

Intro: Forgetfulness. It affects us all to a lesser or greater degree. Especially as we get older, our forgetfulness increases. Unless we write them down, we tend to forget things like appointments, grocery needs, and prayer requests. As our age increases we are bound to forget where we put the car keys, the important papers, and that thing we were sure we would never forget where we put it. We can be quite forgetful. But God never forgets. He always remains faithful to all of his promises, without fail. Already in Eden God promised to send a Savior to fallen mankind. And even though it took many centuries for that promise to be fulfilled, God kept it. On a dark and silent night long ago **God Remembered**. 1) **He remembered his promise to send a Savior**. And because he remembered his promise 2) **The whole world rejoices**.

I. He remembered his promise to send a Savior (1-3)

A. Did God forget?

1. God made many promises over many years
 - a. **(Ge 3:15, “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, any you will strike his heel.”)**
 - b. here is where it all started
 - c. even though Adam and Eve had disobeyed him
 - d. and spurned his love
 - e. and deserved to die eternally on account of their sin
 - f. and all of their descendants after them
 - g. God did not want any sinners to perish eternally
 - h. so, in his miraculous love, he promised to send fallen mankind a Savior
 - i. One who would save sinners from the curse and consequences of their sin
 - j. and God continued to make that same promise
 - k. over the course of thousands of years and many centuries
 - l. through prophets and authors from Amos to Zechariah
 - m. in fact, we just heard some of those many prophecies in our special service last Sunday morning

2. did God forget?

- a. however, since those prophecies stretched over such a long time
- b. and nothing happened
- c. it would have been possible for some to wonder and worry if the Savior would ever come
- d. and to speculate that, perhaps, God had forgotten his promise

B. God remembered

1. a child was born
 - a. but, not to worry – God remembered
 - b. on a silent and dark night long ago the silence was shattered
 - c. and the darkness illuminated
 - d. when the heavenly angel chorus announced that a very special birth had occurred in Bethlehem
 - e. that heavenly chorus heralded **(Lk 2:11, “Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you...”)**
 - f. that child’s name was Jesus
 - g. and he was the One who was going to save fallen mankind
 - h. just as the angel told Joseph **(Mt 1:21, “She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”)**
2. a Savior was born
 - a. in that child Jesus who was born of the virgin Mary
 - b. and who was also God’s own Son
 - c. by virtue of his miraculous conception by the Holy Spirit
 - d. God had **“with his right hand and his holy arm”**
 - e. that is, by his own effort and power
 - f. sent fallen mankind the Savior they desperately needed
 - g. one who would save sinners who were damned to hell
 - h. by his holy life, innocent death, and triumphant resurrection from death
 - i. which pay for and remove their sins
 - j. and open heaven’s gates to them

Trans: Yes, God remembered. He remembered his promise to send a Savior. He gave fallen sinners the supreme gift of his love, his own Son wrapped in human flesh to save them. And because God remembered his promise to send a Savior...

II. The whole world rejoices (4-9)

A. We rejoice at Christmas

1. we rejoice greatly at Christmas
 - a. 'Joy to the World' 'Oh Come All Ye Faithful' 'Silent Night Holy Night'
 - b. singing Christmas carols like those I just mentioned is a big part of our Christmas celebration
 - c. we love to sing Christmas carols
 - d. and we sing them with great joy and enthusiasm
2. because we have a Savior
 - a. why?
 - b. because to us the Christmas message is a message of **"good news of great joy"** as the heavenly chorus proclaimed
 - c. on this day we have been given a Savior
 - d. the One who would save us from our sins
 - e. which is a message that, indeed, does give us great comfort and joy
 - f. because our sin daily burdens us
 - g. and weighs on our consciences
 - h. and because we must daily live with the consequences of our sins
 - i. like death and sickness and disappointment and pain
 - j. and the wedge it drives between us and others and especially God
 - k. but the Christmas message makes us happy and joyful
 - l. it makes us want to sing and shout for joy as the psalm writer encourages
 - m. we have a Savior who has come to take away our sins
 - n. to free us from its control and curse
 - o. to bring us peace with God
 - p. and to open paradise to us
 - q. we cannot help but sing and shout for joy on this blessed day when God remembered his promise!

B. The whole world rejoices

1. all creation joins in our praise
 - a. and the psalm writer enjoins the whole created universe-
 - b. the world, the sea, the rivers, and the mountains-
 - c. to join in our praise

- d. and so it should be
- e. even though it is not sinful in and of itself
- f. the whole created universe was subjected to frustration when man fell into sin
- g. and it now suffers the pain caused by man's sin
2. it, too, will be redeemed
 - a. therefore, the whole created universe rejoices at the birth of its Savior and its King
 - b. because it knows that it also will be redeemed from sin's curse and that its pain will be removed
 - c. by the Savior who has come
 - d. the hymn writer Isaac Watts based his hymn 'Joy to the World' on the last five verses of our text
 - e. he wrote: *"Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king; Let every heart prepare him room And heaven and nature sing. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ, While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains Repeat the sounding joy."*

Concl: God remembered his promise. He sent a Savior. Today and everyday we and the entire created universe have every reason to rejoice!