

PROPHECIES OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS



Abstract

The plan of God lived out in the prophecies of the Old Testament that clearly show God had always intended to "Interrupt History" by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to this earth.

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Prophecies of the Birth of Jesus

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THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF PROPHECY

The Bible is a Book of Prophecy. One fourth of the books in the Bible are of prophetic nature (eschatological). Prophecies in Scriptures are either Fulfilled or Unfulfilled. The main subject of Prophecy is Jesus Christ. Other topics include Israel, the gentile nations, evil, Satan the Man of Sin, the Great Tribulation period and how this age will end. While the church is also a subject of prophecy, it is never mentioned in the Old Testament. In Isaiah God tells us that all prophecies “*will come to pass.*” This is an amazing statement that only God can make.

Isaiah 46:9-10 NLT 9 Remember the things I have done in the past. For I alone am God! I am God, and there is none like me. 10 Only I can tell you the future before it even happens. Everything I plan will come to pass, for I do whatever I wish.

This is God’s promise to us that His Prophecies will all come true. It’s made evident when we study the Fulfilled prophecies, which should be an encouragement concerning the Unfulfilled Prophecies.

Bible Scholars have identified 300 references to 61 specific prophecies of the Messiah were fulfilled by Jesus Christ. What are the odds of only 8 prophecies coming true about a single person? Mathematicians have calculated the odds are 1 in 10 to the 21st power (10^{21}). Prophecies include: **Virgin Birth**, 30 pieces silver, Son of David, hands and feet pierced, cast lots for clothing, riding a donkey, Born in Bethlehem.

While the Study of Prophecy is a dominant part of the Bible, it is often ignored or skimmed over. Why, likely because it often takes much study to adequately absorb its meaning. This is the study of the Prophecies of Jesus Birth.

Prophecies of the Birth of Jesus

LESSON # 1 - GOD INTERRUPTS HISTORY

To begin, we will look at the plan of God lived out in the prophecies of the Old Testament. They clearly show that God had always intended to "Interrupt History" by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to this earth."

1) Genealogy of Jesus Prophecies

It began with the part of the Old Testament that we often by-pass; the 'begat(s)' and the study of genealogy. It was not until the time of Noah that the various nations began to evolve. From Adam to Noah, everyone spoke the same language, had similar living situations; had similar cultures and lived in a world-wide paradise.

This came to a disastrous end when renegade angels broke their heavenly ranks and married women on earth **Genesis 6**. The earth became extremely wicked and God stepped in to stop this wicked degeneration. He formed a covenant with Noah, the Godly grandson of Methuselah and the great grandson of Enoch. Noah had three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth and as they established their families, these families formed the table of nations. Every one of us can trace our ancestry back to one of these three families.

The Prophecy:

Genesis 9:18-19 NIV

18 The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) 19 These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth.

The end result was the building of the tower of Babel where God gave the people different languages and scattered them all over the earth. It was vital for God to show that Jesus would be born from the line of Shem; for Jesus was to be born as a Hebrew, (even as a Jew) all Hebrews were descendants of Shem. The prophecy was in **Genesis 9:26** and the fulfillment in **Luke 3:23-38** when Dr. Luke wrote the genealogy of Jesus from the ancestors of Mary.

Genesis 9:26 NIV

26 He also said, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem.

Once God established a covenant with Abraham and started the nation of the Hebrews, the Bible lists many more prophecies about Jesus and His heritage:

PROPHECY

Genesis 12:3 From the line of Abraham

Genesis 17:21 From the line of Isaac

Genesis 28:74 From the line of Jacob

Genesis 49:10 From the line of Judah

Isaiah 11:1 From the family of Jesse

Jeremiah 23:5 From the house of David

FULFILLED

Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16

Luke 3:34; Romans 9:7

Luke 3:34; Acts 7:8

Luke 3:33-34; Hebrews 7:14

Luke 3:32; Matthew 1:6

Luke 3:31-32; Romans 1:3

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God planned to interrupt history with the birth of His Son, but He chose a particular people group, the Hebrews, where He had a history, not only with the founder of the Hebrews, Abraham, but also with the most important historical figures in that nation. The Lineage of Jesus was set millenniums before He was born.

2) Time of Jesus Birth Prophecies

God also determined by prophecy the time of the birth of His Son. It would be a time when the rule of the House of Judah, (Kingdom of the Jews) would be ending. He would come as the King of the Jews, but that Kingship will not be fulfilled in entirety until the coming of the Millennial Kingdom. The blessing of the sons of Jacob, (Israel) prophesies of the time when the House of Judah will be the only nation left of the Hebrews and God's Son will come, **Genesis 49:10** This was the time when Herod was the ruler over the fractured and captured Nation of Judah. **Matthew 2:1** The next King of the Jews will be the king of the earth, Jesus Christ, when he returns to rule over the entire Millennial world.

In one of the most remarkable prophecies about the birth of Jesus, Daniel spells out in detail when it would happen from a secular date in his life. **Daniel 9:24-26** details the exact year of the death of Christ, and tells how Jesus will fulfill, in principle, three great accomplishments at His first coming. These accomplishments will all be completed in fruition at His second coming.

The Prophecy:

Daniel 9:24-27 NIV

*24 "Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place. 25 "Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the **Anointed One**, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. 26 After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the **Anointed One** will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed. 27 He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And at the temple he will set up an abomination that causes desolation, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."*

The Seventy Weeks concern “your people” or the Nation of Israel, Daniel’s People, and concern the Holy City or Jerusalem. Six things will not all be in the 69 weeks that have already passed, or will all of them be in the one week that is still remaining in history. The six things to be accomplished: **Daniel 9:24**

1. **“Finish the Transgression”** of the Nation of Israel. The cross provided redemption for sin, for the sin of a nation, but not all accepted it.
2. **“To Make an End to Sins.”** The national sins of Israel will come to an end at the second coming of Christ.
3. **“To Make Reconciliation for Iniquity.”** During this period of Seventy Weeks, God has provided redemption through the death and resurrection of Christ. This, of course, is for Jew and Gentile alike.

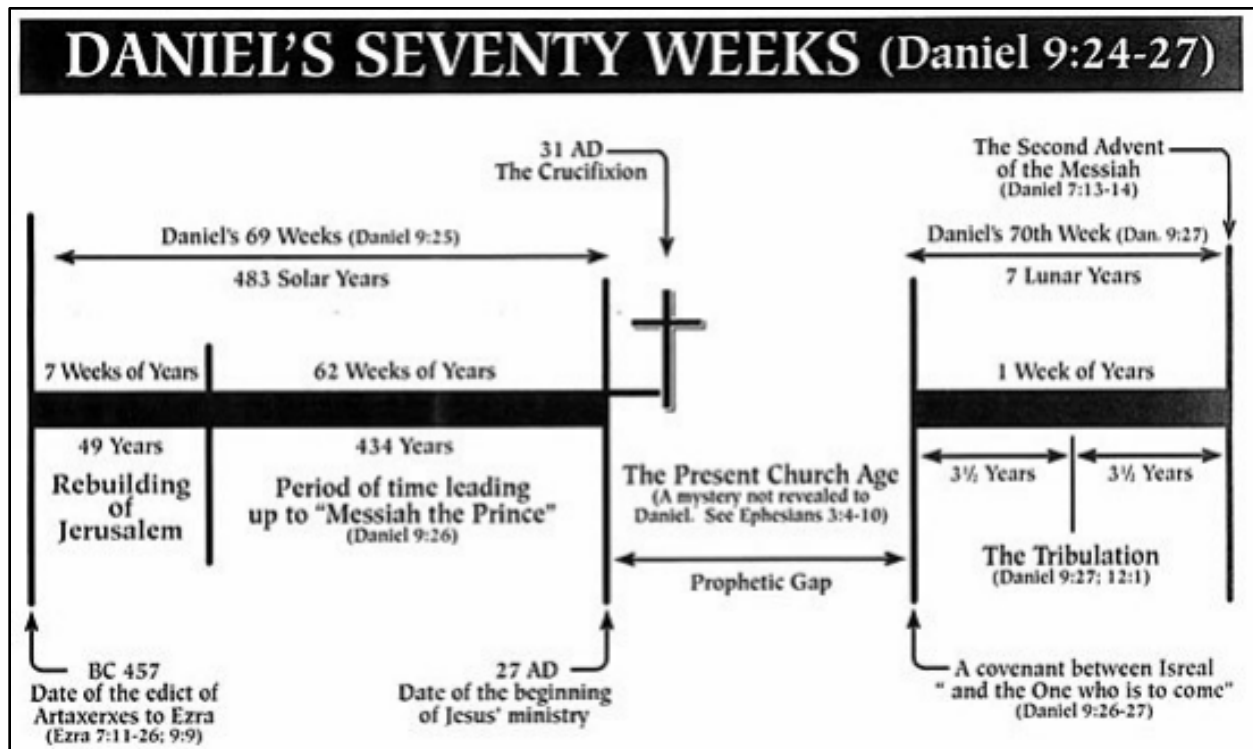
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4. **“And to Bring in Everlasting Righteousness”** refers to the return of Christ at the end of the 490 years to establish the Kingdom.
5. **“To Seal Up the Vision and Prophecy”** means that all will be fulfilled which will vindicate this prophecy as well as all other prophecies in Scripture.
6. **“To Anoint the Most Holy”** has reference to the anointing of the Holy of Holies in the Millennial Temple about which Ezekiel spoke in **Ezekiel 41-41**

This will bring in righteousness; to finally fulfill all prophecy and visions; and anoint the Most Holy, Jesus, to rule in the future temple of **Ezekiel 40-48**.

Daniel concludes this prophecy with a telling in outline form of the final Seven years of this earth, commonly called “The Tribulation”, **Daniel 9:26:27**.

The plan of God to "Interrupt History" with the birth of His son will come at the right time in the history of the world and it will accomplish the groundwork for Jesus to become the King of the New and improved Millennial World.



3) Place Of Jesus Birth Propshies

God chose the place for His Son to be born. He would be born in the hometown of David. that would emphasize that Jesus fulfilled the lineage prophecies of the Bible and that He fulfilled the prophecies of being the Lion of Judah. The prophecy was in **Micah 5:2** where God told His followers the town where the Messiah, the Son of God would be born. 737 – 696 BC

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The Prophecy:

Micah 5:2 NIV

2 But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.

Bethlehem was a small but historically great city.

1. It was the burial place of Rachel, after she died from complications in childbirth when she had Benjamin **Genesis 35:19**.
2. It was the place Ruth met Boaz, the great grandparents of David. **Ruth 1:16-19**
3. It was the birthplace of Jesus, **Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:1**
4. It was the place where Herod slaughtered the young boys in his demented attempt to kill the Son of God. **Matthew 2:13-14**

The name Bethlehem means 'House of Bread' for it sat in a fertile grain growing area with many vineyards and olive orchards. It was small in size but not in honor: for it would always be the birthplace of Jesus who would eventually be King of kings and rule the earth in the millennial reign. **Isaiah 9:6-7**

Isaiah 9:6-7 NIV

6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.

The plan of God to interrupt history with the birth of His Son left nothing to chance. We see God had chosen the family His Son would be born into. God chose the time and place and political climate that would be present during the time of Christ. He had His authors write it in the Bible and it all came true; in principle during the first advent of Jesus Christ and in total fulfillment when He shall rule over the earth in the Millennial Kingdom.

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LESSON # 2 - HEAVEN AND EARTH CONNECT

In this lesson, we will look at the prophecies and see how they set the stage for how God would become human. Unlike the mythical gods of the Greeks and the Romans, the Son of God would not come to produce a super race-like an Atlas; tip the balance of power in the direction of specific nations like Greece or Rome; or display all the good and bad traits of humans in His life.

The Bible clearly states what was needed for heaven and earth to connect. The prophecies focus on how a God could be born to a human; how His birth would be recognized; and how he would be able to be God-in-the-flesh. These prophecies and the resulting stories of the actual events have been attacked and criticized by many non-believers and even many believers.

1) Jesus, Born as a Fleshly Human Prophecies

The prophecy spoke about the time of His birth as a time that would bring glory to Galilee, and the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali would become prominent, **Isaiah 9:1**. This was true as the son of God lived and taught primarily in these great areas of northern Galilee. The prophecy spoke of the light the Son of God would bring to the world. He would lift the yoke off of humanity, a yoke never removed, only rolled ahead by the Day of Atonement in the Jewish faith. How? Since He would be flesh and blood and since He would commit no sin. How? His sacrifice as a perfect human would cover the sins of every believer. **Galatians 4:4-5, Revelation 12:5**

Galatians 4:4-5 NIV

4 But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship.

Revelation 12:5 NIV

5 She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will rule all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

The Prophecy:

Isaiah 9:6

For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of peace.

The fulfillment of this prophecy is stated matter of fact by the angel to the shepherds and recorded by Dr. Luke:

Luke 2:11 NIV

Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

Two notes about the message of the Angel to the shepherds:

- 1) This is one of only two places in the Gospels where Christ is referred to as "Savior". The other was in **John 4:42** where the men of Sychar confessed Him as the "savior of the world." The angel addressed Him as the Messiah or the Greek equivalent may be your translation 'the Christ'.

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- 2) He would be the Lord. This Hebrew word was the usual word used to translate the covenant name of God to the Hebrews. In the New Testament it is used almost exclusively as a title of deity.

When God sent His special messenger to tell of this heaven and earth connection, He did not dance around the deity of the Son of God but called Him: Savior, Christ/Messiah, and Lord. The rest of the prophecy, **Isaiah 9:7** will be addressed later.

2) A Star, the Signal of Jesus Birth Prophecies

The ultimate link between heaven and earth would be a star. The prophecy had been given by Balaam when the Israelites were under great pressure from Balak, king of Moab, before they had even entered into the Promised Land. Balaam spoke of the power of Israel over Moab and then gave this great prophecy:

The Prophecy:

Numbers 24:17

I see him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.

This message, given to a gentile king is representative of how the prophetic sign was lived out. It was not a great sign to the Jewish people who lived in Israel; but it was a great sign for the wise-men of Persia. These men were not kings, but magicians or astrologers and likely were Zoroastrian wise men from Persia whose knowledge of Hebrew Scriptures could be traced back to the time of Daniel. **Daniel 5:11** When heaven and earth connected, God gave the appropriate prophetically fulfilled sign that allowed all who would follow Jesus to come to Him. **Matthew 2:3-12**

3) God Is Born a Human Prophecies

The most miraculous fact of the heaven and earth connection is the way the bible prophetically and then factually shows how God could be born of a human. Isaiah was speaking to King Ahaz and drops a great bombshell of prophecy:

The Prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

The Hebrew word “virgin” refers to 'an unmarried woman', so it could not have been the birth of the son of Isaiah in **Isaiah 8:3**. The New Testament explains the prophecy. **Matthew 1:18** tells us the facts about how it happened. Mary was an unwed woman, still living with her parents, and never having had sexual relations with her husband. But she was found to be pregnant and the conception was through the Holy Spirit, Matthew actually quotes the LXX version of **Isaiah 7:14** which use the Greek word that can only mean a true virgin, not just an unmarried woman like the Hebrew word. He wrote:

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Matthew 1:18 NIV

18 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.

This was detailed by the angel in **Luke 1:31-35** when Gabriel and Mary speak:

Luke 1:31-35 NIV

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

Let us focus on the conversation that Gabriel had with Mary and look at **Luke 1:31-33** and see the seven promises that explain the "Promises of Christmas". The first four promises Gabriel spoke to Mary were all fulfilled at the birth of our Lord:

1. Mary would conceive a child
2. Mary would give birth to a son
3. The son would be great
4. The son would be called 'the Son of God'

The last three promises Gabriel made to Mary have not been fulfilled. They will be fulfilled only when Christ comes back to this earth to set up His earthly Millennial Kingdom.

5. He will be given the throne of David (in Jerusalem)
6. He will reign over the house of Jacob. (Millennial Kingdom)
7. There will be no end to His Kingdom

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LESSON # 3 - JESUS CHILDHOOD PROPHECIES

This Lesson focuses on the early childhood years of Jesus Christ and look prophetically at those early years. What had been a prophesied event, His birth in Bethlehem, had been fairly lackluster. It was not the way most would assume the Son of God would be born.

1) Jesus was Born in a Stable Prophecies

Jesus was born in a stable, probably a cave stable on the outskirts of Bethlehem and visited only by Shepherds. It must have seemed fairly mundane. Maybe the angels were somewhat deflated as they watched their Lord and Master be born on earth in such obscurity, such poverty and with so little fanfare.

The only fanfare had been provided by them as one angel announced the birth of the Son of God to the shepherds and then a heavenly host, as many as 1,000 other angels, joined him to share their unison message:

Luke 2:14 NIV

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom His favor rests.

The first few months of the life of the Son of God as a human are not detailed for us. Joseph probably found plenty of carpentry work to keep him busy and earn money for the family to have food and shelter; Mary had a baby to take care of and raise; and Jesus was able to just grow. During that peaceful time, the Magi made their appearance and left bedazzling gifts, fit for a king. Time would reveal these gifts would all be needed to pay for a 'flee for your life' trip to Egypt and the time the family stayed in that foreign country. That too had been part of the prophecy about the early years in the life of the Son of God.

It was Jeremiah who had written about the children being massacred. He wrote: "This is what the Lord says:

The Prophecy:

Jeremiah 31:15 NIV

A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more."

The use of Ramah, a town 5 miles north of Jerusalem, where the families were separated as the Babylonians as they marched many people into captivity and killed many they did not want, was the area where the grandsons of Rachel, Ephraim and Manasseh had their lands and many of their children were the children the Babylonians killed or stole. But Rachel also had died in Bethlehem, a town 5 miles south of Jerusalem and Jacob (Israel) had buried her there. So, the fulfillment of the prophecy was sealed by the involvement of Rachel and her offspring in each area.

Matthew saw the same description of sadness as the way the mothers at Bethlehem had wept over the massacre of their baby boys. He wrote:

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Matthew 2:16-18 NIV

When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: 'A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted because they are no more.'

This was not only a heinous act, it was even more blasphemous because Herod, a half-Jew himself, was fully aware that he was truly targeting the Lord's anointed one, the Messiah. The fulfillment was another time that an extended area involving Rachel, was caught up in mourning and sadness at the hands of a despot.

2) Jesus Escapes to Egypt Prophecies

The next prophecy fulfilled in the childhood of Jesus was God calling Him out of Egypt. After the Magi's visit and before the massacre of the baby boys by Herod, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph and warned him to take Mary and the baby boy and flee to Egypt.

Matthew 2:13

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up', he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'

So, using the gold, frankincense and myrrh given by the Magi, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee for their lives to the sanctuary of Egypt. Modern scholarship has proven the date of the birth of Jesus was 5 BC and this flight would have been 4BC, and since this Herod died in 4 BC. It is probable that this stay in Egypt was very brief, a few months or even weeks, and as soon as Joseph heard that Herod had died; the family left Egypt and went to Nazareth to live. Basically, they returned home.

The Prophecy:

Hosea 11:1 NIV

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."

This was a time when Hosea was appealing to history to show that God had chosen Israel, even in their time in Egypt. The exodus from that country had given birth to the nation. Hosea saw God's love as the basis for the choice of Israel.

Matthew takes the same passage,

Matthew 2:15b NIV

And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

Matthew is telling us that the return of Jesus out of Egypt to a safe Nazareth was a type of the return like Israel out of Egypt in the exodus. Matthew says that Israel's sojourn in Egypt was a pictorial prophecy or a type. These are fulfilled in Christ and identified by the New Testament writers. A very clear example of this pictorial type would be the words of Jesus to Nicodemus in:

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John 3:14-15:

Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.

3) Jesus Grows Up in Nazareth Poor Prophecies

Finally, the childhood of Jesus was prophesied to be marked by two conditions. 1) Jesus would grow up in an obscure place Nazareth and 2) He would be Poor. ***Psalms 22:6-8*** The words of David as he wrote this Psalm were frequently used by the New Testament writers to apply to Jesus.

Psalms 22:6-8 NIV

6 But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. 7 All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. 8 "He trusts in the LORD," they say, "let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.

Matthew 27:39-44; Luke 23:35; Matthew 2:23 and John 1:46. Nazareth was an obscure town and was not mentioned in the Old Testament. It had become a synonym in the days of Christ for despised, ***John 1:45-46***, and the prophets would have been those who predicted that He (the Son of God) would be despised and belittled because of his background.

John 1:45-46 NIV

45 Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." 46 "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

Isaiah 53:2-3 spoke of the poverty that would surround the early life of Jesus. He would live in lowly conditions and wear none of the usual trappings of royalty.

The Prophecy:

Isaiah 53:2-3 NIV

He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem."

But God would guide every minute circumstance of His life. The poverty of Jesus was used by His critics as a reason to not listen to His teaching or believe His miracles: ***Mark 6:3; Luke 9:58*** and Jesus Himself spoke of the lack of worldly goods and comforts he had to give to those who would follow Him. ***Luke 9:58***

Luke 9:58 NIV

58 Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head."

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It is clear that God had a very complete hand on the life of His Son without any of the trappings of royalty or Godhood and that His true identity would only be visible to the discerning eye of faith. That is the basis of Christmas for each of us who are believers.

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LESSON # 4 - PEACE, HOPE, AND LOVE IN CHRISTMAS PROPHECIES

The focus of this lesson is on the prophetic Scriptures that point out the Deity of Jesus Christ. He was born of flesh; His mother was a human being; but He was also born Divine, for His conception came through the Holy Spirit.

The fact that Jesus was born Divine has produced a host of blessings for each one of us. It was the Divinity of Jesus, the fact that He was the Son of God that gave us:

- **Christian Peace**
 - *John 14:27 NIV 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.*
- **Christian Hope**
 - *Hebrews 11:1-2 NIV 1 Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. 2 This is what the ancients were commended for.*
 - *Romans 15:13 NIV 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*
 - *Colossians 1:27 NIV 27 To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.*
- **Christian Love**
 - *John 15:17 NIV 17 This is my command: Love each other.*
 - *1 Corinthians 13:13 NIV 13 And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.*

These three gifts combine through the birth of the Son of God as the three great gifts we received when God gave His Son.

1) Jesus was “God” Prophecies

God always intended for people to see Jesus was God. He represented the Father in every way. It is His prophetic name, Immanuel, that gives us that information. As Isaiah said to Ahaz:

The Prophecy:

Isaiah 7:14 NIV

14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. (God is with us)

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Gabriel may have told Mary to give the baby the name of Jesus as His secular and earthly name; but the angel that announced the birth of the Son of God to the shepherds told only of His Divine names:

Luke 2:11 NIV

11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

He did not say go into the town of Bethlehem and find a baby named Jesus and worship Him!

He gave the baby three names as he announced the birth to the shepherds: **Savior of the World**; **The Christ** (anointed one); and the **Lord** (the Hebrew word used to translate Yahweh). A name too holy for the Hebrews to speak. It was the covenant name of God and was used exclusively for God.

Without a doubt God intended for His Son to be known as "God with us"; the Lord-Jehovah or Yahweh; the Messiah/Christ (the anointed one) and the Savior of the World. There was no doubt that God told us prophetically and actually that Jesus was as divine as He could be and would be the source of great heavenly gifts to His followers.

2) Jesus was Worthy of Worship Prophecies

Jesus was to receive gifts and be worthy of worship. It was Solomon who wrote the prophecy.

The Prophecy

Psalm 72:10-11

May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts. May all kings bow down to him and all nations serve him."

Solomon ended the Psalm with this great prophecy of Jesus Christ:

Psalm 72:17

May his name endure forever; may it continue as long as the sun. Then all nations will be blessed through him, and they will call him blessed."

The conclusion of this prophecy is that this king enjoy a long prosperous world-renowned reign, one that blesses all the nations. This is the language of the promise to Abraham, **Genesis 12:3** and **Genesis 22:18** and implies that it will be fulfilled though the reign of the royal son of David, the Messiah, or as we know Him Jesus Christ. One side note: the phrase '*and they will call him blessed*' could also be translated; 'will use his name in blessings' like the example in **Genesis 48:20**.

Jesus was honored at His birth with gifts from the wise men of the East.

Matthew 2:1 NIV

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews. We saw his star when it rose and have come worship him.'

Prophecies of the Birth of Jesus

It was foreign rulers and dignitaries that came and brought gifts to Jesus. Not one gift was mentioned that came to Him from a Jew but they all came from foreign Magi.

It was not the simple, normal gifts you give a baby: no booties, blankies, or diapers-no these were gifts that you would give a king; they were gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Isaiah 60:6 NIV

6 Herds of camels will cover your land, young camels of Midian and Ephah. And all from Sheba will come, bearing gold and incense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

The fact that Gentiles would offer such worship fulfilled the prophesy of **Psalm 72:10**. Myrrh was an aromatic gum made from the leaves of the cistus rose. It was brought to Jesus after His birth, **Matthew 2:11** and applied to His body after His death, **John 19:39-40**.

Matthew 2:11 NIV

11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

John 19:39-40 NIV

39 He was accompanied by Nicodemus, the man who earlier had visited Jesus at night. Nicodemus brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. 40 Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen.

This was in accordance with Jewish burial customs.

3) Jesus is Spirit Filled Prophecies

Jesus would be Spirit filled and anointed at His birth. Isaiah had described this special Son of God and said about him:

The Prophecy:

Isaiah 11:1-2 NIV

A shoot will! come up from the stump of Jesse; from the roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord.

With the Babylonian captivity of 586 BC, the Davidic dynasty appeared as decimated as the Assyrian army. The major difference between the two was the life remaining in the stump and roots of the Davidic line. That life was to manifest itself in new growth in the form of the Rod and the Branch. Jesse was the father of David through whose line the messianic king was to come: **Ruth 4:22, 1 Sam. 16:1, 12-13**. The Branch is a title for the Messiah; **Isaiah 4:2; Jeremiah 23:5, 33:15; Zechariah 3:8; 6:12; II Samuel 23:5**

When Jesus was 40 days old, His parents, Mary and Joseph, took Him to the temple for her to be purified as the Law of Moses required and to dedicate the child to the Lord; the requirement of all first-born people and animals. It was at this time, that a prophet of God, Simeon, filled with the

Prophecies of the Birth of Jesus

Holy Spirit took the boy in his arms praised God, blessed the boy and announced what would happen to Jesus and Mary during the life of this young man.

Luke 2:22-35 NIV

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord"), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: "a pair of doves or two young pigeons." 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: 29 "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation, 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel." 33 The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Luke 2:22-35 The song of Simeon tells not only of his great faith in God to fulfill the revelation that he received; but it also tells the story of what would happen to the Son of God in His life. He would redeem His people from their sins and it would be a gift that was given to all peoples. That would be all nations, all tongues, and all tribes; both all in Israel and all of the Gentiles.

He blessed the boy who was filled with the Holy Spirit and told Mary and Joseph the sad news that the boy would be the great cornerstone that would cause all of Israel to either accept or reject Him as the Messiah: sad, because those who rejected Him would also crucify Him, great pain and great loss to Mary.

Anna, the prophet also gave her testimony to the salvation He would bring. **Luke 2:46-47.**

Luke 2:46-47 KJV

46 And it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. 47 And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers.