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BIBLE VERSE QUOTES

All bible verse quotes shown are from the New International Version (NIV) unless otherwise shown. Bible

INTRODUCTION

This Hope Looks Up Bible Study series of 10 Lessons is the second part of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled and is focused on **“His Coming to Earth Just as the Bible Said Would.”** Our previous Hope Looks Up 2025 Spring study series titled **“Fulfilling Bible Prophecies, Jesus Did It Best”** covered Prophecies of Jesus Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension. The first part, presented in the Spring of 2025, basically started with the last 50 days of the life of Jesus on this Earth, pre-trial and crucifixion and ended with the prophetic description of eternal life.

This Hope Looks Up 2025 Fall study series starts before the Creation of the Earth and goes to that time of the last 50 days in the life of Jesus on this Earth. They were presented in this order because the Death, Burial and Resurrection of Jesus occurred in the Spring and the birth of Jesus occurred in the winter.

CHAPTER # 1: "THE BIBLE IS PROPHECY "

"Jesus Fulfilled Prophecies Better Than Anyone!"

The plan of God has lived out in the prophecies of the Bible, especially the Old Testament that clearly shows that God had always intended to 'Interrupt History' by sending His Son, Jesus Christ to this earth. The stories that tell of the birth of Jesus Christ are some of the most familiar stories in all of Christianity. We have all seen dozens of Christmas Nativity Plays, and maybe even participated in a few ourselves. But as effective and clear as they may seem to us today, we need to remember that the people who anticipated the birth of the Messiah the most, and continually studied to detect when that would be; never saw a single one of the stories of the birth of Jesus as a part of the story of the Messiah, with the exception they knew the Messiah, we know Him as Jesus, would be born in Bethlehem. It is not just knowing the stories that cause us to grow in faith and understanding; it is seeing that God had always planned for His Son, Jesus Christ the Messiah to come to this earth and change the world.

Perhaps, as we examine these thousand-year-old prophecies that Jesus fulfilled; we will see the hand of God moving to produce what He always said would happen. God would interrupt history by sending His Son and He would change the world and in those ancient Scriptures are the teachings that changed the world.

We will study in detail the prophecies of Jesus prior to His arrest and crucifixion; His ministry and the prophecies the ministry fulfilled; His appearances in the Old Testament, and the prophetic foreshadowing's of His presence and teachings in the Old Testament.

THE BIBLE IS A BOOK OF PROPHECY

It is important for us to understand that the Bible is a Book of Prophecy. One-fourth of the Bible is prophetic in nature and at least a fourth of the Bible books are 'eschatological' (Second Coming, End Times). Prophecies in Scriptures are either Fulfilled or Unfulfilled. The main subject of the prophecies is Jesus Christ. Other major topics of prophecy are Israel, the Gentile nations, evil, Satan, the Man of Sin or Anti-Christ, the Great Tribulation period, how this age will end and how eternity will begin. While the Church is also the subject of prophecy, it is never mentioned in the Old Testament in any way and the prophecies dealing with the Church, deal with the ministry of the Church in the New Testament period through the end of the age of humanity.

In Isaiah God tells us that all prophecies *"will come to pass."* This is an amazing statement that only God can make. The passage reads:

Isaiah 46:9-10

"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 hundreds of references and many specific prophecies of the Messiah, which were all fulfilled in Jesus Christ. What are the odds of only a few prophecies—let's take eight prophecies to come true about a single person? Mathematicians have calculated the odds are 1 in 10 to the 21st power of 10.

$$10^{21} = 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000$$

Eight prophecies as diverse as: the virgin birth of Jesus, the betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver; His name would be the Son of David, but He would almost exclusively call Himself the Son of Man, his hands and feet would be pierced, His face beaten beyond recognition, lots would be cast for his clothing, he would be riding an unbroken donkey foal for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, and of course, He would be born in Bethlehem. The odds of those 8 prophecies and being born in Bethlehem all coming true in the life of Jesus are almost mathematically impossible, yet we know that Jesus fulfilled them all and many more.

STUDY OF PROPHECY IS OFTEN IGNORED OR SKIMMED OVER

While the study of Prophecy is a dominant part of the Bible, it is often ignored or skimmed over; and that is probably because it takes much study to adequately absorb its meaning in two different settings and because the prophecy usually spells out how we are to react to an event, it minimalizes the interpretation people can put on the Scripture. We often see that is true when the interpretation of a prophetic Scripture by many theologians is explained by:

- This does not apply to us today.
- This prophetic word now stands for a new subject.
- This concept has been replaced by a new concept from God.

The result, then people can rename what God is really speaking about and not focus on the actual words of prophecy, but what they want to teach.

But there is one more reason that intense study of the prophetic verses of the Bible may be unpopular; because when we do dwell in the close presence of the Almighty, it is not that cozy comfort we might have expected in worshiping the baby Jesus or dwelling in the safety of the Shekinah Glory of God. No, when you actually come to the intersection of the Holy and the profane, which each of us does when we are in the close presence of Jesus and are compared to Him, it creates a tension that is dangerous and soul-searching to say the least.

Let's look at some examples from the Bible, to examine that thought for just a moment: the profanity of Adam and Eve's sin ended their communion with God; even though they were with God and innocently protected by God 24/7. Because they sinned, they were evicted from the Garden of Eden and burdened with toil and inevitable death. In fact, all of creation was cursed by their actions.

Israel later learned the peril of dwelling in the presence of God. While they were slaves in Egypt the intersections with God were infrequent. But when they were miraculously led into the wilderness and

freedom, they were with God 24/7 and His presence was intense. When His Shekinah Glory filled the tabernacle, not even Moses could enter. The penalty for being in the same camp where the Holy God was present was swift and sure. So, we find that intensely studying prophecy brings us into the presence of the Almighty in a way that some find frightening. Let me share one more example, when Jesus came to dwell among men, his parents learned that their lives and immediate safety were threatened by Herod. They fled to Egypt to escape his paranoid vindictiveness but many baby boys were killed because of Herod's close involvement and fear of the new King--Jesus Christ.

HOW TO GAIN THE GREATEST GOOD OUT OF STUDYING PROPHECY

So, how do we gain the greatest good out of studying prophecy and applying it to our lives? This question is very prevalent in the Book of Leviticus where God spells out the role of the High Priest and the Priests of Israel to bring the people into a closeness with God. He is carefully explaining how the Priests can bring the people into the presence of God and they can find joy and direction. It is a question that comes up quite often in the Old Testament. David wrote in the Psalms.

Psalm 15:1

"Lord, who may dwell in your sacred tent? Who may live in your holy mountain?"

Again, he writes

Psalm 24:3

"Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place?"

David seems to set the bar very high for each of us when he answers.

Psalms 15:2

"The one whose walk is blameless, who does what is righteous, who speaks the truth with their heart."

And again, David answers.

Psalm 24: 4

"The one who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not trust in an idol, or swear by a false god."

And yet the Bible prophesies a day when God will indeed dwell with us and an intimate relationship will be restored. David tells us people will attain such a standing with God.

Psalm 24:5

"They will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God their Savior."

The God who saves will impart the righteousness that allows people to enter an everlasting relationship with God. In the language of this special book of the Old Testament, it is the very blessing of ascending the mountain of the Lord, entering into His holy presence and dwelling with Him in intimate communion that we will not have to do, because God has already have done it for us. Jesus as God came down from the heavenly mountain and dwelt with us. His physical human journey on earth began in Bethlehem and ended at Calvary. As the old hymn says:

'Heaven came down and glory filled my soul; when at the Cross my Savior made me whole.'

DRAWING NEAR TO GOD IS SPELLED OUT IN THE BOOK OF LEVITICUS

Drawing near to God as spelled out in the Book of Leviticus is a long and arduous process and hard to achieve. It tells the story of the sons of Samuel who served as false priests, offered strange fire and were eliminated by God on the spot. But it also outlines the law of atonement. Atonement refers to the legal reunion of two alienated parties. In essence, it represents the “*at-one-ment*” of two that were estranged. It required removing impurity and sprinkling blood as a purification offering. The price of atonement is the life of the sacrifice. As a mediator, Moses was willing to sacrifice himself for his people. But really fulfilling the need for a mediator forever, Jesus Christ became the ultimate sacrifice that offers us eternal atonement with God. And since He was resurrected and now sits at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He is our High Priest like Melchizedek; our Mediator; and our one who leads us to examine prophecy and to understand it while in a great relationship with Him and a close searching for His direction.

So, in this great Book of Instruction, Leviticus, which tells us how to become close to God, it will be revealed that it is Jesus. We learn of atonement and how Jesus fulfills this Bible Book by becoming our permanent atonement.

Leviticus prophetically foreshadows the work of Jesus and teaches us these truths that are lived out later in the life of Jesus:

- The only way to approach God is by the way that He has revealed.
- Sacrifice and a God appointed priest are necessary to draw near to God.
- The first step is atonement is reconciliation between God and man.

This is where Jesus comes to our rescue. He said:

John 14:6

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Paul writes in:

Galatians 1:8-9

“Anyone who preaches or pursues any other supposed path to salvation is to be accursed.”

This system of the worship of God was designed by God and it was to accommodate the presence of God. Tabernacle is both a noun and a verb, meaning the portable dwelling place of the Lord and the action “to dwell”. God invites people to come to Him through Jesus and writes.

Leviticus 26:11-12

“I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul will not reject you. I will also walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people.”

The priestly system of Leviticus eventually broke down, but King David professed his prophetic hope to “*dwell in the house of the Lord forever.*” **Psalms 23:6** We were created to live in God’s divine presence—in real and eternal relationship with Him. That is why our souls will be restless until we find our ultimate answers and rest in Him.

FORESHADOWING OF PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS

When we see this foreshadowing of prophecy about Jesus, we will see many other places that it is clearly speaking about Jesus. Let me just mention five more we find here in Leviticus: These foreshadowing's become part of the prophetic direction of the Scripture and of Gods direction for our life. They helped predict and explain what would happen.

PROPHECY #1 Sacrifice had to be Spotless and Pure

The sacrifice brought before the Lord had to be spotless and pure.

Prophecy *Leviticus 1:3*,

"If the offering is a burnt offering from the herd, you are to offer a male without defect."

Fulfilled by Jesus *1 Peter 1:19*

"Jesus was the spotless Lamb of God chosen without blemish or defect."

PROPHECY #2 A Priest Required to Offer Blood Sacrifice

A priest, a set-apart son of Adam, was required to offer blood in order to secure atonement for the chosen people of God.

Prophecy *Leviticus 1:15*

"The priest shall bring it to the altar. . .burn it on the altar, its blood shall be drained out of the side of the altar."

Fulfilled in Jesus, *Hebrews 7:14f*

"Jesus (the last Adam)—and perfect priest in the order of Melchizedek, secured out atonement with His own blood."

PROPHECY #3 Blood Sprinkled on the Ark to Cover Sins

Every year, blood was sprinkled on the Ark's mercy seat and the ground in front of the ark, covering the sin of God's chosen people and pointing to the redemption of Creation from the curse brought about by Man's sin. The **Prophecy** is described in the **Entire 16th Chapter of Leviticus**.

Prophecy *Leviticus 16:14-16*

'He is to take some of the bull's blood and with his finger sprinkle it on the front of the atonement cover; then he shall sprinkle some of it with his finger seven times before the atonement cover. "He shall then slaughter the goat for the sin offering for the people and take its blood behind the curtain and do with it as he did with the bull's blood: He shall sprinkle it on the atonement cover and in front of it. In this way he will make atonement for the Most Holy Place because of the uncleanness and rebellion of the Israelites, whatever their sins have been. He is to do the same for the tent of meeting, which is among them in the midst of their uncleanness."

It was totally fulfilled by Jesus as the New Testament when Jesus shed His blood to cover our sin and to restore the world: **Matthew 26:28; Hebrews 12:24; and Romans 8:19-23**.

Fulfilled *Matthew 26:28*

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 12:23-24*

To the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Fulfilled *Romans 8:19-23*

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.

PROPHECY #4 Purpose of the Blood Sacrifice?

The seven-branched lampstand shone on the 12 loaves of showbread, symbolizing the seven spirits of God that radiate His glory and truth upon the 12 tribes of Israel and the world.

Prophecy *Leviticus 24:1-9*

The LORD said to Moses, "Command the Israelites to bring you clear oil of pressed olives for the light so that the lamps may be kept burning continually. Outside the curtain that shields the ark of the covenant law in the tent of meeting, Aaron is to tend the lamps before the LORD from evening till morning, continually. This is to be a lasting ordinance for the generations to come. The lamps on the pure gold lampstand before the LORD must be tended continually. "Take the finest flour and bake twelve loaves of bread, using two-tenths of an ephah for each loaf. Arrange them in two stacks, six in each stack, on the table of pure gold before the LORD. By each stack put some pure incense as a memorial portion to represent the bread and to be a food offering presented to the LORD. This bread is to be set out before the LORD regularly, Sabbath after Sabbath, on behalf of the Israelites, as a lasting covenant. It belongs to Aaron and his sons, who are to eat it in the sanctuary area, because it is a most holy part of their perpetual share of the food offerings presented to the LORD."

This will be fulfilled by Jesus when He leads us into Heaven with the 12 gates inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel; how does Jesus fit into this foreshadowing prophecy.

Fulfilled *Revelation 21:23-24*

"The city has no need of the sun or of the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God has illumined it, and its lamp is the Lamb, the nations will walk by its light."

PROPHECY #5 Promise of God to Dwell Eternally on the New Earth

The tabernacle, an earthly copy of His heavenly abode, pointed backward to Eden, the original intersection of God and humans; and Mount Sinai, where God's presence was revealed to Israel; it

also pointed forward to Mount Zion and God's indwelling Shekinah Presence in the temple, they serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. That is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle.

Prophecy *Exodus 25:8-9*

"Then have them make a sanctuary for me, and I will dwell among them. Make this tabernacle and all its furnishings exactly like the pattern I will show you. ..."

The tabernacle and temple both foreshadow the promise of God to dwell eternally on the new Earth.

Fulfilled *Revelation 21:3-4*

"Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God will be among them."

In fact, the book of Hebrews shows this prophetic foreshadowing by Jesus was really telling them they would have something greater in the atonement of Jesus. The old system required the blood of bulls and goats as an ongoing sacrifice because this blood could not take away sins.

Hebrews 10:1-4

The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason, it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins.

The entire system pointed to Jesus Christ, who

Hebrews 10:12

"Having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, sat down on the right hand of God".

JESUS PRESENCE IN OUR LIVES IS THE BEST WAY TO LIVE

Even though it might seem a little frightening and upsetting to come so close in our study of prophecy to Jesus that He is present in everything in our life, it is the best way to live. We might ignore prophecy because it seems too intense to us but it is the one way to find all that God has for you to do and find out all of His instruction. The answer to the questions of David about who may ascend to the presence of God, clearly as we look at the prophetic passages of Scripture it is only Jesus Christ, and those who have put their trust in Him and walk with Him into the presence of the Father.

Hebrews 10:19-22

"Therefore, Brethren, since we have confidence to enter the Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil. That is, His flesh, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water."

How does this apply to our study? The promise of atonement with Almighty God done by Jesus Christ foreshadows the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. It will be eternally realized when the Lord dwells with us again in the New Jerusalem. That is a promise every believer can look forward to with eager anticipation, providing yet another reason to shout, *"Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!"*

One final thought about the Bible being prophecy is contained in the article written by Marvin Olasky, editor of World Magazine on September 11, 2021. It explains why some intensely feel the presence of Jesus Christ while others say they have never felt the presence of Jesus in their life in anyway.

"Atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell once said that if he died and met God, he would accuse God of providing insufficient evidence of His existence. Russell wanted God to provide a special message outside the Bible, but a study of history shows that God has already done that."

Blaise Pascal (a French scientist and theologian) was wiser than Bertrand Russell. Pascal understood that God establishes Biblical objectivity while respecting man's subjective liberty: God is 'willing to appear only to those who seek Him with all their heart, and to be hidden from those who flee from Him with all their heart. God so regulates the knowledge of Himself that He has given indication of Himself which is visible to those who seek Him and not to those who do not seek Him. There is enough light for those to see who only desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition to never see Him.'"

Praise God who overcomes fear and will one day wipe away every tear, of those who saw that through His prophetic utterances He has provided the way to worship and adore our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER # 2: "GOD INTERRUPTS HISTORY"

I believe that prophecy has always been God's plan to reveal His future to His people. It has been the way that God wanted us to live an unfearful and faithful life. It only buttresses our faith to see that God had always planned to do certain things and nothing is more obvious than what God is telling us about His Son, we call Him Jesus Christ, who would come to this earth; become the perfect human sacrifice for sin; and gather believers from all generations and all centuries together to live eternally with God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. The plan of God was first revealed in the prophecies of the Old Testament writers. They wrote frequently about this '*One from God*' and called Him, '*The Messiah*.' They did not seem to grasp the concept of God becoming one of us and being both God and man; so many of the prophecies were interpreted as someone who would be the strongest, most influential, and most powerful human who ever lived. It was as though they believed God would send this Messiah but, in their mind, he would be more like a Greek or Roman god, think Hercules or Atlas, but not the spiritual Son of God. He would be in their mind more of a reincarnation of a "Super-King David" and less like a God Almighty, who wanted all people to believe.

Nevertheless, God did not hesitate to lay out for them the ways in which He would enter their world and gave very distinct prophecies about the Messiah's ancestors. Let's look at the prophecies of Jesus contained in the genealogy of Jesus, many were of the first prophecies about Him.

PROPHECIES OF JESUS CONTAINED IN THE GENEALOGY OF JESUS

It began with the part of the Old Testament that we often by-pass; the 'begat(s)' a study of the first world genealogy and traced that genealogy right through the Hebrew genealogy to the birth of Jesus. It was not until the time of Noah that 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, absent of all the things that make our world irritating. They did not live in the Garden of Eden; but they lived in the atmosphere, watering structure, and paradise type conditions that made the Garden of Eden heavenly, and therefore the entire earth was a perfect place to live. They may not have had access to the "Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil" or "The Tree of Life" but they still had the same weather and climate that allowed those trees and every shrub and bush that lived in the Garden to flourish. I think the Bible makes the point that every species of tree had its base start growing in the garden when it says.

Genesis 2:9

"The Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground, trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

This came to a disastrous end when renegade angels broke their heavenly ranks and married women on earth.

Genesis 6:1-3

"When human beings began to increase in number on the earth and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of humans were beautiful, and they married any of them they chose. Then the Lord said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal, their days will be a hundred and twenty years."

The world had become 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, they began to repopulate the new, harsh, and non-paradise post-flood world. Their offspring and the groups that grew up formed the first table of nations. What had once been a large number of people, maybe as many as 5 billion that existed as one large group before the flood; now became multiple family units that began to live in groups and clans. Each one of us here can trace our ancestry back to one of these three families and it often makes a difference just where you were born—which of Noah's sons your ancestry is from.

God made a new covenant with Noah and He made it in the form of a statement that led to the first prophecies about the birth of Jesus Christ. The story unfolds by telling us.

Genesis 8:18-19

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

This new group of people did not take long until they decided to pool their strength and resources and build a temple that allowed them to reach up to the heavens with the stated intent to commune with God. It was called the Tower of Babel. However, the architect and builder behind the tower was a sun worshipper and it is not totally clear that he also intended to make a statement that mankind was now on the same level as God. The Tower was being built when God stepped in and stopped the construction. We get the name of the tower because of what God did. God gave many small groups out of all of His creation each a new language that only their group knew. It caused such confusion that the end result was all construction on the Tower of Babel stopped. The people could not speak to one another, work with one another, so they abandoned their project and began to move all over the earth and separate themselves from other clans and ethnic people groups.

PROPHECY #6 Messiah from the Line of Shem

For prophesy to be accurate, it was important that God prophetically tell the world which of the sons of Noah would be the ancestor of His Son, Jesus. God said He would be from the line of Shem, He also had said and written,

Prophecy Genesis 9:26.

"Praise be to the Lord, the God of Shem. May Canaan be the slave of Shem."

This prophetic quote from Noah showed that Jesus was to come from the line of Shem. In fact, all the Hebrew nation would be descendants of Shem. It was fulfilled when Dr Luke recorded the words of promise as he outlined the ancestry of Jesus:

Fulfilled *Luke 3:35-37*

"The son of Serug, the son of Reu, the son of Peleg, the son of Eber, the son of Shelah, the son of Canaan, the son of Arphaxad, the son of Shem, the son of Noah, the son of Lamech, the son of Methuselah, the son of Enoch, the son of Jared, the son of Mahalalel, the son of Kenan, the son of Enosh, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God."

PROPHECY #7 Messiah Descendant of Abraham

Once God established that His Messiah would come from the ancestry of Shem, it did not take long until God signaled out a Babylonian man, Abram, whom God renamed Abraham and through him and his wife Sarah; started the nation of the Hebrews. The Bible lists many prophecies about Jesus that tie back to these historical men in the line of the Hebrews. The Messiah would have to be a descendant from each of them.

Messiah from the line of Abraham: God said to Abram

Prophecy *Genesis 12:2-3*

"I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all people on earth will be blessed through you."

The Messiah, Jesus would be from the line of Abraham.

Fulfilled *Galatians 3:16* Paul wrote

"The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. Scripture does not say 'and to seeds,' meaning many people, but 'and to your seed,' meaning one person who is Christ."

PROPHECY #8 Messiah from the Line of Isaac

Prophecy *Genesis 17:21*

"But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year."

Fulfilled *Romans 9:7-8* Paul wrote.

"Nor because they are his descendants, are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, 'It is through Jesus that your offspring will be reckoned,' In other words, it is not the children of physical descent who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring."

PROPHECY #9 Messiah from the Line of Jacob

Prophecy *Genesis 28: 13-14*

"There above the heavenly ladder stood the Lord, and he said, 'I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac'. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring."

Fulfilled *Acts 7:8, 51-53*

While Stephen is defending his life, he says about the lineage of Jesus, "Then he gave Abraham the covenant of circumcision. And Abraham became the father of Isaac and circumcised him eight days after his birth. Later Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob became the father of the twelve patriarchs." "You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! Was there ever a prophet our ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him, you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it."

PROPHECY #10 Messiah from the Line of Judah

Jesus had to fulfill the right heritage, the right nation, and now the right tribe. Jacob/Israel had said it as he blessed his sons and two grandsons.

Prophecy *Genesis 49:10*

"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his."

The author of Hebrews is showing how Jesus is a High Priest, not because He was from the family of Aaron, but because He had been prophesied to be, he High Priest like Melchizedek.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 7:14*

"For it is clear that our Lord descended from Judah, and in regard to that tribe Moses said nothing about priests."

PROPHECY #11 Messiah from the Family of Jesse, David's Father

Prophecy *Isaiah 11:1*

"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse from his root a Branch will bear fruit."

This prophecy has to do with the reestablishment of the throne and kingdom of David that had been eliminated when the Jews were exiled to Babylonia. That Jesse was in the lineage of Jesus is clear. He is included in both of the genealogies about Christ.

Fulfilled *Matthew 1:6* First

"And Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife."

Fulfilled *Luke 3:31b-32* Second

"The son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David, the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon."

PROPHECY #12 Messiah from the House of David

The Messiah would be from the house of David. Jeremiah writes of a time when the Righteous One, the Messiah Jesus would come to rule the earth. He will come from the house of David.

Prophecy *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

"The days are coming," declares the Lord. When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

Many Scriptures confirm that Jesus is a descendant of David. This is just one of many.

Fulfilled *Romans: 3:1-4*

Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God! The gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures regarding his son, who as to his earthly life was a descendant of David, and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord."

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. He called them 'His People.' The lineage of Jesus, the nation through which He would be born, the heritage He would have, and the details of that heritage were all set millennia before Jesus was born and were all fulfilled.

God chose to reveal in prophecy many traits about the Messiah Jesus and what He would be like. We marvel that all of these were recorded centuries before the birth of Jesus.

PROPHECY #13 Jesus Would be the Son of God

Jesus would be the Son of God, *"the only Begotten Son of God."*

In *II Samuel*, Nathan has a vision from God that he is to tell to King David.

Prophecy *II Samuel 7:14*

"He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son."

God reveals the fulfillment when He has the author of Hebrews quote this passage and say it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 1:5-6*

"But to which of the angels did God ever say, 'You are my Son, today I have become your Father'; or again, 'I will be his Father and he will be my Son'; and again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, he says, 'Let all of God's angels worship him.'"

PROPHECY #14 Jesus Would be the Coming Star Out of Jacob**Prophecy *Numbers 24:17***

"I see him but not now; I behold him, but not here. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel." The temporary fulfillment was David as he conquered the enemies of Israel but ultimately it was Jesus Christ who leads like a heavenly star.

John the Revelator declares how Jesus shall come and conquer all who oppose God and the people of God. He will be that shining star from Jacob (Israel).

Fulfilled *Revelation 19:11-16*

"I saw heaven standing open and therefore me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows except he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. 16 On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The birth of Jesus Christ had been prophesied from the start of the Scriptures and we now will see that many of His traits and characteristics had also been prophesied. Jesus could be checked again and again by these 40 + Scriptures we will examine and see if He really fulfilled all that had been predicted about Him. The answer will not surprise you!!!!

CHAPTER # 3 "JESUS IS BORN"

We have seen how the Bible is the systematic way of explaining what God will do as He prophesies the events to come. The Bible story of mankind reached the point where God's Son Jesus is ready to come to this earth. The Bible calls this 'in the fullness of time', to be born of a virgin woman, and live a perfect life as a human who will then sacrifice His life for the sins of the world.

This has occurred after God had chosen a people group for His Son to be born in, the Hebrews; a nation for His Son to be a part of, Israel; a tribe for His Son, Judah; and a patriarch that His Son will both model and accomplish more than, King David of Israel. The lineage of Jesus, the Son of God had been set for thousands of years in prophecy.

PROPHECY #15 God Sent a Forerunner to Prepare the Way for the Lord

God also provided other ways to herald the birth of His Son. One such way was the sending of a forerunner.

Prophecy *Isaiah 40:3-5*

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all the people will see it together. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."

It was fulfilled in Scripture several times. The first New Testament reference is in Matthew.

Fulfilled *Matthew 3:3-4*

"This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight paths for him. John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist.'"

Mark says John the Baptist was the prophesied forerunner of Jesus also.

Fulfilled *Mark 1:3-4*

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness, Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And so, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

Luke also notes this passage in *Luke 3:4-6*, and then adds,

Fulfilled *Luke 3:7*

"John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers!' Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?"

John the Apostle, shares an eyewitness account of the teaching of John the Baptist where he also said that he fulfilled this Scripture.

Fulfilled *John 1:23*

"John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness. Make straight the way of the Lord.'"

God had sent a forerunner to prepare the nation of Judah for the preaching of Jesus and sent a forerunner, John the Baptist who through fiery preaching helped to sort out those who would follow Jesus as Savior from those who would not? The first six disciples that Jesus recruited started first as disciples of John the Baptist. In fact, the inner three of the Disciples: Peter, James and John had all been disciples of John the Baptist before they followed Jesus. John set the tone for the ministry of Jesus.

PROPHECY #16 The Kingdom Established by His Son Would Be Eternal

God had also prophesied that the Kingdom established by His Son would be everlasting, would be led by His anointed Son and would allow the Kingdom of David to be an eternal kingdom.

The prophecy about the Kingdom established by Jesus being eternal is found in Psalms.

Prophecy *Psalms 2:6-9*

"I have installed my king on Zion, my holy mountain. I will proclaim the Lord's decree: He said to me, 'You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the Earths your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.'"

According to the Book of Revelation this prophecy will be fulfilled by Jesus Christ when He returns to this earth to rule:

Fulfilled *Revelation 12:5*

"She gave birth to a son, a male child, who 'will rule all the nations with an iron scepter.'"

This is also the focus of Jesus returning to this earth to win the war against the Antichrist.

Fulfilled *Revelation 19:15-16*

"Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron scepter. He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh, he has this name written, 'KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS.'"

The Bible also says that those who have remained faithful to Jesus Christ will be appointed to be the rulers of His new Millennial Kingdom.

Fulfilled *Revelation 2:26-27*

"To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations, that one will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery, just as I have received authority from my Father."

PROPHECY #17 The Kingdom Will be Led by the Son of God, Jesus

The Kingdom will be led by the Son of God, Jesus. Jesus is prophesied many places as the kingdom leader, but we will just add one familiar Christmas prophecy to prove that it was given and fulfilled.

Prophecy *Isaiah 9:6-7*

"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. 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."

It was fulfilled by God in Matthew.

Fulfilled *Matthew 3:16-17*

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased.'"

This was also outlined in the teaching of Jesus to Nicodemus when Jesus outlined how God anointed Him, His Son to lead forever.

Fulfilled *John 3:16-17*

"For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

PROPHECY #18 The Kingdom Led by the Son of God Will be Everlasting

God also prophesied that this Kingdom led by His coming Son would be everlasting. The prophecy said.

Prophecy *Isaiah 55:3-4*

"Give ear and come to me; listen that you may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a ruler and commander of peoples."

It was fulfilled often in the New Testament. Paul was preaching when he taught.

Fulfilled *Acts 13:33-35*

"As it is written in the second Psalm, 'You are my son, today I have become your father.' God raised him from the dead so that he will never be subject to decay; As God as said, 'I will give the holy and sure blessed promised to David.' So, it is also stated elsewhere, 'You will not let your holy one see decay.'"

PROPHECY #19 Jesus Would Be Born from the Seed of a Woman, a Virgin

One of the most fantastic prophecies about the birth of Jesus was that:

1. He would be born just from the seed of woman, a phrase from the Bible.
2. She would be a virgin who had never had sexual contact with a man.

The prophecy was given when Isaiah was discussing the plans of God with a reluctant king Ahaz. Isaiah said.

Prophecy *Isaiah 7:14*

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

It was fulfilled when Matthew tells the story of the prophecy and it shows the prophetic foreshadowing of God delivering the world through a person just like He often delivered those in trouble by sending a person.

Fulfilled *Matthew 1:18-23*

"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. Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 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. all this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel' (which means 'God with us')

God and the angels were able to affirm this action with Mary to allow the virgin impregnation and then convince Joseph to take her as a wife and raise this son as if his own.

PROPHECY #20 Jesus Would Be Born a King, Not Made a King

God also let searching people of the world know that a King had been born in Bethlehem of Judea. He would be born a king, not made a king. This had been a prophecy to Mary from the Angel Gabriel when he announced she would bear a son although a virgin. He said in Luke.

Prophecy *Luke 1:30-33*

"But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Highest. and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

The Magi from the East, most likely Persia or Mesopotamia came to the West and sought the king of the Jews. They followed a star put in the celestial heavens to lead them to the King, His Son. It fulfilled the prophecy that a king of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem. Without prompting, they went to Jerusalem the capital and asked,

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:2b*

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and come to worship him."

God did not restrict prophecies and signs just to the Jews for Jesus was born to also be the king of the Gentiles.

PROPHECY #21 Time of the Birth of Jesus

God had 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 would not be fulfilled in entirety until the coming of the Millennial Kingdom. The blessings of the sons of Jacob or Israel in Genesis 48-50 prophecies of the time when the House of Judah would be the only nation left of the Hebrews and God's Son will come.

Prophecy *Genesis 40:10*

"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his."

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:1*

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. . ."

The King of Judah was not even a Jew, but instead, it was King Herod who ruled over the fractured and captured Nation of Judah. The nation of Israel had been gone for centuries. But the next King of the Jews would be the king of the Earth, Jesus Christ, when He returns to rule over the entire Millennial world.

PROPHECY #22 The Timing of the Birth of Jesus

It had been a prophecy in the Book of Daniel, explaining the prophecies about the end times and the tyrannical rule of the Anti-Christ, who will be defeated by this promised Jewish King of the World,

Prophecy *Daniel 7:26-27* (Daniel's 70-Weeks Prophecy)

"But the court will sit, and his power will be taken away and completely destroyed forever. Then the sovereignty, power and greatness of all the kingdoms under heaven will be handed over to the holy people of the Highest. His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all rulers will worship and obey him."

It was fulfilled in that great passage of prophecy spoken by Gabriel to Mary.

Fulfilled *Luke 1:31-33*

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His Kingdom will never end."

Daniel Chapter 9:24-27 outlines history from the time Daniel wrote the ***Book of Daniel*** until the start of the Millennial Kingdom. He accurately tells the time of the rebuilding of Jerusalem, and adds

that to the time of preparation, a total of 483 years, and he wrote this in BC 454. He would have by his prophecy of the 69th week Jesus beginning his ministry at the end of the 483 years, or 29 A D, and being crucified in AD 31, after having been born in 3 BC. (Dating discrepancies are from the Middle Age monks setting the birth date for Jesus Christ.)

The birth of Jesus, called *'the fullness of time'* in the Bible was a very specific time in history when Israel had dissolved into one occupied tribe, Judah and had little or no influence of power in the world. Jesus was handed a small area of influence but He did not come to Earth this time to rule, but to be the servant sacrifice needed for salvation.

PROPHECY #23 The Place of Jesus Birth, Bethlehem

The place of the birth of Jesus was very clear in the prophecy and was recognized even by the Jews in the time of Jesus. It was the hometown of David which verified that Jesus would fulfill every lineage prophecy and He would be the Lion of Judah.

Prophecy *Micah 5:2*

"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."

It was the birthplace of Jesus, fulfilled in the New Testament,

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:1*

"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem."

Luke goes into a much longer description of the birth in Bethlehem and tells the history of why Joseph and a pregnant Mary would travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in her last month of pregnancy. In the middle of his story, he writes.

Fulfilled *Luke 2:6-7*

"While they were there (Bethlehem), the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available."

The announcement to the shepherds by the Angel of the Lord about the birth of Jesus, although not a prophecy, is one of the strongest prophetic foreshadowing(s) we see in the Bible. The shepherds of Bethlehem raised the flocks for the Jewish High Priests and they would be the animals approved to be sacrificed in the Temple. Jesus, the Lamb of God, was also born in a birthing pen area or manger area, and He would offer His life as a sacrifice also in Jerusalem. The Lambs of Bethlehem brought partial peace but the Lamb of God brought eternal peace. The message came to those who were banned from Temple worship, because they were unable to do their job and stay ritually clean; paralleled with Jesus, the Lamb of God, who would take His message to many who were banned from Temple worship because of disease, ill conditions, immoral behavior, being non-Jewish, women, or children; and He would offer salvation to them all.

Two other prophecies highlight this birth time of Jesus.

PROPHECY #24 King Herod Orders Young Boys Killed

First, the angel kept a close eye on the baby Messiah and His family and told them to flee to Egypt to escape the tirade and genocide of baby boys in the Bethlehem area. When Herod was not able to get the information from the Magi where they found Jesus, he set an arbitrary age and had all baby boys in the area around Bethlehem that fit this age range killed. It was a very sad prophecy.

Prophecy *Jeremiah 31:15*

"This is what the Lord says: '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.'"

It was Matthew who told the story and shared the bleak consequences that fulfilled the prophecy:

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:16-18*

"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.'"

PROPHECY #25 Jesus's Family Flees to Egypt

Jesus was saved from this mad-man and it also fulfilled another prophecy about his birth.

Prophecy *Hosea 11:1*

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

This is not only a fulfilled prophecy it also contains a strong prophetic foreshadowing. Just as Jesus completed and fulfilled every phase of the original Passover; so, He also fulfilled every phase of the Exodus. He led people out of Egypt, cleansing away their past life with its mistakes and sins and bringing them into the Promised Land of salvation.

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:14-15*

"So, he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son.'"

History tells us that Herod only lived a short time after his order to have all the baby boys of Bethlehem killed. Jesus and family could have been in Egypt just a few weeks or not more than 12 months to match the death date for Herod.

Jesus arrived here on earth and the prophecies about him and his birth had been fulfilled. The next Chapter looks at how the birth of Jesus connects Heaven and Earth and all the prophecies that were fulfilled.

LESSON # 4: “HEAVEN AND EARTH CONNECT”

“No One Fulfills Prophecies Better than Jesus.”

We have seen that the birth of Jesus Christ has been the culmination of centuries of prophecies and that they were all fulfilled. We will see in this study that these prophetic Scriptures being fulfilled also connected Heaven and Earth in a new way that allowed believers to be in contact with God and His Son Jesus in a personal intimate way that had never been a part of God’s relationship with the general population. Previously, we saw that the angel of the Lord had called Joseph, Mary, and Jesus out of the Bethlehem area to keep Jesus from being killed and sent them to Egypt where they could escape the wrath and paranoia of King Herod as he attempted to kill any boy who might be a usurper to his embattled throne. Jesus becoming human was not as idyllic as it sounds, for Satan saw this vulnerable baby boy as someone he could eliminate before he became a worse problem.

Mary and Joseph had traveled to Bethlehem to be counted in the census and to pay taxes to the Roman government. It was the birth city of Joseph and his ancestors; and the residing Caesar, Augustus had asked each person to return to their home town for simplicity’s sake and also to make sure that each person got counted and more importantly to him—paid their taxes. They had fled to Egypt to escape the murderous temper of King Herod and after Herod had died chose to stay away from Herod’s son who was the new leader of Judah and return to the Roman/Syrian controlled area of Galilee.

JESUS BIRTH CONNECTS HEAVEN & EARTH PROPHECIES

PROPHECY #26 Jesus Family Returns from Egypt to Hometown Nazareth

This was a return to their home town Nazareth which was located in the middle of Galilee or as the area had often been called in the Jewish terminology, the lands of Zebulun and Naphtali. The prophecy had been clear in:

Prophecy *Isaiah 9:1-3*

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, He will honor Galilee of the nations by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.’ You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy. They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.”

This was fulfilled in **Matthew 4**. John the Baptist had been put in prison and Jesus withdrew to Galilee.

Fulfilled *Matthew 4:13-16*

“Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said by the prophet Isaiah: Land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people

living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned."

PROPHECY #27 Jesus Ministry Focused in Galilee

Prophecy *Isaiah 9:1-3*

"Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future, He will honor Galilee of the nations by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.' You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy. They rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder."

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. 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. His sacrifice as a perfect human would cover the sins of every believer.

It was during this time that one of the potential disciples revealed just what the people of the time of Christ's physical life felt about Nazareth and its residents. Jesus had begun to recruit disciples and chose the first 6 from the disciples of John the Baptist: Peter, Andrew, James, John, Philip, and Nathanael or Bartholomew; and you can see how deeply the devaluing of Nazareth and people from that city had become to the rest of the Jews. Philip had said yes to being a disciple of Jesus and he wanted his brother Nathanael to be a follower also; but when Philip told his brother Jesus was from Nazareth, Nathaniel said.

John 2:16

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" "Come and see", said Philip.

We can see from that exchange that the areas of Zebulun and Naphtali did indeed need a boost in what people thought of the area. The preaching of Jesus centered in this area of Capernaum and the cities around the Sea of Galilee. It made a tremendous difference for those towns.

But the prophecy was speaking about more than respect and spirituality being brought back to an area. It meant that because of Christ's preaching and living in that area, His sacrifice would cover the sins of all, Jews and Gentiles, and they could all be saved because of Him.

Jesus was shown to have died for all the sins of the world, Jews and Gentiles

Fulfilled *Galatians 4:4-5*

But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem them under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

It was also shown to be fulfilled in Revelation, where John wrote about the birth of Christ.

Fulfilled *Revelation 12:5*

"She gave birth to a son, a male child, who will rule all the nations with an iron scepter"

PROPHECY #28 God Sends a Savior to the World

It was a definite time when God would send a 'Savior' to this world. The birth of Christ would signal the need and fulfillment of sending someone to forgive the sins of the world. The prophecy said.

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."*

It was fulfilled as stated by the angel of the Lord to the shepherds and recorded by Dr. Luke.

Fulfilled *Luke 2:15*

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

Two thoughts about this message of the Angel to the shepherds that fulfilled a century old prophecy of sending a Savior for the world.

1. **Christ is Referred to as "Savior"** - This is one of only two places in the Gospels where Christ is referred to as "Savior". The other was in *John* where the men of Sychar in Samaria confessed Him as the 'Savior of the world,':

Fulfilled *John 4:42*

"They said to the women, 'We no longer believe just because of what you said, now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world.'"

The angel had addressed Him as the Messiah or the Greek equivalent is most likely translated "*the Christ*."

2. **Christ 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 for 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 the Lord. The rest of the prophecy, *Isaiah 9:7* will be addressed later in this lesson.

PROPHECY #29 A Guiding Star Led Magi to the King of the Jews

We looked at the fact that the Magi came from the East after the birth of Jesus to fulfill the prophecy that a King of the Jews would be born in Bethlehem. But a second prophecy and fulfillment involved the Magi from the East, 'their guiding star had been a clear prophecy'.

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 even

entered into the Promised Land. Balaam spoke of the power of Israel over Moab and then gave this great prophecy:

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 wisemen, Magi, of Persia whose knowledge of Hebrew Scriptures could be traced back to the time of Daniel.

Prophecy *Daniel 5:11-12*

"There is a man in your kingdom who has the spirit of the holy gods in him. In the time of your father, he was found to have insight and intelligence and wisdom like that of the gods. Your father, King Nebuchadnezzar, appointed him chief of the magicians, enchanters, astrologers and diviners. He did this because Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems."

They had developed a philosophy and religion called, Zoroastrianism that incorporated Hebrew teaching and Scripture into their life and their Persian faith.

It was fulfilled when Heaven and Earth connected, God gave the appropriate prophetically fulfilled sign that allowed all who would follow Jesus to come to Him.

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:1-2*

"After Jesus was born in the town of 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 to worship him."

PROPHECY #30 Jesus Was Born a Human

A little follow-up on the great miracle of the virgin bearing a child. 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 about the future of Israel and drops this bombshell of prophecy.

Prophecy *Isaiah 7:14*

"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 a sign to Ahaz that Mr. and Mrs. Isaiah would have a son in ***Isaiah 8:3***, not their first child. No, the answer to the prophecy is accurately told in the New Testament.

Fulfilled *Matthew 1:18*

"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."

Mary was an unwed teenage woman, still living with her parents, and never having had sexual relations with her betrothed husband. Pledged but not married or living together until all things were finished. But she was found to be pregnant and the conception was through the Holy Spirit. Matthew actually quotes from the LXX Septuagint version (the Hebrew Old Testament translated into Greek) from the verse **Isaiah 7:14** which uses the Greek word for "virgin" (unwed mother) and it can only mean a true virgin, not just an unmarried woman like the Hebrew word did. This was detailed by the angel in **Luke 1:31-35** when Gabriel and Mary speak.

It is a time of prophetic overshadowing at its finest. Gabriel is explaining to Mary several things that would happen at the birth of Jesus; he is also explaining several things that will only happen later in the life of Jesus; and he is explaining how all of them will blend when heaven and earth connect and she is impregnated by the Holy Spirit. It is an integral prophecy that will help fulfill many more prophecies in the Bible. The passage says.

Fulfilled *Luke 1:31-35*

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end. 'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?' 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.'"

In these verses we have 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 and then to preside over Heaven.

5. He will be Given the Throne of His Father David.
6. He will Reign Over the House of Jacob—Israel.
7. There will be No End to His Kingdom.

The biggest changes for believers when Heaven and Earth connected and God sent His Son, as prophesied to the earth was the difference it made in the role of Jesus Christ our Lord, our Christ, and our Savior.

PROPHECIES OF CHRIST, WHO HE WOULD BE & WHAT HE WOULD DO

The prophecies about Christ and who He would be and what He would do had already given us a great glimpse into all that He would accomplish. I want to look at five more prophecies about Jesus Christ that were started at His earthly birth and will be a part of our life forever.

PROPHECY #31 Jesus Would Be a Great King

It was prophesied that Jesus would be a great king.

Prophecy *Jeremiah 33:14-15*

"The days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will fulfill the good promise, I made to the people of Israel and Judah. In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch spout from David's line, he will do what is just and right in the land."

This great king was born in Bethlehem. Luke tells us how this prophecy was fulfilled.

Fulfilled *Luke 1:32-33*

"He will be great and called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Although this was not the mission of Jesus at His earthly birth, He will live it out and become the Greatest King this World has ever seen and rule over heaven perfectly.

PROPHECY #32 Jesus Came to Save Those Who Would Receive Him

He will be a Savior; Jesus did not come to take from all those who would worship and serve Him; He ultimately came to save those who would receive Him. The prophecy was clear.

Prophecy *Jeremiah 33:16*

"In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. This is the name by which it will be called; The Lord Our Righteous Savior."

It was a common theme of the angels around the birth of Christ and one of these fulfillments is Matthew where Gabriel tells Joseph

Fulfilled *Matthew 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."

God would not only be the one who directs us about what is right and wrong through Jesus, He will save us from the sins that occur when we do wrong. He will rule as a Savior.

PROPHECY #33 Jesus Will Have an Everlasting Kingdom

He will have an everlasting Kingdom and fulfill the role of 'The Son of Man'.

Prophecy **Daniel 7:13-14**

"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory, and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."

Every one of the great Gospel passages an everlasting kingdom, during the end-times make references to this point and say Jesus will do it: **Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21**; and John saves his tribute to Jesus as 'The Son of Man' in **Revelation 1:13** and **14:14**.

Looking at just one of these passages we see how Jesus will fulfill this prophecy of building an everlasting Kingdom and being the Son of Man who will make it all happen.

Fulfilled **Matthew 24:30-31**

"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other."

PROPHECY #34 Jesus, A Tender, Peaceful, Loving & Caring King / Christ

The prophecies also tell us that when heaven and earth connect, we will see Jesus as a tender, peaceful, loving, and caring King/Christ. Yes, He will have strength in every area far above any person, but it will be balanced with the peace and tenderness of the greatest shepherd ever. One such prophecy shows that Jesus will be a man of peace.

Prophecy **Micah 5:5**

"And he will be our peace when the Assyrians invade our land and march through our fortresses. We will raise against them seven shepherds, even eight commanders."

Paul tells of one great fulfillment of this prophecy in Ephesians when he writes.

Fulfilled **Ephesians 2:14-18**

"For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier the dividing wall of hostility. By setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit."

One clear conclusion when Heaven and Earth connected and Jesus was born was that our Jesus would not easily be defined by someone with a single thought or idea. He would be all things to all people and pave the way for humankind to now enter into the very throne room of God.

Next, we will trace many more prophecies of Jesus and see exactly what His mission was and how He fulfilled it in every way.

LESSON # 5: “JESUS COMES AS EXPECTED”

This lesson looks at the fact that Jesus came just as God expected. It would be a terrible stretch to believe that He came as the angels expected or that He came even as His people, the Hebrews, expected. It would be good for us to look more closely at the place where Jesus was living before, He came to this Earth as baby Jesus Christ and see what it teaches us about the coming of Jesus and His ministry to the world.

How Do You Picture Jesus Christ in Your Mind's Eye?

Because we will soon approach the Christmas holiday and it is a celebration of His birth; it might easily be that you picture Jesus as a baby. The popular nativity scenes portray Luke's description of Jesus as a tiny baby swaddled in strips of cloths, and lying in an animal trough. His parents, Mary and Joseph gaze down adoringly. Shepherds and wise men gape in amazement from their positions along the walls. The heavenly host appear in the sky above majestically singing. *'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men?'*

While the angels add a sense of the divine to the Nativity Story, various artists and Hollywood have added the additional touch of a beam of Bethlehem starlight shining right through the sky. This scene which highlights a little family is rather pastoral, a peasant family sitting on the hay among barn animals, in some sort of shelter or more likely a cave. It is always shone as a 'very humble scene' and everyone very poor. What a contrast to the heaven from which Jesus was coming.

Others might think of Jesus on the cross, after all many of us were taught to think of Jesus on the cross as our meditation while we take communion. So, it might be easy for you to just stop and remember a three-cross scene with three men hanging on crosses and Jesus on the center cross of this scene. It is possible that we have incorporated Scripture enough to make this scene look like what the Bible described; but I am sure that most of us have an artist's rendering in mind when we stop and think of Jesus.

JESUS ALWAYS EXISTED, FROM THE BEGINNING

The Bible is not quiet about the times that Jesus was here on the earth before He became a human baby. These times when Jesus appeared and interceded with people before He became human are called times of 'theophany.' They all center around people in need that have an encounter with the Angel of the Lord, also called 'The Angel of His Presence' and 'The Angel of the Covenant.' These are not prophetic foreshadowing because they are direct interventions by The Angel of the Lord acting on behalf of the direction of the Father. We'll see how the Bible deals with those tasks accomplished by Christ.

It is easy to forget that the Son of God has always existed coeternal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. His origins stretch back beyond the beginnings of the Creation.

Genesis 1:1,

"In the beginning, God (Elohim—a plural word) created the heavens and the earth."

John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God" . . .

John 1:18

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

The words of Moses to start the Book of Genesis (Beginnings) and John to start the New Testament story of Jesus.

Jesus clearly taught that He was alive and well long before Israel became a nation:

John 8:58

"Very truly I tell you," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, I am!"

The words of Jesus to describe His one and only relationship with God the Father and God the Holy Spirit that no one else could ever have.

John 16:28

"I came from the Father and entered the world: now I am leaving the world and going back to the Father" . . .

Jesus praying and speaking on the night of His betrayal after He had instituted the Last Supper.

John 17:5

"And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began" . . .

Jesus praying for the unity of His followers right before His arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane.

I Timothy 1:16-17

"But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his immense patience as an example for those who would believe in him and have eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen ..."

Paul glorifying Jesus for saving Him and stating the eternal nature of Christ in His prayer of praise.

The Bible has no difficulty making the case for the divinity of Jesus and the fact that He coexisted with the Father and the Holy Spirit in everything. We know from the Scriptures that Jesus did not just sit around in Heaven idly waiting to be *'born of a woman.'* The saints of the Old Testament era perceived the Son of God quite differently and referred to Him as the *"Angel of the Lord."*

OLD TESTAMENT SAINTS REFER TO JESUS AS THE "ANGEL OF THE LORD"

Jesus intervened in many specific Old Testament situations as a prophetic foreshadowing of His eternal help to those who followed God and knew God as their Lord and Savior. I will list several of the events and the people Jesus intervened with as the *'Angel of Life'* or *'His Presence'* or *'The Covenant'*.

The first one was long after God openly conversed with Adam and Eve; punished Cain for killing Abel at the offering time in the Garden; spoke to the Patriarchs and the Matriarchs, and took Enoch home with Him.

1. In **Genesis 22:1-19** where the "Angel of the Lord" affirms the actions of Abraham who was willing to offer his son Isaac to the Lord. The Angel of the Lord blesses Abraham and tells him of the large and prosperous family he will have.
2. In **Genesis 31:11-13** the "Angel of the Lord" directs Jacob/Israel on how he can have the proper wage for all his free work for his father-in-law Laban and tells him to return to his homeland to keep the promise Israel had made to God.
3. In **Genesis 32:24** Jacob wrestles with the "Angel of the Lord" for the night and receives the blessing of being renamed Israel to tell of the country that he will establish. Jacob said of the encounter.

Genesis 32:30

"So, Jacob named the place Peniel, saying, 'It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared.'"

4. In Exodus the "Angel of the Lord" protects the Israelites from the destruction of the Egyptians when they were trapped against the shores of the Red Sea.

Exodus 14:19-20a

"Then the Angel of God, who had been traveling in front of Israel's army, withdrew and went behind them. The pillar of cloud also moved from in front and stood behind them, coming between the armies of Egypt and Israel."

5. Isaiah summarizes the feats of God and the "Angel of His Presence" who was fundamental in saving the nation many times.

Isaiah 63:8-9

"He said, 'Surely they are my people, children who will be true to me', and so he became their Savior. In all their distress he was distressed, and the Angel of His Presence saved them. In his love and mercy, he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of their life."

6. The list goes on and on: Abraham being greeted by the Priest/King of Salem (Jerusalem) named Melchizedek after the successful recovery of Lot and his servants, belongings, and flocks. An Old Testament figure of whom Jesus would resemble.
7. Joshua having the "Angel of the Lord" appear and telling him how to win the battle of Jericho.
8. The "Angel of the Lord," identified as Jesus in the New Testament who served as the Pillar of Fire, by night; and the Pillar of Cloud by day for the entire 40 years of the Israelites wandering from Egypt to the Promised Land. He often spoke to them from the Pillar of Fire and also from the Pillar of Cloud.

9. The appearance of the Lord to commission Isaiah to preach to the people of Judah and be faithful with his preaching until the nation of Judah is no more. Isaiah called this being in his encounter:

Isaiah 6:5 "The King, the Lord Almighty."

10. The fourth man in the fire with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. The one with him who stilled the jaws of the lions when Daniel had been falsely put into the lion's den for punishment. The one guiding Zechariah into the life of a prophet for the Lord.
11. God even used the "Angel of the Covenant" to make sure His plans were kept.

Malachi 3:1

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come says the Lord Almighty."

The appearances were plentiful and life-saving.

WHAT JESUS ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS GODLY AND PROPHETIC ROLE?

We know that the "Angel of the Lord" wasn't like any other kind of angel because He readily received the worship due only to God Almighty. By contrast, in the **Book of Revelation**, the Apostle John 'was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day' while the Holy Spirit transported him off the Isle of Patmos and far into the future to witness the Day of Lord. John was overwhelmed by all he saw and made the mistake of attempting to worship his angelic guide, who immediately pulled the Elder to his feet and cried out:

Revelation 22: 9

'See that you do not do that. For I am a fellow servant with you, and with your fellow prophets, and with all those who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God.'

God's angels never accept the worship of man, or else fall hard after the folly of Satan's demonic temptations. And yet, the "Angel of the Lord" freely accepted worship. The Old Testament saints were all too happy to proclaim they had seen the very face of God.

Genesis 32:30

'So, Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: 'For I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.'

The use of the title "Angel" can seem problematic for us today when it comes to applying it to the Son of God, but remember that besides being used as a reference to Heaven's servant caste, the label "Angel" can transcend God's angelic beings and also be used to describe the duty of any one of God's messengers. Jesus' duty in His Old Testament appearances was for the purpose of serving as a messenger at vital key moments in Israel's history. It would appear these events were just too important to send an everyday angel, and so God Himself appeared under the title of the "Angel of the Lord." And so, when those ancient saints pictured Jesus, they saw him as:

- The “*Angel of the Redeemer*,” now arrayed in mortal flesh. He like an Angel stands, and holds the promises and pardon in His hands; commissioned from the Father’s Throne, to make His grace to mortals known.
- The Bible calls the Pre-Incarnate Jesus an Angel and primarily an “*Angel of Light*”. The Bible speaks about Jesus as the Son of God, the Son of Man, Savior—God saves is the meaning of the name Jesus, Lord, Christ or King, Almighty God among other names during His lifetime and His ministry. That leaves only one other area.

What does the Bible Call the Future Appearances of Jesus?

JESUS, SECOND COMING, MESSIANIC KINGDOM, HEAVEN, AND ETERNITY

The Bible speaks directly about Jesus in these settings and reveals Him as the Prophetic Jesus. He is who He is, stripped of all human titles and revealed in absolute true glory of a luminated, powerful, and all ruling Son of God. Let’s take a look at that future Jesus, the Prophetic Jesus as we see that Jesus will come just as expected.

The beauty and majesty of God’s prophetic word introduce us to this third Jesus who is primarily encountered by a study of Bible prophecy. In the prophecies concerning Jesus’ Second Coming, human frailty is stripped away revealing Christ’s true glory, a divinity that the Apostles could only glimpse at the Transfiguration. Christ’s true form stunned James and John into silence and Peter into babbling.

Matthew 17:1-5

“After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James, and John the brother of James and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before the men, Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus. Peter said to Jesus, ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.’ While he was still speaking a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him.’”

Jesus introduced Himself to John the Revelator in **Revelation** when He said,

Revelation 1:8

“I am the Alpha and Omega,” says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.’”

Jesus will come back a second time prophetically with no age limits, no limit in power, and no limit to His knowledge.

Revelation 1 continues to describe Jesus as, “*One like A Son of Man.*” He only resembled the frail humanity in physical form. Clothed with a garment and girded with a golden band, His hair gleams bright white like wool and His eyes blaze like flames. Jesus’ feet glow like brass refined in a furnace and His voice thunders with the sound of many waters. Jesus’ holiness blinds like the sun in its high

noon strength. The Jesus the elderly Apostle John encountered, caused John to fall at His glowing feet as if a dead man! We see this Prophetic Jesus again presented in **Revelation 19**. And again, He is a warrior king dispensing righteousness as the Judge waging war against Satan's forces.

Jesus bursts out of the heavens riding His white war charger as the armies of Heaven trail endlessly behind Him, Jesus' eyes blaze like fire, atop His head sit many crowns. His robe is dipped in blood and He strikes the enemy nations dead with the sword of the Word protruding out of His mouth. Emblazoned on His thigh is the title '*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*'.

Often it just more acceptable to paint Jesus inside the box of one's mind as a little baby or suffering servant., or keep Jesus appearing like an everyday angel as some cults do, but are these the real Jesus? Yes, sometimes in part, for they were as much a part of Jesus as our own baby, childhood, and teenage selves once were to us but no longer. Prophecy wise we should never be expecting baby Jesus to reappear in our lives.

PROPHECY #35 Jesus Emptied Himself and Became Human

Jesus was prophesied to 'empty Himself' and become like us when He came to earth the first time. The prophecy is clear when Jesus took on humanity, He became a lesser being in power and even slipped below the angels.

Prophecy **Psalms 8:4-5**

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them. You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor."

But the Bible confirms that God the Father has placed Jesus back in that position that is higher than the angels. He writes in fulfillment.

Fulfilled **Hebrews 2:6-9**

"But there is a place where someone has testified: 'What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet. In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.'"

PROPHECY #36 Jesus Position & Power Changed

The position of Christ and His power changed as His role and place changed. Even in this elevated role of power Jesus handles all of the enemies of the believers at the end of time, He still will be the Coming Good Shepherd. It is a prophecy in **Ezekiel**.

Prophecy **Ezekiel 3:23-24**

"They will no longer defile themselves with their idols and vile images or with any of their offenses, for I will save them from all their sinful backsliding, and I will cleanse them. They will

be my people and I will be their God. My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees."

One of the many passages that show how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy is the one in **1 Peter**.

Fulfilled 1 Peter 5:4

"And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away."

Jesus Himself spoke of what a great shepherd He would be

Fulfilled John 10:11,14

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. . . I am the Good Shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me---"

Christ will have the ability to eliminate all sin and inappropriate living in the Millennial Age but will do so with the compassion of a Shepherd.

PROPHECY #37 Jesus Will Have Great Power When He Returns

One thing we have seen as we looked at the Pre-Incarnate Christ; the Christ as a human and the Christ of the Future—show the Prophesied Christ is that Christ will have great power—wonderful compassion, and unlimited strength and power when He returns.

The last Scripture for this lesson says just that:

Prophecy Isaiah 45:23-24

"Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength.' All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame."

Fulfilled Romans 14:11-12

"It is written: 'As surely as I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow before Me; every tongue will acknowledge God. So, then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.'"

Jesus Has No Eternal Enemies!

Next, we will look at the prophecies of the childhood of Jesus. It is the time period of the life of Christ with the least prophecies. He was maturing, developing and becoming all that God, wanted Him to become. It was the years of training that led up to the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

LESSON # 6: "CHILDHOOD OF JESUS PREDICTED!"

This Lesson looks at the few stories that were prophesied and the few that were recorded out of the *'Childhood of Jesus Christ.'* We will look prophetically at those early years of Jesus.

We saw from the lesson last week that Jesus was very qualified in all areas: He could preach, teach, organize activities of all types, He could encourage new ways to do things, had a fresh approach to all the things that were a part of reaching unbelievers and His appeal was not limited to his age. As the believers spread out around the world, the appeal of Jesus as a personal Savior without having to embrace all the rules and regulations of the Hebrew Old Testament Covenant allowed this new faith, called Christianity to grow rapidly.

THE BIRTH & EARLY LIFE OF JESUS

I feel the most important childhood prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in the area where the sheep were also lambing, and that would not only fulfill many Scriptures but would also lay an early tone about Jesus that His followers could be seen as outsiders of their day and certainly too poor and insignificant to make an impact but they could be saved by Jesus. With the one exception of the announcement of the birth by the angel of God, His birth was fairly lackluster and hardly the way most would assume the Son of God would come into this world.

To the angels who had witnessed great pageantry in heaven and led the exalted praise of God, it must have been somewhat deflating to see how little happened at the birth of the Son of God. No visitors, except the Shepherds who were prompted by the angels to visit on the night Jesus was born—sorry, the Magi from the East showed up 12-18 months after the birth of Jesus. One angel had announced to the Shepherds what had happened, he was joined with a host of angels (1,000 was the normal size of a group labeled 'a host'), and they witnessed to the shepherds about the birth of the Son of God. The shepherds went after the visit from the angels and were the only known visitors to see Jesus on the day He was born.

The angelic message was just right, they sang:

Luke 2:14

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

The first few months in 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, both in Bethlehem and in Egypt. Mary had a baby to take care of and raise; and Jesus was able to just grow. We will see when he is 13 years old, the Bible remarks that He is still growing in all the essential phases of His life. The childhood of Jesus in many ways resembled the childhood of many of the other neighbors and friends of Jesus.

During this peaceful time, the Magi made their appearance and left bedazzling gifts that were fit for a king as the Magi had brought them to *"the one who was born King of the Jews."* Time would reveal these gifts would all be needed to pay for a "flee to save the life of baby Jesus," exodus out of the

Bethlehem area. The baby had to be taken to Egypt and the family stayed in that foreign country until Herod died. That too had been part of the prophecy about the early years in the life of the Son of God. He would flee to Egypt and God would call His Son out of Egypt.

We have looked at the several prophecies that had been fulfilled so far in the life of Jesus, His birth, and the prophecy about the boys of Bethlehem being killed by Herod that had been a recorded prophecy in the Old Testament. It was said in Jeremiah.

PROPHECY #38 Jesus Life Threatened, Herod Orders Boys of Bethlehem Killed

Prophecy *Jeremiah 31:35*

"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 had been separated when the Babylonians marched many people into captivity, taking them from Judah and transferring them to Babylon and killed many other people who they did not want. Ramah was in the area where the grandsons of Rache; Ephraim and Manasseh had their lands and many of their tribes were the children the Babylonians killed or kidnaped. But Rachel had also 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 death and involvement of Rachel and her offspring in each area.

Matthew writes about this fulfillment.

Fulfilled *Matthew 2:16-18*.

"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.'"

It was spelled out because although this was the first act of intended harm towards Jesus the Messiah, it was far from the last time it looked like Jesus had lost to the authorities and rulers of His day.

Look at the act of Herod: it 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 when an area involving Rachel, was caught up in mourning and sadness at the hands of a despotic ruler.

Their escape to Egypt; Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus showed the practical purpose for the gold, frankincense, and myrrh given by the Magi to this small family. It allowed them to flee for their lives to the safety of Egypt. The angel of the Lord was very specific in what the instructions were; they were 'to stay' in Egypt until the angel told them it would safe for them to now go home, and only then could they return to Judah or even Galilee.

Matthew is telling us that the return of Jesus out of Egypt to a safe Nazareth was another prophetic shadowing and draws a prophecy out of the Exodus story of the Hebrews coming from Egypt and going to the Promised Land. Matthew says these are fulfilled in Christ and identified by the New Testament writers. A very clear example of this pictorial type of foreshadowing would be the words of Jesus to Nicodemus.

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."

Jesus totally fulfilled in His life the prophetic foreshadowing of the Exodus for the Hebrews. He was the Passover; He was the one who led them from their disastrous past to their glorious future; He was their guide, as light and cloud just as He is the leader in freeing us from sin and bringing us to God the Father--- the parallels are total.

A prophecy about the early childhood of Jesus shows that Jesus grew up in Nazareth and He was born into an impoverished family because His family did not have money or financial resources.

PROPHECY #39 Jesus Childhood was Very Obscure & Impoverished

The childhood of Jesus was prophesied to be marked by two conditions. The first prophecy was from the words of David in Psalms, which said.

Prophecy Psalms 22:6-8

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

The prophecy was fulfilled in Matthew when Jesus was on the cross and the crowd took up these words of prophecy to use them as insults directed at *Jesus*. The fulfilling passage says:

Fulfilled Matthew 27:39-44

"Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, 'You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself. Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!' In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. 'He saved others,' they said, 'but he can't save himself!' He's the king of Israel. Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God. In the same way the rebels who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.'"

Luke gives a shorter version of the fulfillment of this prophecy,

Fulfilled Luke 23:35

"The people stood watching, and the rulers even sneered at him. They said, 'He saved others, let him save himself, if he is God's Messiah, the Chosen One.'"

PROPHECY #40 Jesus Grew Up in an Obscure Place, Nazareth with No Influence

The prophecy about growing up in Nazareth. It was such an obscure town that it was not mentioned in the Old Testament. It had become a synonym in the days of Christ for the despised, a town without any special or redeeming characteristics.

Prophecy *No Old Testament Verse*

Fulfilled *John 1:45-46*

"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.'"

"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. 'Come and see,' said Philip."

It had been a prophecy of the day of Jesus even though Nazareth had never been mentioned in the Old Testament. It was just obscure and small enough that it had become the direct target of those who wanted to insult someone by showing how little, insignificant, and obscure they were— 'You must be from Nazareth.'

PROPHECY #41 Jesus Was Poor at Birth & During His Life

The childhood of Jesus was also to be marked by one other condition. The prophecy spoke about the absolute poverty that Jesus would have at His birth and during His life.

Prophecy *Isaiah 52:2-3*

"He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of the 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."

The fulfillment was frequent and it was clear that Jesus did not let His poverty stop His ministry in any way, even though it was a frequent criticism of Jesus and explained why many Jews felt they did not need to listen to His teaching or believe in His miracles. One Verse in Mark fulfills the prophecy and says.

Fulfilled *Mark 6:3*

"Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't he Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him."

Another verse in Luke says.

Fulfilled *Luke 9:58*

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

This fulfillment of the prophecy of how poor Jesus would be raised and live are the actual words of Jesus speaking of the lack of worldly goods and comforts he had to give to those who would follow him. It is clear that God had a very complete hand on the life of His Son without any of the trappings

of royalty or vestiges that accompanied being in the Godhood and that His true identity would only be visible to the discerning eye of faith. That is the basis of knowing the real Christmas for all who are Christians and true believers.

It is not the 'Presents' that make the season special, it is the 'Presence'.

Immanuel, God is with us—Jesus brought Heaven to Earth.

MORE EVENTS OUT OF THE CHILDHOOD LIFE OF JESUS

The Bible only records two more events out of the childhood life of Jesus. The first happened when Jesus was taken to the Temple to be presented at age 40 days for purification of Mary and the dedication of the firstborn male to the Lord. While Jesus was in the Temple with Mary and Joseph, there were two special prophetic interactions between prophets and Jesus.

PROPHECY #42 Simeon Would Not Die Before Seeing Lord's Messiah

The first was a righteous man named Simeon, the prophecy was, he had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he saw the Lord's Messiah.

Prophecy [Luke 2:25-26](#)

"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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Messiah."

The Holy Spirit had moved him to go to the Temple that day and as he saw the baby Jesus, he went and took him out of the arms of his parents and took him in his own arms and said.

Fulfilled [Luke 2:28-32](#)

"Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for salvation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel."

PROPHECY #43 Prophecy to Mary, Mother of Jesus

Simeon then turned to Mary the mother of Jesus and gave this prophecy to her,

Prophecy [Luke 2:34b-35](#)

"This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce our own soul too."

This was fulfilled the strongest in the life of Mary, the Mother of Jesus when Jesus was being crucified to death, it reads.

Fulfilled [John 19:25-27](#),

"Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing

*nearby, he said to her. 'Woman, here is your son', and to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.'
From that time on, the disciple took her into his home."*

PROPHECY #44 Jesus Brings Redemption to Jerusalem

One more prophetic encounter awaited the 40-day old Jesus.

Prophecy Luke 2:36-38

"There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem."

It was first fulfilled when the Church was born in Jerusalem. Peter preaches on the Day of Pentecost.

Fulfilled Acts 2:14-41

"Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd. 'Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you, listen carefully to what I say. These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people; Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. . . ."

JESUS BECOMES PHYSICAL MAN NEEDED TO BE MESSIAH

The last story about the childhood of Jesus was on one of the family's pilgrimages to the Temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus got separated from His family and they left town without Him. When they came back to get Him, He was sitting as a student at the feet of the priests in the Temple and asking astute questions. When reprimanded by His parents for upsetting them, Jesus replied. "

Luke 2:49-50

"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he was saying to them."

The passage ends.

Luke 2:52 "And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."

In every way He was becoming the physical man needed to be the Messiah our Lord, Savior and Christ.

LESSON # 7: "EVERY PROPHECY IS FULFILLED"

This lesson looks at the prophecies from the beginning of the ministry of Jesus up to the last 50 days of His life on earth. These prophecies do not all fall into that three + year time frame very conveniently, but you will clearly see that God spoke them and each one came true in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

GOD PROMISES A FORERUNNER FOR HIS MESSIAH

God had promised a forerunner for His Messiah and it was a clear prophecy in the Old Testament. The prophecy is found in three different Old Testament references and I will tie those with three different stories in the New Testament that showed they came true just as the Bible predicted.

PROPHECY #45 Forerunner for Messiah, A Voice Crying in the Wilderness

The first forerunner would be a voice crying out in the wilderness.

Prophecy *Isaiah 40:3,5*

"A voice of one calling in the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.' . . . And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all people will see it together for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

The author of the Gospel of Mark says it was fulfilled in John the Baptist when he writes.

Fulfilled *Mark 1:2-4*

"As it is written in Isaiah the prophet: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, a voice of one calling in the wilderness. Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him. And so, John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins."

PROPHECY #46 Forerunner for Messiah, God Sends a Messenger

The prophet Malachi wrote two prophecies about this forerunner for Jesus.

Prophecy *Malachi 3:1*

"I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. 'Then suddenly the Lord, you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire will come,' says the Lord Almighty."

Fulfilled *Luke 7:24-27*

"After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John, 'What did you go out into the wilderness to see! A reed swayed by the wind? If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. 26) But what did you go out to see? A prophet, yes, I tell you and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.'"

PROPHECY #47 Forerunner for Messiah, God Sends a Prophet Elijah

The prophet Malachi also said God would send Elijah.

Prophecy *Malachi 4:5-6*

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction."

Fulfilled in the words of Jesus in Matthew.

Fulfilled *Matthew 11:13-14*

"For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come."

PEOPLES REACTION TO JESUS MESSIAH NOT WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT

But from the start of the ministry of Jesus the Messiah the reaction of the people was not what you would expect, but it was what had been prophesied.

PROPHECY #48 Jesus Messiah Would Experience Hatred for No Reason

Jesus would experience hatred for no reason. It had been prophesied by God in Psalms.

Prophecy *Psalms 35:19*

"Do not let those gloat over me who are my enemies without cause; do not let those who hate me without reason, maliciously wink the eye."

It is found again in the prophecy of Psalms.

Prophecy *Psalms 69:4*

"Those who hate me without reason, outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal."

Jesus again said how this prophecy was fulfilled when He was teaching His disciples about how they were being received.

Fulfilled *John 15:18-19*

"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belong to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world. That is why the world hates you so much."

PROPHECY #49 Jesus Messiah Would Find Hearts Closed to His Gospel

It was prophesied that Jesus would find hearts closed to His Gospel.

Prophecy *Isaiah 6:9-10*

"He said, 'Go and tell this people: Be ever hearing but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving. Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close

their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

It was fulfilled when Jesus explained to the crowd including His disciples why He taught them in parables. Those who have spiritual knowledge will hear and understand and those who do not have spiritual knowledge will not understand. The scripture says.

Fulfilled *Matthew 13:13-15*

"This is why I speak to them in parables: 'though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah, 'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving', For this people's heart has become calloused, they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise, they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand in their hearts and turn, and I would heal them."

PROPHECY #50 Jesus Messiah, Stone on Which Hebrew Children Stumble

Jesus would actually be the stone on which the Hebrew children would stumble. They would not be able to see Jesus as the Messiah and therefore would miss the blessing that should have been for them. The prophesy said.

Prophecy *Isaiah 10:14*

"He will be a holy place, for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem, he will be a trap and a snare."

Paul was writing to the Roman Christian Church and explaining how and why the people of Israel missed seeing Jesus for who He was and the Gentiles who did not follow this right way of righteousness found it. The fulfillment of the Scripture about stumbling over the stone of Jesus as the Messiah was because of their need to reach the Messiah with their works: Paul wrote.

Fulfilled *Romans 9:32-33*

"Why not? Because they pursued it not by faith but as if it were by works. They stumbled over the stumbling stone! As it is written, 'See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in him will never be put to shame.'"

It is interesting that Paul shows the fulfillment of this Scripture in a great teaching about the relationship of God with Israel. The original faithfulness of the Hebrews, then the turning away from Jesus and His teaching, and finally the end-time restoration of the Jewish nation where every Jew on earth at that time will be converted to Christ and will be saved.

Peter also takes time in his first letter to explain how the Jews could miss the teaching and salvation of Jesus and not participate. He explains that those who come to find salvation in Jesus become living stones, because they choose life while those who stumble over the stone will reap the same results of those who never accepted Jesus as their Messiah for any reason. He says:

Fulfilled *1 Peter 2:6-8*

"For in Scripture it says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.' Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.' and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' They stumble because they disobey the message, which is also what they are destined for."

PROPHECY #51 Every Knee Will Bow & Every Tongue Confess Jesus is Lord

It is that final action that was also prophesied as a response to Jesus by the people of Israel and the people of the world. This final reaction to Jesus Christ will be that every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. It was part of the letter of Isaiah where he is telling his readers that God used Cyrus as His instrument to allow the Israelites to return to Judah and rebuild Jerusalem. He was therefore made to be a part of the righteousness of God. But as impressive as that was, the leader of the Medes and Persians being used by God to restore Jerusalem and to repopulate Judah with those who had stayed purely Jewish. It would fade compared to the exalted place that Christ would have for the Jewish nation. The prophecy is.

Prophecy *Isaiah 45:23-24*

"By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked. Before me every knee will bow, by me every tongue will swear. They will say of me, 'In the Lord alone are deliverance and strength. All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.'"

Paul again explains how that great prophecy was fulfilled in the actions and teachings of Jesus. The first time he shows it fulfilled, he is making the point that we should not judge another brother or sister or hold them in contempt; because we all will kneel before God and answer for our all of our actions. He wrote.

Fulfilled *Romans 14:10-11*

"You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord. 'Every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'"

The great passage in Philippians 2 is a teaching of Paul telling all the church and believers to be like Jesus and model Him in all that you do. In the middle of this teaching, he quotes this prophecy to show that all will worship Jesus. He writes,

Fulfilled *Philippians 2:9-11*

"Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place, and gave him the name that is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

The reaction of the people of Judah to the ministry of Jesus was only part of the prophecy that was lived out in the life of Jesus.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF JESUS IN HIS MINISTRY

The most important part of the prophecy was what Jesus would accomplish and do in His ministry. We will look at several things that were prophesied for Christ to do in His ministry on earth and then how He did them and what that accomplished for the work of the Lord here on earth.

PROPHECY #52 Jesus Produced Many Miracles

Jesus was prophesied to be one who would produce many miracles. It was a difficult time for Old Testament Israel and Isaiah had stepped out to tell them how God would deliver them from those who oppose and want to destroy them. He tells of this great time of miracle giving in the midst of telling them how God is always with them to help them overcome adversaries. Then he prophesies:

Prophecy *Isaiah 35:5-6*

"Then the eyes of the blind he opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert."

It was fulfilled and noted in the Bible first during the ministry of Jesus on the earth, when the disciples of John the Baptist came at his request to ask Jesus if He was the one, they had been waiting for or were they to continue waiting. It was Christ Jesus who answered them by showing that He had fulfilled the very Scripture of miracles Isaiah had written about.

Fulfilled *Matthew 11:4-6*

"Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear the dead are raised and the good news proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'"

The same story is told in **Luke 7:23**. The reference to Christ performing miracles was found in the New Testament in: **Matt 7:22; 11:20-23; Mark 6:2; and Luke 19:37**. It was a clearly fulfilled prophecy and all who knew the ministry of Jesus knew that He had accomplished great miracles.

PROPHECY #53 Jesus Swallows Up Death in Victory

He would defeat death and swallow it up. Isaiah is speaking of all the great things that God would accomplish and in the midst of all that God would accomplish on Mt. Zion, Jerusalem, he pauses and gives an almost unbelievable prophecy. Jesus, the Son of God will swallow up the great swallower of people—death.

Prophecy *Isaiah 25:8-9*

"On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations. He will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken."

It is interesting that Jesus not only fulfilled the prophecy of "swallowing up death", He also fulfilled the prophecy of "wiping away every tear," **Revelation 7:17, 2:14** and "removing His people's disgrace," **Isaiah 54:4**

But we have focused on the swallowing up of death and it is Paul that shows us how that prophecy has been fulfilled in the life of Jesus in that great chapter of the Resurrection, He writes.

Fulfilled *1 Corinthians 15: 54-55*

"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true. 'Death has been swallowed up in victory.' 'Where, O death, is your victory! Where, O death, is your sting.'"

The last shows the statement of **Hosea** has been fulfilled also in Christ Jesus, it says.

Fulfilled *Hosea 13:14*

"I will deliver this people from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death. Where, O death are your plagues? Where, O grave, is your destruction."

PROPHECY #54 Jesus Death a Point of Salvation, Redeemed from the Curse

His way of death the prophecy said would be in the form of a curse, but it would be turned into a point of salvation as Christ taught Nicodemus. Nicodemus was to look up and find salvation. The prophecy says.

Prophecy *Deuteronomy 21:22-23*

"If someone guilty of a capital offense is put to death and their body is exposed on a pole. You must not leave the body hanging on the pole overnight. Be sure to bury it that same day, because anyone who is hung on a pole is under God's curse. You must not desecrate the land the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance."

It was fulfilled by Christ, but Paul helps us to see that the way it was fulfilled meant that believers were blessed and the curse was lifted off of them because Jesus became their curse for the sins they had committed. The fulfillment passage says.

Fulfilled *Galatians 3:13-14*

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written. 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.' He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit."

PROPHECY #55 Jesus Our Chief Cornerstone, the Foundation of Our Life

He became our chief cornerstone. The foundation of our life that allows us to build a life on Christ. The prophecy was in **Isaiah**. Isaiah was sharing how futile the leaders and the priests were leading the people. They were drinking excessively, making rules they did not keep, and being a terrible example for their nation. Isaiah prophesies that God would send a real, true cornerstone on which they could build their life and their family and which would allow them to save and preserve their country. He said in the prophesy.

Prophecy Isaiah 28:16

"So, this is what the Sovereign Lord says: 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who relies on it will never be stricken with panic. I will make justice the measuring line and righteousness the plumb line; hail will sweep away your refuge, the life, the water will overflow your hiding place.'"

Paul points out how in a very practical way that prophesy has been answered and Jesus now serves in the needed role as the chief cornerstone. He writes.

Fulfilled Romans 8:32-33

"He who did not spare his own son, but gave him up for us all---how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies."

It is Peter who shows how this Scripture has been fulfilled literally in the life of each chosen believer. He writes.

Fulfilled I Peter 2:6-7

"For in Scripture it says, 'See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame. Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,' 'the stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.'"

PROPHECY #56 Jesus Proclaims His Name to His Followers, the Church

The last prophecy we will examine in this lesson is one that shows that Jesus will proclaim His name to His followers (the church). The prophecy passage is taken from Psalms. It is one of the most parallel Old Testament Scriptures to what happened to Jesus at His crucifixion. He quotes this Psalm as does Matthew and John as they write about the passion of Jesus. It was on the lips of Jesus **Hebrews 2:12** says and no Psalm is quoted more frequently in the New Testament. This passage says:

Prophecy Psalm 22:22

"I will declare your name to my people; in the assembly I will praise you."

Jesus said He fulfilled this Scripture when He sent the disciples of John the Baptist back to John to report on whether Jesus was the Messiah or were they to continue to search.

Fulfilled *Matthew 11:4-6*

"Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see. The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.'"

The author of Hebrews was writing about the superiority of Jesus to the worship of angels or other beings and speaks about Jesus being made fully human. In the midst of that teaching he stops and declares about Jesus fulfilling this prophecy.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 2:11-12*

"Both the one who makes people holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So, Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters. He says, 'I will declare your name to my brothers and sisters; in the assembly I will sing your praise.'"

Jesus fulfilled all prophecies about Him as the Bible often states.

LESSON # 8: "PROPHESED, JESUS IS DEITY"

This Lesson looks at the prophecies about the life of Jesus that point out that He is Deity. Jesus was always God and the Scripture says that about Him. We will look closely at the prophetic Scriptures that say Jesus was Deity and how that impacts us. What are some of the key "Jesus was 'God'" prophecies?

PROPHECY #57 God Always Intended for People to See Jesus is God

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

Prophecy *Isaiah 7:14*

"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 with us.)"

The angel of the Lord may have told Joseph that Jesus was to be the name of the new baby in their family as His secular and earthly name, but the angel that announced the birth of the Son of God to the shepherds told several of His Divine names.

First, the fulfillment that Jesus would be Immanuel, 'God with Us' that would save His people., A fulfillment of Scripture given to Joseph by the angel:

Fulfilled *Matthew 1:21-25*

"She will give birth to a son, and you will give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins. All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel (which means, 'God with us.') When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."

The Messiah would be called Jesus, a derivative of the name Joshua which means literally, 'God saves.' The name Immanuel means God with us and the two names are quite compatible because they tell of the saving power of God as Christ and they along with many other names given to Jesus give us a total picture of who He is.

Luke tells us that when the angel came to announce the birth of the Son of God to the shepherds, he told only of His Divine names and does not mention just one of those names but gives three.

Fulfilled *Luke 2:11*

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

Three Devine Names for Jesus

1. **Savior of the World** - Relating to the name of Jesus
2. **The Christ/Messiah** - The Anointed One, or the King; and the Lord

3. **Adonai** - A Hebrew word used by Jews to translate Yahweh, which they considered to holy to translate or speak.

Adonai was the covenant name of God used exclusively for God. There was no doubt God intended for His son to be known as 'God with us'; the Lord-Jehovah Yahweh; the Messiah/Christ (the 'Anointed One') and the Savior of the World.

PROPHECY #58 Jesus is Worthy of Worship

Jesus was as divine as He could be and would be the source of great heavenly gifts to His followers. It was a prophecy that Jesus, the Messiah, was to receive gifts and be worthy of worship. It was Solomon who had written the prophecy.

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."

The prophesy goes ahead to say in:

Prophecy **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 would enjoy a long prosperous world, renowned reign, one that blesses all the nations. This is the language of the promise to Abraham.

Prophecy **Genesis 12:3**

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

It is the same language God uses in:

Prophecy **Genesis 22:18**

"And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

These two prophecies imply that it will be fulfilled through the reign of the royal son of David, the Messiah, or as we know Him Jesus Christ.

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

Fulfilled **Matthew 2:1**

"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 to worship him.'"

PROPHECY #59 Foreign Rulers & Dignitaries Brought Gifts to 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 the foreign gentile Magi.

They were not the simple, normal gifts you give a baby: no booties, blankets, or diapers—no these were gifts that you would give a king: they were gold, frankincense and myrrh. This was a prophecy that applied to:

Prophecy Isaiah 60:6

"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 the Gentiles would offer such worship and that it fulfilled the prophecy of **Psalms 72:10** is amazing.

Prophecy Psalms 72:10

"May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores bring tribute to him. May the kings of Sheba and Seba present him gifts."

Myrrh was an aromatic gum made from the leaves of the cistus rose. It was bought to Jesus after His birth.

Fulfilled Matthew 2:11-12

"On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route."

It was also applied to His body after His death.

Fulfilled John 19:39-40

"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. Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen."

PROPHECY #60 Jesus Was Spirit Filled and Anointed at His Birth

Jesus would be spirit-filled and anointed at His birth. Isaiah had described this special Son of God and said this about Him in a Scripture we have studied;

Prophecy Isaiah 11:1-2

"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. Yes, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the Lord."

Fulfilled Luke 4:18

"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free."

Fulfilled John 3:6 *"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."*

PROPHECY #61 Branch Through Whose Line the Messianic King was to Come.

With the Babylonian captivity of 586 BC, the Davidic dynasty appeared as decimated as the defeated 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 through whose line the messianic king was to come.

Prophecy *Ruth 4:22* *"Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David."*

Or again it says in:

Prophecy *I Samuel 16:1, 12-13*:

"The Lord said to Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem, I have chosen one of his sons to be king.'" "So, he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, 'Rise and anoint him, for this is the one. 'So, Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.'"

The fulfillment is in the Genealogy of Jesus in **Matthew 1**.

Fulfilled *Matthew 1:5-6*

"Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth, Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon"

PROPHECY #62 The Branch Speaks of the Coming Messiah for Israel

The Branch is a title for the Messiah and it is also prophetic because each time it speaks of the Branch, it is talking about the coming of the Messiah for Israel. It is found in.

Prophecy *Isaiah 4:2*

"In that day the Branch of the Lord will be beautiful and glorious and the fruit of the land will be the pride and glory of the survivors in Israel."

Prophecy *Jeremiah 23:5*

"The days are coming," declares the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."

Prophecy *Jeremiah 33:15*

"In those days and at that time I will make a righteous Branch sprout from David's line, he will do what is just and right in the land."

Prophecy *Zechariah 3:8-9*

"Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come. I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. See, the stone I have set in

front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, 'and I will engrave an inscription on it; says the Lord Almighty, and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

Prophecy Zechariah 6:12-13

"Tell him this is what the Lord Almighty says, 'Here is the man whose name is the Branch, and he will branch out from his place and build the temple of the Lord. It is he who will build the temple of the Lord, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two.'"

It was fulfilled when Jesus was 40 days old and His parents, Mary and Joseph, took Him to the temple for Mary 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 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.

The entire song of Simeon, **Luke 2:23-35** is the fulfillment of the prophesy of the Branch arising and accomplishing all God wanted the Messiah to do. The summary of his prophetic fulfillment as the promise of Jesus the Messiah is:

Fulfilled Luke 2:29-35a

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.' The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. 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, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed."

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, and cause great pain to Jesus and great loss to Mary.

Let's look at some other prophecies that tell us that Jesus was Divine and these encompass the whole life of Jesus and not just highlights of His life on earth.

PROPHECY #63 Jesus Was God's Son

Jesus would be the God's Son. It is a time when David is concerned that the Lord has permitted David to build a palace for his personal home but that the ark of the covenant is still under a tent and there is no home—temple, worship center for God and for the holy things of God.

God explains to David that one of his descendants will set up a kingdom that allows the Jews to reside in peace forever and display to the world, the special place the Hebrews have with their God. In this explanation God tells how this one, the forever king, will be His Son. The prophesy says.

Prophecy I Chronicles 17:10-14

"I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: When your days are over and you go to be with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from his predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever."

It was fulfilled many ways, but the author of Hebrews draws out this special place of Jesus when he is arguing that Jesus is higher than the angels. He says it this way to show the Scripture was fulfilled,

Fulfilled Hebrews 1:5-6

"For to which of the angels did God ever say: 'You are my son; today I have become your Father' Or again, 'I will be his Father and he will be my Son.' And again, when God brings his firstborn into the world, He says, 'Let all God's angels worship him.'"

God's Son is Jesus Christ the Messiah and all that He will be doing is what God would want His Son to do.

PROPHECY #64 Jesus Was God

Another Old Testament Prophecy Scripture is the fact that Jesus would be God. It was spelled out of in Isaiah.

Prophecy Isaiah 9:7

"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 passage in Isaiah is very clear. This Messiah will undoubtedly be God. He will do Godly things, create Godly miracles, and speak Godly thoughts.

This passage in Isaiah was very well fulfilled and explained in **John 1** where John parallels the creation story of **Genesis 1:1** with the creation story of how Christ participated and the role He played in creation. **John 1:1-18**.

Several verses make very definite statements that Jesus Christ—the Word—is God. They include:

Fulfilled John 1:1

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

Fulfilled John 1:2-3

"He was with God in the beginning. 3)Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made."

Fulfilled *John 1:4*

"In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind."

Fulfilled *John 1:12*

"Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—children born not of natural descent, not of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God."

Fulfilled *John 1:14*

"The Word became flesh, and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father full of grace and truth."

Fulfilled *John 1:18*

"No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known."

PROPHECY #65 Christ's Divinity is Shown Daily in Our Lives

This Prophecy reminds us that not only is Christ divine but He shows it almost daily in our lives. We daily see the hand of God at work in us. This role of the Word of God is to use His innate ability to calm us with God's presence as the Word of God in letter, the Bible and in His life. He is Deity, the only one who could accomplish such a task.

Prophecy *Deuteronomy 30:12-14*

"It is not up in heaven, so that you have to ask, 'Who will ascend into heaven to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' Nor, is it beyond the sea, so that we have to ask, 'Who will cross the sea to get it and proclaim it to us so we may obey it?' No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.'"

It is interesting that the Bible uses the concept of "The Word of God" to tell us that Christ created the world; directs the world; and will ultimately determine when the world has completed the tasks needed so that it will then be remade into "The New Heaven and the New Earth." The Word in the form of Christ and also directing the work of the Bible has been with us since the first days of creation. That is how God moves His universe towards eternal life. He does it through the Word of God—written Word of God, The Bible or the Living Word of God—Jesus Christ.

Paul explains how that is fulfilled in Christ and how that works in this teaching about Jewish faith and fate.

Fulfilled *Romans 10:6-8*

"But the righteousness that is by faith says: 'Do not say in your heart. 'Who will ascend into heaven?' (that is, to bring Christ down), or 'Who will descend into the deep?' (That is, to bring Christ up from the dead.)' But what does it say? 'The word is near you, it is in your mouth and in your heart,' that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim.'"

The ultimate promise about the deity of Christ is that His thoughts and actions will become the words that we speak and the thoughts and actions we produce, and He will ultimately guide us to do and be all the things that are right and best for us.

Next lesson we will look at the prophecies and their fulfillment that show that Jesus the Son was trained by God the Father in how to be all that He needed to be to save and keep us for eternal life with Him.

LESSON #9 "JESUS, TRAINED BY THE FATHER"

In this Lesson, we continue to look at prophecies about Jesus that revolve around His relationship with God the Father and how that has impacted each of us who are believers.

As we study the life of Jesus by looking at the prophecies about His life, ministry and position, we begin to quickly see that the relationship with God: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit not only occur long before any people were created; they are also the very basis on which our faith and Christianity are built.

PROPHECY #66 Jesus Would Do the Perfect Will of His Father

It was prophesied that Jesus would do the perfect will of His Father. This key prophecy tells us that Jesus did not just do as He wanted on this earth, He did as the Father had trained and directed Him. The prophecy is.

Prophecy *Psalms 40:6-8*

"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire—but my ears you have opened—burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, 'Here I am, I have come—it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart.'"

There are two passages that show that prophecy was fulfilled entirely. In the first passage, Jesus spoke to His followers and said:

Fulfilled *John 6:48-51*

"I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, yet they died. But here is the bread that comes down from heaven, which anyone may eat and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever. This bread is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

In the second passage, Jesus continued to do the will of His Father as He had been trained, even though it stirred the wrath of the crowd and those who listened to Him. In **Hebrews 10:5-9** we see how Jesus did the will of the Father as He had been taught. This is almost a sermon on the subject of doing the Will of God in the life of Christ.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 10:5-9*

"Therefore, when Christ came into the world," he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body was prepared for me; with burnt offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, my God.' First, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them—though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

PROPHECY #67 Jesus Would Be Our High Priest to Care for Us Eternally

It is evident as the Scriptures explain that God always knew that the sacrifice and offering were not enough. The world would need a perfect human who lived without sin and was offered as a living sacrifice for the sins of the world. Jesus, the Bible says in revealing prophecy, volunteered for that position and lived it out just as He had told the Father He would.

That could only happen if Jesus is made responsible to take all of our sins, if He would be not only our sacrifice but also our High Priest to care for us eternally. It was also a prophecy about Jesus in the Book of Genesis where the Bible says.

Prophecy **Genesis 14:18-20**

"Then Melchizedek, King of Salem brought out bread and wine, He was priest of God Most High, and he blessed Abram, saying, 'Blessed be Abram by God Most High, Creator of Heaven and Earth. And praise be to God Most High, who delivered your enemies into your hand.'"

The entire chapter of **Hebrews 7** explains how Jesus fulfilled this prophecy, but we will just take some key verses to show that the prophecy was fulfilled in every way and Jesus will be our eternal High Priest.

Fulfilled **Hebrews 6:20**

"Where our forerunner Jesus has entered on our behalf. He has become a high priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Fulfilled **Hebrews 7:3**

This Melchizedek was king of Salem and priest of God Most High. He met Abraham returning from the defeat of the kings and blessed him, and Abraham gave him a tenth of everything. First, this name Melchizedek means, 'king of Salem' which means, 'king of peace.' Without father or mother, without genealogy. Without beginning of days or end of life, resembling the Son of God, he remains a priest forever."

The prophecy is again stated as fulfilled in.

Fulfilled **Hebrews 7:17**

"For it is declared: 'You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.'"

The chapter ends with the supremacy of Jesus above every other High Priest who has ever served God and it spells it out clearly in:

Fulfilled **Hebrews 7:23-27**,

"Now there have been many of those priests, since death prevented them from continuing in office, but because Jesus lives forever, he has a permanent priesthood. Therefore, he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for his own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when he offered himself."

PROPHECY #68 Jesus Will Be an Eternal King

So, the Father taught Jesus His will, and how to live it, and made Him our High Priest as well as our King from the beginning of time. The prophecy that Jesus will be an Eternal King is given several times, but an outstanding one is, **II Samuel 7:13-16** where God explains to Nathan the prophet the words to tell King David about God's special relationship with one of David's offspring, who will be the Son of God.

Prophecy **II Samuel 7:13-16**

"He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

It was fulfilled when the angel of the Lord spoke to Mary and told her about her son and his legacy to be the eternal king. He had been prepared for that very role. The angel said.

Fulfilled **Luke 1:31-33**

"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 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, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

The 19th Chapter of Revelation shows this eternal king in full glory as He defeats the beast; and serves as the mighty arm of God the Father to restore sanity to the earth and to begin His eternal reign as King Eternal.

PROPHECY #69 Jesus to Rule with Power Over All That God Gave Him

One last prophecy of training and gifting is that Jesus, the Son was trained by the Father to rule with power over all that God gave Him. God the Father had been prophesied to put everything under the feet of Jesus His Son.

The prophecy was in:

Prophecy **Psalms 8:6**

"What is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

No where is this close relationship of God the Father as the one who trained Jesus and Jesus who lived out these prophecies made any clearer than in **I Corinthians** where Paul writes.

Fulfilled **I Corinthians 15:27-28**

"For He 'has put everything under his feet.' When He has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all."

The author of Hebrews makes the same point when he writes.

Fulfilled *Hebrews 2:5-9*

"It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: 'What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels, you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet.' In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste of death for everyone."

So, God put Jesus in charge of everything because He deserved it. He had given His human life for others to be saved. He had the power, the direction, and the blessing to be in charge of all.

JESUS GAVE US WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Some of the greatest traits in Jesus were learned before He came to this Earth and especially at this Christmas time of the year, they are the items we reflect the most about in the birth of Jesus.

Jesus 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 the wonderful Christian gifts we think of at Christmas time.

1. **Christian Peace:** Jesus brought this spirit of peace with Him to earth and He gave it as a gift to all who would follow Him.

John 14:27

"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."

A gift straight from the Father to the Son to all who would accept the gift of the Peace of Jesus.

2. **Christian Hope:** Jesus showed us over and over in His life that He had the true Christian hope directing His life. He could see the end result in spite of the present suffering. It allowed Him to be victorious in the prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane; endure the horrific beatings, torture, and punishment of His trials, His physical torture, and His humiliating death on the cross; and it took Him through the betrayals of His disciples, the desertion of His followers, and the temporary separation from the Father when He absorbed all the sins of the world.

He has given that hope to all who would have faith and accept the fact that God will direct victory in our lives. Paul writes in:

Romans 15:13

"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."

Again, Paul writes.

Colossians 1:27

"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."

The author of Hebrews writes,

Hebrews 11:1-2

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for."

3. **Christian Love:** Jesus commanded love, exhibited love, and lived love as He had been trained to do. Jesus says.

John 15:17, *"This is my command: Love each other."*

Paul summarizes His great chapter on love in **I Corinthians**, by writing.

I Corinthians 13:13

"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 to be one of us.

PROPHECY #70 God the Father Gave the Key of David to His Son Jesus

The last prophecy we will look at in this lesson is the training of Jesus as the Only Begotten Son of God by the Father and it includes the fact that God the Father would give the key of David to His Son Jesus. The prophecy was written by Isaiah when God spoke through Isaiah to tell of a change of authority in the city of Jerusalem. God gives a prophecy of what awaits His Son that God has trained Him to receive.

Prophecy Isaiah 22:22-23

"I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father."

In the Book of Revelation, Jesus is speaking to the Seven Churches of Asia Minor and shares how He has fulfilled this prophesy as He commends the Church at Philadelphia. He says:

Fulfilled Revelation 3:7-8

"To the angel of the church of Philadelphia write: 'These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut and what he shuts no one

can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut."

Jesus fulfilled every prophecy ever written about Him, even before He was born, and shall complete all future prophecies that have not been made known yet. No one has ever fulfilled prophecies better than Jesus Christ.

LESSON # 10: 'CHANGING CHRISTMAS CUSTOMS'

This Lesson completes our ten-week study on all the prophecies of Jesus Christ until the last 50 days of His life here on the earth. We have published the book of the prophecies from the last 50 days of the life of Jesus on Earth and after His life here on Earth and called the book, **"Jesus Fulfilled Prophecies the Best"**. These Lessons will be published as a companion book titled: **"Jesus came to Earth and Taught Just as the Bible Said He Would!"**; that contains more of the Biblical prophecies about Jesus and how they were fulfilled in the Bible.

This last lesson we will do two things: First, take a look at Christmas and how it has been celebrated and remembered and second, summarize the prophecies of Jesus prior to His last 50 days here on the Earth.

LIVING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE ALMIGHTY, GOD

C. S. Lewis in "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe" writes about Aslan, the Lion, who Lewis has representing Christ, as the Lion and the Lamb in his tale of Christian fantasy based on Bible teaching.

Dialogue from the book after all the children have gone through the wardrobe and are in the area where they interact with these Christian creatures. Lucy speaks:

"Is he quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion."

"That you will, dearie, make no mistake," said Mrs. Beaver. "If there's anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they're either braver than most, or else just silly."

"Then he isn't safe?" said Lucy.

"Safe?" said Mr. Beaver: "Don't you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you"

"I'm longing to see hm," said Peter, "even if I do feel frightened when it comes to that point."

Dwelling with the Almighty sounds like such a wonderful idea. The extended protection of so great a guardian would seem to ensure our safety and well-being. At Christmas we conjure up images of baby Jesus and wistfully think how wonderful it would be having been present to worship him.

But men and women have always found it strangely perilous to be in the presence of the true and living God. The intersection of the Holy and the profane (which each of us certainly is when compared to Him) creates a tension that is dangerous to say the least.

The profanity of Adam and Eve's sin ended their communion with God. Because they sinned, they were ejected from the Garden and burdened with toil and finally death. Creation itself carried a curse from that time. One we still have to deal with: not only the curse on nature to produce weeds, thistles, and thorns, and women to have pain in childbirth and be under the authority of their husbands but more importantly that we all sin and all sin leads to death.

Israel later learned the peril of dwelling in the presence of God. When His Shekinah Glory filled the tabernacle, the Shekinah Glory of God was so intense, not even Moses could enter. The penalty for sullyng the camp where the Holy God was present was swift and sure. God's blessing flowed into the people He chose to dwell among, but His righteous anger was also incited by their faithlessness, perhaps more so because they should have known better.

When Jesus came to dwell among men, His parents learned that their lives and immediate safety were threatened by forces opposed to the newborn King. Shepherds may have come to worship Him as He lay in a manger, but Herod's paranoia and hatred forced Joseph and Mary to flee, and led to the slaughter of many innocent children.

Living in the presence of the Almighty has always been something that has not been easy to totally navigate. Some have just blamed God for any misunderstanding they have about living with the Almighty. For instance, the atheist philosopher Bertrand Russell once said that if he died and met God, he would accuse God of providing insufficient evidence of His existence. Russell wanted God to provide a special message outside of the Bible that would meet his criteria on what he thought God should do, but history shows that God has already done that.

Blaise Pascal (a French mathematician and theologian) was wiser than Mr. Russell. Pascal understood that God establishes Biblical objectivity while respecting man's subjective liberty. God is "willing to appear openly to those who seek Him with all their heart, and to be hidden from those who flee from Him with all their heart. God so regulates the knowledge of Himself that He has given indications of Himself which are visible to those who seek Him and not to those who do not seek Him. There is enough light for those to see who only desire to see, and enough obscurity for those who have a contrary disposition."

Praise God who overcomes fear and will one day wipe away every fear.

HOW THE CHRISTIAN WORLD VIEW COMES TOGETHER ON CHRISTMAS

As we approach Christmas, we need to understand how the Christian worldview comes together.

Now, in one sense we as Christians understand that it starts in Eternity, before the creation of the heavens and the earth by a Holy God, and before the creation of the first human beings, Adam and Eve. And it begins in the eternal purposes of a self-sufficient sovereign, holy, and a righteous God. But the Gospel enters into history. Yes, the Gospel. The promise of the Gospel enters into human history in the very beginning of the Biblical story in **Genesis 1, 2, and 3**. It happens!

First of all, in the **Gospel of John, Chapter 1**, we are told that it was none other than Jesus Christ, the Son, member of the Trinity, who was the agent of creation. The eternal Word through whom the world was made, and without whom, nothing was made that was made.

The **Book of Genesis** turns out to be Christological, and the book is a story of the Trinity at work. That's the very beginning of the biblical story. That's the foundation of biblical theology, and it just continues on.

We understand that in **Genesis Chapter 3**, even in the account of the fall of humanity through the sin of Adam and Eve, there is the promise of a Son who would be born to Eve, who would crush the serpent's head. There's the promise of a Messiah, the promise of a Savior, the promise of One who would defeat the powers of sin and death and evil. Because it was God's promise, it's a sure promise, but it was a promise.

We follow through the Old Testament, and of course, we find prophecy and promise. We also find the experience of Israel. We find God making covenant with His people and establishing covenantal love as that which would take its ultimate fulfillment in the New Covenant that will be made in Jesus Christ, the blessing of the covenant of salvation and redemption. We come to understand the flow of biblical history and promise and fulfillment, that brings us to Christmas. After all, as we arrive at Christmas and the celebration of the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, we are entering into the point at which Jesus Christ enters into human history as a human, truly God and truly man, who was born that day in Bethlehem's manger.

Are we ready to celebrate the faithfulness of God at Christmas. A faithful God who promised His Son would be sent to this earth and kept that promise. It is not only a great moment of sacrifice by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to give up His exalted place in heaven to live a life of semi-poverty on this earth. It was the eternal promise of God lived out in His willingness to allow Jesus to come to this earth, human and vulnerable in every way. If there was ever a contest of how powerful someone was before a certain time period and how vulnerable they were after, the walk-away-winner would be Jesus Christ our Lord. He created all that has been created, He directed the Universe and controlled the very galaxies He had made and then when the Holy Spirit placed him in the womb of Mary, He entered a time where He would end up being one of the most vulnerable humans who ever lived. Vulnerable to intense persecution and suffering because he was willing to take our sins and faults and allow all that would be needed to purge those sins and their stains out of the lives of people for all generations. It is a season of wonder, a time of fulfillment, and a time that accomplished the one deed that stood between you and I getting to go to heaven. That deed: a perfect human, without fault or sin in any way, allowing themselves to be our sacrifice and ransom for the sins which we committed but He bore.

These great events of Jesus are celebrated. First, the Christian celebration of Christmas and second, the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead on Resurrection Day in the Spring of the year.

CHRISTIAN CHURCH CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS

The Christian Church celebrates Christmas, the incarnation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Was Jesus Christ born in December? No, there's no evidence for that whatsoever. As a matter of fact, arguably, the Biblical evidence would indicate that he was not born in December: there are no ewes who bear lambs in December in Judah; there are no Jewish Feast Days set-up by God in December; The feast days are significant because the spring feasts: Passover, Unleavened Bread, First fruits and Weeks or Pentecost, are each identified with the first coming of Jesus to this earth and the first three took place in March-April while Pentecost was celebrated in May-June. The three fall feasts, Trumpets or

Rosh Hashanah; Day of Atonement; and Tabernacles are prophesied to be fulfilled when Jesus returns to the earth as the conquering king and they were all to be observed in the September-October time frame.

Jesus would most likely have been born during one of the spring Festivals, such as the Feast of First Fruits. The death of Christ and His resurrection are carefully tied to the Feasts of Passover and Unleavened Bread, which occur in the same week and the start of the Church which occurred on the very day the Feast of Weeks or Pentecost started.

Notwithstanding this pattern in the Bible, Christians began quite early to seize upon the opportunity of a winter celebration of the greatest news of all, Jesus Christ is born. It also was linked very early with the 10-day Roman festival of Saturnalia which was held in December. The Roman holiday was a public celebration starting December 16 and through the years grew until it finally was for the entire week and finished on December 23rd. Then the public celebration moved to a private festival observed in the homes starting on December 24th or 25th. The Roman holiday seemed to have influence on some of the customs associated with later celebrations in western Europe occurring mid-December, particularly traditions associated with Christmas—December 24th, 25th, the Feast of the Holy Innocents—also called Childermass on December 28th, and Epiphany, January 6th. The Roman Feast had been marked by: Daily Feasting, gift-exchange or gift-giving, and for centuries a carnival like atmosphere that seemed to violate all regular social norms. Although this was kept as a tradition of the Lenten season throughout the Western Catholic world, it did not stay as a part of the Christmas tradition.

Many other Christmas traditions have much more to do with the locations where they started: Christmas Trees were a focus of the more heavily wooded areas and would have been almost a problem in some of the early desert communities of the church. The same can be said for Northern European Yule Logs and even the Advent Season which seems to have started in Northern Italy and originally was a week-long celebration of fasting, prayer, and worship that led up to the observance of Christmas.

The legend of Santa Claus was founded on the deeds of a Turkish monk named, St. Nicholas who in the third century became known for his care for children and women and the good deeds he did to protect them. St. Nicholas became the most popular saint in all of Europe by the time the Church stopped putting an emphasis on the veneration of saints. Holland was especially fond of him. The name Santa Claus evolved from Nick's Dutch nickname, Sinter Clas, a shortened form of Sint Nikolas, Dutch for Saint Nicolas. The Christmas holiday had a rejuvenation in the early 19th century. Stores began to advertise Christmas shopping in 1820 and by 1840 newspapers were creating separate sections for holiday advertisements, which often featured images of the newly popular Santa Claus.

Our image of Santa Claus has been shaped a lot by the poem by Clement Clarke Moore, an Episcopal minister, who wrote a long Christmas poem for his three daughters entitled, "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicolas," more popularly known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas." This new defined Santa became an American icon and still dominates how people display and think of Santa today.

Rudolph, the flying reindeer was born over 100 years after his eight flying counterparts. He was the creation of Robert L. May, a copywriter at Montgomery Ward department store. He used the familiar rhyme pattern of "Twas the Night Before Christmas," to write his story. It is a story of how a liability can be turned into an asset and proved popular in book and song form.

Almost all of the Christmas traditions have been tweaked and refined by the countries where Christmas is observed and these countries have added items to make the traditions more relevant to their culture and often climate.

The early church established "The Church of the Nativity" in Bethlehem and did observe the birth of Jesus. We do not know any of the early dating; but by the third century the church became very interested in establishing the date of the birth of Jesus and Clement of Alexandria in 200 A D wrote:

"There are those who have determined not only the year of our Lord's birth, but also the day; and they say that it took place in Place in the 29th year of Augustus and on the 25th day of Pachon (an Egyptian month). Further, others say He was born on the 24th or 25th day of Pharmuthi, (another Egyptian month)—April 20 or 21 today."

The first time it was celebrated on December 25 was 60 years after Emperor Aurelian in Rome linked it on the same date as the Roman two-day holiday—December 24, 25; December 24th and 25th to honor the sun god Sol Invictus. So, the first time the birth of Jesus was honored on December 25th was 334 A D by order of a Roman Emperor.

The December date was linked to the many and varied lights because of the celebration of the sun god and this has continued in almost all Christmas celebrations.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS PRIOR TO HIS LAST DAYS ON EARTH

As we look at the prophecies of Jesus in His pre-human life and His human life until His last 50 days, we see the pattern.

- A. **The Trinity** - An establishment of how God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit tie together and accomplish what is to happen during this time period.
- B. **The Birth of Jesus** - Known most often in the Old Testament as the coming of the Messiah, it was predicted many times in the Old Testament as well as many of His traits and accomplishments.
- C. **Jesus Connection Between Heaven & Earth** - The birth of Jesus was a connection between Heaven and Earth that will not be duplicated until Christ returns and takes control of this world.
- D. **The Childhood Life of Jesus** - the start of the ministry of Jesus happened just like God said that they would.
- E. **Jesus is God** - It is clear that in the Old Testament we have many prophecies that prove Jesus is God and that the events of His birth--for instance Jesus had to be the product of

a virgin birth or He could not have been the Only Begotten Son of God; that He had to be the product of the lineage of Abraham; and especially the lineage of David or it would make most prophecies about Him and His birth false.

- F. **Jesus Represents God the Father on Earth** - Jesus had been prepared for the Father to represent Him on the earth and do all that needed done for Him to be the Savior of the world.

May you see Jesus more clearly as you read the prophecies about Him and see them fulfilled. May it enhance your celebration this year.