us with capacity for a relationship with Him.
- Genesis 1:27, ...*in the image of God he created them...*

**#2 Give us a choice to choose Him or not**

- Real love is a choice, not forced. God allowed mankind to freely choose Him or sin. Their choice of sin disrupted their relationship with God: Genesis 3:6-8, ...*ate it...they hid from the Lord God..*
- Yet God lovingly pursued them and promised them a savior: Genesis 3:15, *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*

**#3 Reveal Himself to us through others**

- God's covenant with Abraham reflects His love and His plan for all of us for Israel to be a light for the world.
- Gen. 12:2-3, *I will make you into a great nation...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

**#4 Show us just how bad sin really is**

- Leviticus 5:5-6, *As a penalty for the sin they have committed, they must bring to the Lord a female lamb or goat from the flock as a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement for them for their sin.*
- The sacrifice of an animal in the Bible was a vivid reminder of how serious and destructive sin is, showing the high cost of restoring our relationship with God. Far from being callous, this system reflects God's mercy—providing a way for reconciliation without the human bearing the ultimate penalty. While it's natural to feel compassion for the animal, the deeper purpose was to stir a greater awareness of the weight of our sin and inspire us to turn away from it, recognizing the profound love and justice of God.

**#5 Give us Scripture to guide us**

- God gave His law to reveal His holiness, guide us in the most blessed life, & point to our need for a Savior.
- Deuteronomy 6:24-25, *The Lord commanded us to obey all these decrees and to fear the Lord our God, so that we might always prosper and be kept alive...*
- Text BIBLE to (951)425-4425 to join Cornerstone's 2025 Bible Reading Plan. Start the plan on 1/1/2025.

**#6 Forgive our betrayal of Him**

- Hosea 11:1-2, *When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son. But the more they were called, the more they went away from me...*
- God gave: judges, kings, prophets - they all fell short. Despite Israel's repeated rebellion, God's love remained.

**#7 Give us a new covenant**

- A covenant not based on our obedience, but love. It's written in the language of love: mind, heart, & relationship.
- Jeremiah 31:31-33, "...*I will make a new covenant... because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them... This is the covenant I will make... I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, & they will be my people.*

### **#8 Step into humanity to be with us**

- God's love is shown in the incarnation, where He comes to dwell among us. Immanuel means God with us.
- Isaiah 7:14, ...*The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*

### **#9 Take our sin upon Himself to redeem us**

- Isaiah 53:4-6, *Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.*
- We couldn't obey the law and the sacrificial system was temporary, God prophesied that the Messiah would bear the punishment for all of humanity's sins with one sacrifice powerful enough for all: Hebrews 10:10

### **#10 Patiently wait for you**

- Why wait so long? What was the reason? You are! Each day God delays is a day another person trusts in Jesus.
- 2 Peter 3:9, *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise...Instead he is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.*

### **How can we respond to God's love for us this Christmas season?**

- God's love is shown both through commitment and moments so passionate that the cross is call "The Passion".
- This week, consider these questions that flow from God's love:
  - Who needs to experience your love through acts of patience and commitment?
  - What in your life is preventing you from fully receiving God's love this season?
  - As we near Christmas, can you think of anyone you can invite to church or share the story of God's love with?
- Text GIFT to (951)425-4425 to help one of your favorite ministries at Cornerstone love others in 2025.