

December 3rd, 2023

Spectacular Sons Born to Save the World Pt. I: Isaac

Genesis 3:15; 17:15-16

The most ancient promise

Genesis 3:15 is the first and oldest promise of the gospel. Theologians have long said that all “...the remainder of Scripture is [but] an unfolding of the the prophecy of Genesis 3:15.”¹ What that means children, boys and girls, is that all of the Scripture can be summarized in one sentence: *God will send a Son, a Spectacular Son into the world and He will crush the Dragon’s head.* The rest of Scripture is either **1**) anticipating that event (the OT) or **2**) celebrating that event (the NT). How does the OT anticipate that event? By sending forerunners into the world—other spectacular sons—who foreshadowed what this One Son would accomplish. There are many birth stories that all point to this one birth story. Here’s but a sampling.²

Spectacular sons

There is **the promised birth of Isaac**. Genesis 17:16 “*I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.*”

¹ John D. Currid in *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*, Ed. Miles V. Van Pelt, (Wheaton, IL.,: Crossway, 2016), pg. 54

² There are other spectacular sons with similar birth stories, e.g. Seth, Noah, Joseph, Moses, Obed, Samuel, Jeremiah, Paul

The promised birth of Samson. Judges 13:3, 5 “And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, “Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, *but you shall conceive and bear a son...*and he shall begin to save Israel...””

The promised birth of Solomon. 2 Chronicles 22:9 “Behold, *a son shall be born to you* who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies.”

The promised birth of Josiah. 1 Kings 13:2 “O altar, altar, thus says the LORD: ‘Behold, *a son shall be born to the house of David*, Josiah by name, and he shall sacrifice on you the priests of the high places who make offerings on you...”

The promised birth of John the Baptist. Luke 1:13-16 “But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth *will bear you a son*, and you shall call his name John...he will be great before the Lord...he will be filled with the Holy Spirit...And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God”

And all these spectacular sons point us, prepare us, for the True and Better Son. Luke 1:30-33 “And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, *you will conceive in your womb and bear a son*, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

The roadmap

This morning we are looking at the first spectacular son: Isaac. God-willing over the next three weeks we will examine Moses’s birth, Solomon’s birth and then on Christmas Eve Jesus Christ Himself.

★ The Spectacular Birth of Isaac

★ The Spectacular Biography of Isaac

★ The True and Better Isaac

I. The Spectacular Birth of Isaac

The promise of Genesis 3:15

What is the promise in Genesis 3:15? Look there with me. God says this to the serpent who deceived the woman into eating the forbidden fruit: “I will put *enmity* [‘to be an enemy to’³] between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.” In this first prophecy of Scripture we learn two important things.⁴ **First**, we learn that post-fall, humanity is involved in a perpetual war. Human history is the story of the war between the offspring of Satan *and* the Offspring of the woman.⁵ You and I were born into a world at war. **Second**, we learn how this war will end. This mysterious Offspring of the woman, will bruise or crush the

³ *A Biblical-Theological Introduction to the Old Testament: The Gospel Promised*, pg. 54

⁴ We also discover the origin of types and antitypes. *Types* are things that point to another thing—the *antitype*. In v.14, God is clearly speaking to a physical snake only (the type)—it was cursed having to crawl on it’s belly and eat dust. But in v.15, without explanation, this serpent is now Satan (the antitype). So we must understand that Scripture uses type and antitype and interpret it accordingly. Cf. cf. Jonathan Edwards, *The Works of Jonathan Edwards Vol. 2*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2009), pg. 645 and 691

⁵ Who is the offspring of the woman? Jesus Christ. In Scripture, all other sons are said to be begotten of their fathers, Jesus only is said to be the offspring of the woman. This points to the virgin birth.

serpent's head.⁶ It was the serpent who brought ruin to humanity, and God promised to send a Son who would slay the serpent and reverse the curse. It was this Spectacular Son who would save the world.

Other spectacular sons⁷

We must note that between this first gospel promise—the protoevangelium—and God's calling of Abraham that humanity began looking for this Son. Eve thought that Cain might be the promised son (Genesis 4:1). Lamech thought his son Noah might be the promised son (Genesis 5:28-29). So profound was this promise that it set the expectation for all redemptive history.

The five-fold curse

Meanwhile, the period between the fall and Abraham was filled with absolute corruption. Wickedness spread over all world. The world was cursed such that God sent the flood and killed millions upon millions (Genesis 7). Yet

⁶ Christ shall bruise or crush the serpent's head—meaning He destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8 "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil." And this devil will bruise Jesus' heel. The imagery is vivid: Jesus stomps on the snake's head and it injects his venom in His heel. Jesus dies, but it's His very death that overthrows the dragon. Revelation 12:11 "They have conquered him *by the blood of the Lamb.*"

⁷ Eve's expectation

This promise set the expectation for all of the OT. Eve immediately looked to the fulfillment of this promise. Look at 4:1 "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD." In other words, she is saying 'look my offspring is born', she thought her oldest son was the One. Now she was mistaken, but she was right to put her faith in God's promise.

Lamech's expectation

Fast-forward to Lamech. Turn to Genesis 5. Lamech believed that His son would be the One. Look at v.:28-29 "When Lamech had lived 182 years, he fathered a son ²⁹ and called his name Noah, saying, "Out of the ground that the LORD has cursed, *this one shall bring us relief* from our work and from the painful toil of our hands." Lamech, just like Eve, thought his son would be the One who would save the world. And in a way, Noah was a spectacular son. When the earth was filled with corruption (Genesis 6:5) it was Noah—by the grace of God—who built the ark and preserved the seed of woman while the rest of the earth was destroyed in the flood. But the seed of the serpent survived. And the world again was filled with corruption.

the curse remained. God confused the tongues at Babel and dispersed men all over the face of the earth (Genesis 11) and yet the curse remained. In fact, between Genesis 3 and Genesis 11 we find a five-fold curse—Genesis 3:14, 17; 4:11; 5:29; 9:25.⁸ God cursed the world five times. But all that changed when God called Abraham.

The five-fold blessing

Look with me at Genesis 12:1-3. “Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you.” And then He pronounces a five-fold blessing:

Blessing #1: “And I will make of you a great nation”

Blessing #2: “...and I will bless you and make your name great,”

Blessing #3: “...so that you will be a blessing.”

Blessing #4: “I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse,”

Blessing #5: “...and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

The Hebrew word for blessed בָּרַךְ *bārak* means to be made happy. To be blessed by God is to be brought back into His favor, to be made prosperous, to be made to rejoice, to laugh. What is God doing here? He’s promising to reverse the curse through the offspring of Abraham. The five blessings in Abraham’s call answer the five curses of fallen humanity.

⁸ L. Michael Morales, *Exodus Old and New: A Biblical Theology of Redemption*, (Downers Grove, IL.,: IVP Academic, 2020), pg. 14

Plan B?

But there's a massive problem, Abraham is 75 years old, he has no children and his wife Sarah was barren. God promised something to Abraham that was impossible. Fast-forward 10 years. Turn to Genesis 15. Abraham is now 85 years old and he assumes that his servant Eliezer will be his heir. But God tells him otherwise. Look at v.4 "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." Now Sarah concludes from this that she must give Hagar her maidservant to her husband so that he could have a son through her. So Abraham went into her and she conceived. Look at 16:15-16 "And Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram called the name of his son, whom Hagar bore, Ishmael. ¹⁶ Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore Ishmael to Abram." Now all is well *right?* Ishmael would be the son that will bring blessings to the nations right? No. Ishmael was a child of the flesh not a child of the Spirit (Galatians 4:29).

Is anything too hard for the LORD?

Fast-forward another 14 years, Abraham is now 100. Turn to Genesis 17:15-16 "And God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ I will bless her, and moreover, *I will give you a son by her.* I will bless her, and she shall become nations; kings of peoples shall come from her." This was hilarious to Abraham. Look at v.17 "Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, "Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" To emphasize this point, look at Genesis 18:11.

"Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah [*meaning, she was no longer ovulating*]. ¹² So Sarah

laughed to herself, saying, “After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too hard for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son.””

The birth of Isaac

At that is precisely what happened. Turn to Genesis 21. v.1 “The LORD visited Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did to Sarah as he had promised. ²And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him, whom Sarah bore him, Isaac.” They named him Isaac because it means *laughter* or *he laughs*. Look at v.6 “And Sarah said, “God has made *laughter* for me; everyone who hears will *laugh* over me.”

The Son named Laughter

Oh this is so significant loved ones. There is so much gospel interwoven in Isaac’s birth.

- The birth of Isaac only came after a long long time, so with Christ we read in Galatians 4:4 “*But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...*”
- The birth of Isaac was entirely impossible since Sarah’s womb was shut, so it was impossible that Christ was born of His mother. Luke 1:34-35 “And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” ³⁵ And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.”

But besides all this, Isaac's name meant *laughter*. Look deeper than just the humor of God giving a baby son to a 100 year old man and a 90 year old woman. When Isaac was born, *laughter* was brought back into the world. The 5 curses were being overturned by the 5 blessings. The grand promise made to Abraham was that His son would restore the world that was ruined by sin.

•Genesis 18:18 "...all the nations of the earth shall be *blessed* in him."

•Genesis 22:18 "...in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be *blessed*."

All nations on the earth, the ones that were ruined by the fall, would *somehow* be made right again, *somehow* be made happy again in the birth of this spectacular son. The sorrow of the world would turn back to joy.⁹ So when Isaac was born, his parents could look at the future of the world and laugh at what his birth would accomplish.

Why we sing *Joy to the World*

Certainly you can see that Jesus Christ is who this laughter and joy points to. Jesus is the Great Son of Laughter. He is why we sing "Joy to the World." The very lyrics show He is the great curse reverser.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

⁹ Jesus said it cryptically like this in John 16:21 "A woman when she is [giving birth] hath sorrow, because her hour is come: but as soon as she is delivered of the child, she remembereth no more the anguish, for joy that a man is born into the world."

Oh loved ones, belonging to Jesus Christ means that all laughter, all blessing, all happiness belong to us. Those who are perishing, those who refuse to come to Jesus Christ cannot look at the future with any shred of hope. But we can look into eternal ages and not be afraid. All hope, all mercy, is ours. Every covenant promise is ours. Fullness of joy and pleasures forevermore are ours. Life everlasting is ours. We can look at the future and laugh because God gave us His Spectacular Son, Jesus Christ, the Son of all Laughter.

II. The Spectacular Biography of Isaac

The sacrifice of Isaac¹⁰

The mere fact of Isaac's birth doesn't solve the problem of human sin. Isaac's birth cannot undo what Adam did. The critical question is this: How will all the nations be blessed through Isaac if sin is not dealt with? How can God be good unless He deals decisively with evil? Please turn to Genesis 22. Isaac now is a young man, somewhere in his teenage years, and God gives his father Abraham a test. Look at v.1 "After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."

¹⁰ Birth, persecution, death

Immediately after Isaac was born, the trouble begins. In chapter 21:9 we discover that Ishmael his brother began to persecute him when he was just a small boy. In Galatians 4:29 Paul tells us that "...he who was born according to the flesh [*Ishmael*] persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit [*Isaac*]." What happens next? Genesis 22: *The Sacrifice of Isaac*. So consider in very rapid succession we learn three things about Isaac. 1) He was miraculously born; 2) He suffered persecution from those born according to the flesh; and now 3) He was to be sacrificed.

The awful test

Now this test was not for God's sake—as if God didn't know how Abraham was going to respond. This test was for Abraham's sake,¹¹ and for our sake to show the world what must happen in order for Abraham's Son to save the world. But oh how difficult this test must have been! After 30 years of waiting for his son, after the trial of Sarah's barren womb, after his crying out to God to give him a son, after going into Hagar and begetting Ishmael only to have God reject him, after he finally obtained the promise, now God asks him to sacrifice his son. And the exceeding difficulty of this test is emphasized: "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love..." God only gave Abraham one son of promise, and oh how he loved him. This is the first time in Scripture, whether in Hebrew or English that the word "love" is ever used. The Holy Spirit saved it for this occasion to testify to the great love the father had for his son.

The burnt offering

Jonathan Edwards says here: "[God] doesn't merely call [Abraham] to see him die, though that would have been a great trial under such circumstances; but he is to cut his throat with his own hands, and when he has done so, to burn his flesh on the altar."¹² Oh children, boys and girls, can you think of how awful this would have been. If your dad took your older brother away, and came back alone with his blood spattered on his jacket. What would your mom say? How could Abraham ever look Sarah in the eye again? Why would God ever command this of Abraham? Why was his son to be a burnt offering? The burnt offering calls to our remembrance what Noah did when he got off the ark. The

¹¹ cf. C.S. Lewis's comments in John Piper, *The Works of John Piper Vol. 4*, (Wheaton, IL.,: Crossway, 2017), pg. 434-435

¹² Edwards, pg. 712

flood did not appease God's wrath towards sin. Noah built an altar and offered up burnt offerings and then we read in Genesis 8:21 that "the LORD smelled the pleasing aroma," indicating that then God's wrath was appeased. One author says that "the story of Noah's priestly act would have served to teach Israel the role of the whole burnt offering, as given by God himself, for procuring divine favor."¹³ Abraham was commanded to offer his son as a burnt offering so that God's wrath toward sin would be satisfied. That is the only way all the nations of the earth could be blessed, is if sin is dealt with, is if we will no longer come under God's just condemnation due to our sin.

Carrying their own cross

Look at v.6 "And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together." Oh what a sight! Isaac bore on his back the very wood on which he would be killed. And Abraham carried the fire and knife that would serve as the instruments of execution.

God will provide for himself the lamb

v.7 "And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ^sAbraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together."

¹³ Morales, pg. 94

A willing sacrifice

“⁹ When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood.” Take note. Abraham willingly bound and place his son on the altar. Isaac willingly allowed himself to be bound. There is no hint here of Isaac fighting or arguing or resisting. He is silent. He trusts his father.¹⁴

The angel of the LORD

And now the moment arrived. v.10 “Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. ¹¹But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” ¹²He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” The angel of the LORD stopped him. Why? You might say “Because human sacrifice is in itself evil and God doesn’t command evil things.” But that wouldn’t be right. It’s true that God forbids human sacrifice to pagan gods in multiple places in Scripture—mostly for the reason that those deities are not gods but demons (I Corinthians 10:20). But human sacrifice cannot be condemned absolutely otherwise God would have never commanded Abraham to do this thing. Geerhardus Vos says here “[Its] not the sacrifice of human life that is...[denounced] by the Old Testament...but the sacrifice of *average sinful life*.”¹⁵ The reason the Angel of the LORD stopped Abraham from sacrificing his

¹⁴ Now we do know what Abraham was thinking. He believed that after he killed Isaac and burned him, that God would raise him from the dead (Hebrews 11:19). And yet he would still have to bear the agony of it all.

¹⁵ Geerhardus Vos, *Biblical Theology: Old and New Testaments*, (Carlisle, PA.,: The Banner of Truth Trust, 2007

son, was because **1)** Abraham passed the test. End of v.12 “...for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me. And **2)** Because Isaac was a sinner. He could never appease the wrath of God. Psalm 49:7-8 Truly no man can ransom another, or give to God the price of his life, ^s for the ransom of their life is costly and can never suffice.” Isaac was disqualified from being an offering. God couldn’t accept him. No sinner can satisfy the infinite wrath of a holy God.

III. The True and Better Isaac

The continuity between the two sons

Of course you see it don’t you? This awful test wasn’t about Isaac at all. It was about the Lord Jesus Christ. Every detail painfully rehearses the cross. Oh consider it what Isaac and Christ shared in common.

i. He was the only begotten Son

First, Isaac was Abraham’s son, his only son. Abraham had other sons, Ishmael, and the sons of his concubines (Genesis 25:6). Likewise, God the Father has other sons—adopted by His Spirit (Romans 8:15). But the Father has only one begotten Son, only one Son in all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. John 1:14 “...and we have seen his glory, *glory as of the only Son from the Father*, full of grace and truth.”

2. He was the Son whom He loved

Second, Abraham loved his son. “Take your son, your only son Isaac, *whom you love.*” Certainly Abraham loved Isaac more than any other child in the whole world. However it was created love constrained by time, and tainted by sin. But the love in which the Father loves the Son with is uncreated, infinite, eternal and holy love. Nothing at all in all creation can be compared to it. John 3:35 “The Father loves the Son and has given all things into his hand.”¹⁶

3. He was an obedient Son¹⁷

Third, Isaac was an obedient Son. In this account, he did everything his father Abraham asked of him. He refused nothing. So it was with the Son of Man. John 4:34 “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.” Isaac carried the wood his father gave him and climbed Mt. Moriah, and Jesus carried that awful cross as He climbed Calvary (John 19:17). Isaac didn’t struggle, didn’t protest, didn’t say a word when his father was bound him to that altar, so Christ “...like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, so he opened not his mouth.” (Isaiah 53:7).

The discontinuity between the two sons

So much for those things that Isaac and Jesus had in common. Now consider how different the two sons are.

¹⁶ John 5:20 “...the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing.”

¹⁷ Philippians 2:8 “...he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

1. Isaac was a mere man, Jesus is the God-man

Isaac was a creature. But Jesus Christ was both creature and Creature. Isaac began. But the Son of God never began. As the Nicene Creed says, He was “...begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God.” Isaac was made, but the Son of God was the one who made Him. Isaac was mortal, but Jesus Christ possesses immortality. 1 Timothy 6:15-16 “he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords, ¹⁶who alone has immortality.” Loved ones that is who came down 2,000 years ago. Not a great man, not a dignitary or a prince. God Himself. God came into the world for us.

2. Abraham was commanded to give Isaac, the Father was not

Abraham was required to do what God told him. He was compelled to obey, he was constrained to give up His son. Oh but no such constraint laid upon the Father of all mercy and love. He gave up His Son out of the freeness of His own love. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” What happened on Mt. Moriah proved that Abraham loved God. v.12 “now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” What happened on Calvary proves that God loves us. As one author put it “...how much more can we look at *his* sacrifice on the Cross, and say to God, “Now, we know that you love *us*. For you did not withhold your son, your only son, whom you love, from us.”¹⁸

¹⁸ Timothy Keller, *Counterfeit Gods: The Empty Promises of Money, Sex, and Power, and the Only Hope That Matters*, (New York, NY.: Penguin Books, 2009), pg. 18

3. Isaac was spared, Jesus was not

At the last moment, when Abraham's knife was raised in the air ready to kill his son, the Angel of the LORD stopped him and provided a lamb in his place. Isaac was spared, a substitute was given in his place. Loved ones a substitute was given for you. The Great Executioner had his knife and fire prepared for you. But Christ the Great Angel of the LORD stopped his hand. That's who stayed Abraham's hand, this Angel of the Lord in v.11 is the Son of God Himself.¹⁹ He is the one who met Moses in the burning bush, the one who appeared in the pillar of cloud and fire. Christ stayed Abraham's hand in the slaying of His Son, and oh dear congregation, for all who believe upon His name, Christ stayed the Executioner's hand against You. You were spared, because Jesus laid down His life for you. No substitute for Him. Romans 8:32 "He...did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all."

4. Isaac was a sinner, but Jesus was sinless

Isaac's sacrifice would have never sufficed because He was a sinner. All the nations would not have been blessed by his death. He was a spectacular son, but not because of His death, but rather because Jesus Christ would descend from him. Ultimately it was Christ whom God promised to Abraham. Galatians 3:16 "Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It

¹⁹ Who is this angel of the LORD? He is very peculiar because in some cases He distinguishes Himself from God "speaking of Him in the third person" like in the next verse where He says "...now I know that you fear God" and yet He also speaks of God in the first person "...seeing that you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." There's only one solution. As the angel of the LORD, He is the one sent from the LORD—an Angel is a messenger sent from God. That's how this Angel can speak in the third person—He speaks on behalf of Yahweh who sent Him. But He is no ordinary angel—He is one of the Persons of the Godhead. That's how this Angel can speak in the first person—speaking as God Himself. He is simultaneously the One who is sent, and is equal with the One who sent Him. This is the Son of God. Later, Jacob—Isaac's own son calls Him "the angel who has redeemed me" (Genesis 28:16). A sacrifice is about to be made, which Person of the Godhead must this be? This is the Pre-incarnate Christ. Cf. Vos, pg. 72

does not say, “And to offsprings,” referring to many, but referring to one, “And to your offspring,” who is Christ.” Isaac could have burned a thousand times on that mountain, but it would have never paid for one sin. His death could not save the world. But when our Lord burned on that cross at Calvary under the fiery wrath of God for our sin, for our hatred, for our lust and murder and lying and wicked lives—all our sins were paid in full. “It is finished.” That’s why Jesus came into the world, because only a sinless human sacrifice could atone for our sins.

Clown world and the only solution

It struck me this week as I was reading a conservative news site, how people are looking for a solution to sin in all the wrong places. We do live in clown world. The political left is committed societal suicide in front of our faces and wants us to drink the Koolaid with them. But the political right is doing the same thing only slower. A headline from a very popular conservative website this week read: “Stupid, Cowardly Happy Talk Isn’t The Answer.” I agree. But what is the answer? What is the answer to the evil that is in the world today? Do we just need better policies? I would love that. But that can’t solve the problem of sin. Do we just need more education? Perhaps classical education can draw humanity out of darkness. No, the classically trained Romans were those who crucified Christians in the street. Maybe we just need more time to work this out? More time didn’t cure the Canaanites, it just filled up their measure of sin. No, the only answer to clown world, the only answer to sin, to the brokenness that we see in families, in politics, and in our own hearts is the True and Better Isaac. Jesus Christ is the Spectacular Son who was born to save the world. All blessings are found in this Son of Laughter. All forgiveness is found in His blood. All peace is found in His death and resurrection. All hope is

found in His righteousness. This is what Advent is about. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given.