

OT Prophecies about Jesus birth

Over the past few weeks I have had the privilege of doing a **few assemblies in the local schools, Ascot Heath and Charters**. With the time of the year we have looked at the **subject of advent**. It has been a really interesting time for me as my understanding of advent was a **calendar or a candle**.

But did you know all advent is, is a **period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus**. That is why we have advent calendars, advent candles etc., **it is really just a countdown!**

We are counting down the days until Christmas, **looking forward to the time where we particularly celebrate the birth of Jesus**, the time when **God became a man and dwelt among us**.

We may spend a month or so getting ready, counting down to Christmas, to celebrate Jesus arrival, but when **Jesus was born just over 2000 years ago, there had been a much longer countdown waiting for Jesus, the messiah to come**. In fact the countdown started almost as soon as the world was created.

So today I'd like us to do a **bit of a countdown, looking at some of the passages in the Old Testament**. Passages that **prepared the way; that counted down to that momentous occasion of God becoming a Child, in order that we could know him**.

Why do this?

Well, All of history points to the birth of Jesus, but Jesus, the son of God, was there at the beginning and he will be there at the end and into all eternity.

This time of year has unfortunately **moved away from the real reason for the season**, and I just want us to spend some time **looking at Jesus this morning, so that we don't just get caught up in the secular view of Christmas, but remember what is at the heart of it**.

Now if I read every prophesy about Jesus in the Old Testament we'd be here a lot longer than half an hour.

So let's start at the beginning.

The first prophesy we see about Jesus is in the **third Chapter of the bible where Adam and Eve receive the prophecy that the Messiah (Jesus) would be born of a woman.**

Lets look at the **prophetic promise** and it's **fulfilment in the new testament.**

Credit **Mark Driscoll**, Vintage Jesus.

Promise: Genesis 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

Protoevangelion - the first gospel.

Fulfilment: Galatians 4:4 – “But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law . . .”

Even in the first few pages of the bible we see reference to Jesus being **born of a woman** and going **head to head with the enemy, Satan.** As soon as man had fallen **Gods rescue plan was initiated.** Thousands of years before the actual event of Jesus birth.

We then move forward a few thousand years where Isaiah prophesies that **Jesus' mother would be a virgin** who conceived by a miracle and that **Jesus would be God who became a man.**

Promise: Isaiah 7:14 – “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

Fulfilment: Matthew 1:18–23 – “Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel’ (which means, God with us).”

Isaiah again talks about the birth of the messiah.

Promise: Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Fulfilment: Luke 2:11-14 ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby *g*wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

Here we have the **very famous passages in Isaiah** that are used at this time of year, outstanding prophecies pointing to Jesus **about 700 years before he was born.**

About the same time as the Isaiah prophecies Micah prophecies **that Jesus would be born in the town of Bethlehem.**

Promise: Micah 5:2 – "But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days [eternity]."

Fulfilment: Luke 2:1-7 – "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. . . . And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

We all know Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but **we look through eyes of history**, how amazing is it that **the detail of Jesus birth place was there 700 years before he was born.** Not as if Joseph and Mary could have fixed it either. They were summoned to Bethlehem for the census, they had to go there!

The final prophesy we'll look at that pointed to Jesus being the messiah is in Malachi, about 400 years before Jesus birth.

Malachi prophecies that **Jesus would enter the temple**

Promise: Malachi 3:1 – “Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts.”

Fulfilment: Luke 2:25–35 – “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 upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised,
you now dismiss your servant in peace.
For my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the sight of all people,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

The child's father and mother marvelled 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. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

The **temple was destroyed in 70 AD**, meaning the **Messiah had to come before then**. So we can see that the prophesy of Malachi was fulfilled by Jesus when his parents took him there, **also Simeon's words back this up, he had been promised that he would see the messiah before he died**, here he knows that Jesus is the messiah and he could now die.

SO here we **have five amazing Old Testament passages that point to the birth of Jesus** that were **all fulfilled** hundreds or even thousands of years after they were first uttered. I think **this is truly amazing!** Today we are only looking at the prophesies that point to Jesus Birth, **but there are many more that point to other aspects of Jesus life and even more amazingly his Death on the cross.**

So why is this so important for us to know and understand?

Well as we have looked at over the past few weeks, **Jesus is the centre of all history and we see him in eternity, we see him appearing in the Old Testament and we**

now see people pointing towards him with absolute accuracy hundreds of years before he is even born.

As I mentioned at the beginning our society has **forgotten the reason for this season**, Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas, the festival even bears his name!!!

Nothing God does ever happens by mistake

God has a plan

God is proactive, not a reactive. He is **in every moment**, he **knows everything**, he is **interested in you and me**, he **cares about our lives** and **what is going on in them.**

How do we know this? We know this because of Jesus.

Following and believing in Jesus isn't just some kind of crutch, he isn't some fictional character. **Jesus Lived and walked on this earth, he died, rose again and now reigns in glory.**

If you are here and have already given your life to following Jesus, can I encourage you to **really think about him this Christmas time.** Don't just get caught up in the worldly celebrations.

If you have **never considered who this bloke that walked the earth 2000 years ago was**, why not look into him a little more, ask those around you who know him. In Jan we have a course **CX** running which basically looks at who Jesus is, why not sign up for that. You may even be in the place today to say, wow, this stuff isn't just a fiction, he really was God who became man so that I can know him. He's worth following. If that is you, then come and see me after the meeting and I'd be very happy to chat further.

Pray