**Sermon Outline** First Baptist Church

 December 3, 2017 (Morning)

“The Birth of the Greatest Man”

**Luke 1:57-66**

 **I. God is faithful to perform His promises (v. 57).**

(Jeremiah 1:12; 33:19-21; Hebrews 6:17-18)

 **II. God’s promises are given and kept according to God’s mercy (v. 58).**

(Ephesians 2:1-7; 1 Peter 1:3-5)

 **III. The fulfillment of God’s promises bring Him honor and glory (vs. 59-64)**

(Genesis 12:1-3; Jeremiah 31:31-34; Revelation 21:2-5; 22:20)

 **IV. The fulfillment of God's promises has an effect on those who see it (vs. 65-66).**

(1 Corinthians 15:23-28; Colossians 1:18-19)

**Scripture References and Notes**

Matthew 11:11

Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen *anyone* greater than John the Baptist! Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Hebrews 6:17-18

**17**In the same way God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, **18**so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us.

Jeremiah 1:12

Then the Lord said to me, “You have seen well, for I am watching over My word to perform it.”

Jeremiah 33:19-21

**19**The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, saying, **20**“Thus says the Lord, ‘If you can break My covenant for the day and My covenant for the night, so that day and night will not be at their appointed time, **21**then My covenant may also be broken with David My servant so that he will not have a son to reign on his throne, and with the Levitical priests, My ministers.

**mercy**

* ἔλεος (eleos)
* Kindness or concern expressed for someone in need, *mercy compassion, pity, clemency*
* pity, mercy, compassion.
* (translating OT *kataisxýnō*, "covenant-loyalty, covenant-love" in the OT-*LXX* over 170 times) – properly, "mercy" as it is defined by *loyalty to God's covenant*.
* 27 Occurrences

Ephesians 2:1-7

1 And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, **2**in which you formerly walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience. **3**Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest. **4**But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, **5**even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), **6**and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus, **7**so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1 Peter 1:3-5

**3**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, **4**to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, **5**who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

**astonished**

* θαυμάζω (thaumazó)
* to be extraordinarily impressed or disturbed by someth.,
* wonder, be amazed
* 44 Occurrences

Genesis 12:1-3

**1** Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father’s house, To the land which I will show you; **2**And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing; **3**And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**31**“Behold, days are coming,” declares the Lord, “when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah,**32**not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord. **33**“But this is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,” declares the Lord, “I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. **34**They will not teach again, each man his neighbor and each man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they will all know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them,” declares the Lord, “for I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Revelation 21:2-5

**2**And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. **3**And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, **4**and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Revelation 22:20

He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming quickly.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**fear**

* φοβος (phobos)
* fear, terror, reverence
* (a) fear, terror, alarm, (b) the object or cause of fear, (c) reverence, respect.
* *phóbos* (from *phebomai*, "to flee, withdraw") – *fear* (from Homer about 900 bc on) [5401](http://biblehub.com/greek/5401.htm)(*phóbos*) meant *withdrawal*, fleeing because feeling inadequate (without sufficient *resources*, *Abbott-Smith*).
* Fear ([5401](http://biblehub.com/greek/5401.htm) */phóbos*) is commonly used in Scripture – sometimes positively (in relation to God) but more often negatively of *withdrawing from* the Lord (His will).
* [Fundamentally, [5401](http://biblehub.com/greek/5401.htm) */phóbos* ("fear") means *withdraw* (*separate* from), i.e. flee (remove oneself) and hence to *avoid* because of *dread* (*fright*).]
* 47 Occurrences

Colossians 1:18-19

**18**He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**19**For it was the *Father’s* good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him…

1 Corinthians 15:23-28

**23**But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming, **24**then *comes* the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. **25**For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **26**The last enemy that will be abolished is death. **27**For He has put all things in subjection under His feet. But when He says, “All things are put in subjection,” it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him.**28**When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, so that God may be all in all.