

Prophecies that were Fulfilled in Relation to the Birth of Christ

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Bible Text: Matthew 1:22; Luke 24:27, 44

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Mathew chapter number one, Luke 24.

Change of Voice:

One in four people in Washington have no religion. Personally, I don't see any reason to believe in God, so I don't and that makes me an Atheist.

Change of Voice:

We help build your bridges, deliver your mail and heal you when you are sick.

Change of Voice:

And we would like to be open about who we are.

Change of Voice:

So open up, come out and get to know us.

Change of Voice:

So what is an Atheist?

Change of Voice:

It is great, but without God.

Change of Voice:

We would like to be open about who we are.

Change of Voice:

I am an Atheist.

Change of Voice:

I am a skeptic.

Change of Voice:

I am a Secular Humanist.

Change of Voice:

I am an Agnostic Atheist.

Change of Voice:

I am a free thinker.

Change of Voice:

I am an Atheist.

Change of Voice:

I am a human being. Got a question? Just ask.

Change of Voice:

So open up. Come out and get to know us.

Change of Voice:

All right. So that is the world we are living. Ok? That is the world we are living. The world that we are living in has an increasing number of people that are identifying themselves as Atheists.

In Seattle, Washington if you were to go there now and you were to tour the city, on the side of the buses the mass transit buses would be these large advertisements. One in four is an Atheist.

So they are suggesting to you that the probability of running into an Atheist... Berringers. Praise God. Hallelujah. Folks, get right with God, because the rapture might happen. Praise the Lord to have you all here. And Ruth Bridges his over here as well. Is there anyone else visiting that I missed? I will just see you.

College students, all our returning college students who are home for Christmas, stand up, please. Just do what you are told. It is so easy. Very good. It is good to have you all home. You can remain standing if you have a 4.0, 3.9, 3.5. All right, very good. Somebody comes across the threshold.

All right. Let's look this morning at three of the most important question when interacting with an Atheist. How am I going to interact with an Atheist?

And I am afraid that for most of us we would prefer for just to think, well, they must believe in God. I think the idea of them coming out and just declaring, "I am Atheist," scares us. I mean, we have no idea where do you even go with some thing like that.

So let's talk about that. Question number one that you want to engage an Atheist with is: Is there a possibility that there is a God? Is there a possibility that you are wrong and there is a God? That is really your starting point, Romans 3:10 or 3:23 is not the starting point. You cannot go to the Bible with some body until the acknowledge there is a possibility that there is an all knowing supreme being that created all things. If they won't go there, then you are going to need to talk to them legitimately about where did everything come from. That is the discussion you have to have. You can't even get into the gospel until we get to this idea right here which is: Is there a possibility that there is a God? Is there a possibility?

And hopefully they will say yes. There is a possibility. Because you want to say to them, when they say, no, there is no God. You want to say, "Have you been everywhere? How do you know there isn't? Have you checked everywhere? Have you went in all dimensions?"

That is what you have got to do because there has to be—please listen. A lot of movement. Please listen. There has to be an uncaused cause. Now if you are not familiar with that argument then you need to work your way into that and get to know it. But there has to be an uncaused cause. But there is a cause with everything. Everything has a cause. So there is a cause for everything. There has got to be an uncaused cause which starts everything. We call that the cosmological argument.

Once you get past that, then you can get into intelligent design. How in the world is this all this way?

All right, question number two. Is it possible that this God has revealed himself to mankind. Question number one, is there a possibility that there is a God? Question number two, is it possible that this God communicates? Does he communicate? If there is an intelligent, all knowing, all creating, all powerful God that created all things, does he communicate with those beings that he created?

And then question number three is: Is the revelation of this God contained in the Bible?

We have had all kinds of, quote, sacred writings. Remember who you are dealing with here. You are dealing with a free thinker. You are dealing with an intelligent being. If someone is so bold as to be part of an organization like this, they are not stupid. You need to recognize that. So if you are going to engage someone like this and let me remind you, you are called to engage them. It is called the Great Commission. You are called to engage them. So what are we doing this morning. This is equipping 101.

You say, “Pastor, even in the month of December we have got to be equipped? Can’t we just get a cute little Christmas message and be on our way?”

Yeah, we will get into that in just a moment, but we are not going to assemble on one of the 52 Sundays that God gives us and just check the block. We have got to get something out of our time. We have to do that. We can’t just assemble for the sake of assembling.

So let’s get into the text this morning, Matthew chapter number one verse 22. Luke chapter 24. Those are our primary texts that I want to engage in the beginning and then we are going to work through Bible.

What a novel concept. We are going to use the Bible in church.

Verse number 22.

Fortunately the light is still good enough up here that I don’t need to use those glasses.

“Now all this...”

All this in the beginning of this entire narrative, beginning in verse one.

“Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet.”¹

We are going to talk about that.

Turn to Luke 24. All right. Let’s drop into Luke 24. Let’s get our context right. Christ has died. Christ has rose from the grave. We are dealing with the 40 days in which he goes around showing himself alive by numerous proofs. Luke the author writes:

“And beginning at Moses...”²

Now what is he talking about?

“And beginning at Moses...”³

¹ Matthew 1:22.

² Luke 24:27.

³ Ibid.

Let me remind you. Moses I the author of the Torah or the first five books of the Bible—Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy. So he says:

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”⁴

That is what we are going to do this morning. That is exactly what we are going to do. Turn over to verse 44.

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”⁵

Let’s pray.

Father in heaven, we are so thankful for the opportunity to come together this morning and to study your Word. I pray that this time would be exceptionally productive in Jesus’ name. Amen.

So our title this morning is “Prophecies That Were Fulfilled in Relation to the Birth of Christ.”

Deuteronomy 18:18 has a special promise. It is a prophecy given by Moses, by God through Moses. God says:

“I will raise them up a prophet among their brethren like unto thee...”⁶

Like unto who? Moses.

“...that will put my words and I will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.”⁷

So we want to identify this morning who is that prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18. Who is this prophet?

Now let me remind you. Christians read the Old Testament. Muslims read the Old Testament. Jews read the Old Testament. Jehovah Witnesses read the Old Testament. Mormons read the Old Testament and every one of them claim that to have some sacredness to their religion and we all don’t agree. So somebody is right and somebody is wrong.

If you were in the eastern part of the world you might claim Buddha as the human leader of your faith group. If you are a Christian perhaps Jesus is the one that you would

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Luke 24:44.

⁶ Deuteronomy 18:18.

⁷ Ibid.

immediately identify. I would hope so. If you are a Muslim you might claim Mohammed. If you were a Mormon you might claim Joseph Smith. And we have got a new, relatively new religion that seems to be a hybrid of Judaism, Islam and Christianity with this man who is now dead as the follower. If you were a Jew you might say he hasn't come yet.

So are we dealing with Joseph Smith? Is it Mohammed? Is it Jesus? I mean, is it pick whichever one you want?

If we look at the globe what we see is everything in purple and blue has some orientation towards Jesus Christ. Everything in green here would claim Mohammed. Everything in either a red or an orange or [?] would have an eastern orientation to it, perhaps something like Buddha or some orientation like that. So really what matters is: Who do you think is the prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18? Who do you think? That is the question. Who do you think? If you are a Mormon you are going to say Joseph Smith. If you are a Muslim you are going to say Mohammed. So let's talk about that.

Why do we believe God has revealed himself to mankind in his Son Jesus of Nazareth. If you are going to get into a conversation with somebody about this, they say, "I am an Atheist. I am an Agnostic. You claim to be a Christian. Why do you believe it is Jesus?"

You are going to need to talk intelligently as to why you believe what you believe. And let me emphasize this morning, let me emphasize I have always been is not going to work. It is just not going to make a difference. That will not impact them.

Momma was a Baptist. Momma's momma was a Baptist. Our whole family are Christians. That is not going to impact them. You are not going to be able to have a legitimate conversation based on that. You are going to have to engage them in a much stronger way. I am going to try to help you do that this morning.

We believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of numerous prophecies. Numerous prophecies fulfilled. That means it came to pass. Prophecy: A prediction of something to come. So I am going to submit to you this morning that these kind of words, that it might be fulfilled are faith building words that it might be fulfilled, that every time you ad something like that in your Bible, every time you see a prophecy fulfilled that should bring you encouragement. That should bring you comfort. I am not in the wrong religion. I am not in the wrong church. I am in the right church. I am reading the right sacred book. There is something special here. This isn't just grandmother's religion.

Verse 27.

He says:

“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”⁸

⁸ Luke 24:27.

So if he was able to do it, we should be able to go through the same Scriptures and do it ourselves. So let's do that this morning.

Now this morning all we are going to focus on because it is Christmas and we tend to celebrate the birth of Christ during this period of time, we are just going to focus on the birth. But I want to say to you this morning right now, I could preach this sermon on his life, on his death, on his resurrection and on his second coming. So what I mean is we can do a five part series right now and what I do this morning I could turn around and do it next week on the life. I could turn around and do it the following week on the death. I could turn around and do it the fourth week on the resurrection and I could do it on the fifth week on the second coming. I could show you fulfilled, prophecy in the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament, prophecy in the Old Testament fulfilled in the New Testament.

All right. You say, "What is the big deal, preacher? Why should I get excited about that? Why should I even care this morning?"

Here is why. Ok? No other religion can do what I am going to do this morning. Ok, I heard, three amens. That means I didn't explain myself very well. Ok. All right. An imam in a mosque cannot take the Old Testament and walk the dog through it and show you Mohammed. It can't happen. It is impossible.

In a Mormon temple church, whatever you want to call it. I hate to call it a church. In a Mormon building they cannot go back to Genesis and walk the dog and show you Joseph Smith. It is impossible. It is not present.

Take Buddha. There are no sacred writings written before his birth prophesying of his birth, none. I said none, completely absent. That should be a big deal to you.

What I want you to understand this morning is what we are doing this morning in this Christian church, in this Baptist church using this Bible cannot be done anywhere else. Nowhere else. There isn't of those leaders that I have on the screen and any other leaders, they can't do what we are going to do this morning beginning in Genesis chapter number three. So let's work our way there.

Genesis three, please. Turn in your Bibles to Genesis three. Christ said, "Moses, the prophets and the psalms."

So let's do that.

This morning first we will look at Moses. That is Genesis and Numbers. Then we will look at David. That is the psalms. Then we will look at Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea and Micah. And we will show you unequivocally that Jesus is the prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18, bar none, without question.

Not only, let me emphasize this, is he the prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18, he is the Son of God. He is the King of kings and he is the priest.

So here is our outline. I am going to refer to it several times so you keep pace of where we are at. Everything in black is what Moses wrote. Everything in purple is coming from the psalms, presumably David most of it. In yellow is Isaiah. In red is Jeremiah. In green is Ezekiel. In H is Hosea. In purple, I guess is the best description there, is Micah. And then white is the prophets. So I am going to work you through this idea.

Secondly or thirdly or fourthly, wherever I am at, I want to show you that these prophets that we are going to look at did not hang out in the same room together and plan a propaganda campaign. Ok? Now don't just go... ok? That is like huge. These folks didn't ever meet each other. It is not as though Moses and David and the prophets got together and said, "Do you know what? We are going to develop this cool idea of this man Jesus and you will say this and you will say this and you will say this and then afterwards they will all look at it and think that it is this cool prophecy."

These men never even met each other. When they were alive at the same time, one was in the northern kingdom and one was in the southern kingdom. They didn't have any interaction with each other. They all individually were moved upon by the Holy Spirit, prophesied something concerning the coming Messiah and then what we see is the apostles show us how Jesus is the fulfillment of all these different prophecies.

Genesis chapter number three verse 15.

You stay in the Old Testament. I will show you the New Testament verses on the screen. That is our plan. If you don't have a Bible, you will need to pull one of those pew Bibles out because you won't be able to follow this sermon without it. Imagine that, you have to have your Bible in your church.

God gives this to Adam and Eve and then God gives it again to Moses. God is speaking.

And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.⁹

So the first prophecy that I want to show you is pretty basic, but it is the idea that that prophet of Deuteronomy 18:18 would be born of a woman.

You say, "Of course. Everyone is born of a woman."

No, stop. Think about how much Greek mythology you know of in which the gods are not born of a woman. They just appear. They just drop out of the sky or they are a

⁹ Genesis 3:14-15.

product of gods, gods having gods who have gods. Do you not know Greek mythology? Are you not following with me?

So this idea of Christianity suggesting that God is born of a woman is a foreign idea to Greeks and they actually have a hard time with this idea because they know that everything born of a woman is sinful, evil. So how in the world can God be born of a woman because all is born evil?

So the first prophecy is born of a woman and we see that Mary of whom was born Jesus.

All right, let's get into our second one. Paul tells us the same thing in Galatians 4:4.

Turn over to Genesis chapter number 49, please.

We are going to narrow it down, born of a woman. Now let's narrow it down a little bit. Born of a woman. That is the first statement.

Genesis chapter number 49.

Please notice this word S C E P T R E, scepter. What is a scepter? What is that scepter thing? It is that which a king holds in his hand. By holding in his hand what does it establish? He is king. Whoever holds this is the king. This is the power. If I hold this in my hand I can decree things. I make laws. I am the supreme dictator.

Notice in verse number 10:

“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”¹⁰

So you say, “What are we talking about here, pastor?”

Well, let's think about this this morning. If I was to say to you this morning, I was to say, “Next Sunday... let me prophesy now an apostle. Someone laid their hands on me. It was the apostle Sean Harris. I am going to give you a prophecy. I predict that next Sunday a descendant of Adam will visit us.”

Now you think, “Wow.”

And then next Sunday the guy shows up. You say, “There he is. A descendant of Adam.”

Pretty good, right? Very impressive, right.

Or let's say I was to say a descendant of Noah. Ok? Yeah. No kidding, pastor. Everyone is a descendant of Noah. Ok?

¹⁰ Genesis 49:10.

That is not what we have going on here. That is not what we have going on here. He says Judah. He says Judah. So let's walk this dog back a little bit.

God calls Abraham in Genesis chapter number 12. Abraham has two sons Ishmael and Isaac, right? Isaac has two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob has 12 sons of which Judah is one of them. So now if I was to walk in and say, "I prophecy that a descendant of Adam, a descendant of Noah, a descendant of Abraham, a descendant of Isaac, a descendant of Jacob, a descendant of Judah will visit us," I have narrowed it down a little bit, haven't I? I have narrowed it down a little bit.

There are lots of people on the planet who are not descendants of Abraham, descendants of Isaac, descendants of Jacob, descendants of Judah. There are many, many people who are not that narrow. By the time of Christ's birth there are thousand millions of Greeks who have no affiliation with Judaism whatsoever. And so this prophecy of being a descendant of Judah is a little bit more difficult.

Abraham begat Isaac. Isaac begat Jacob. Jacob begat Judah.

You say, "Pastor, can you drive your point home a little bit more maybe? You are not be forceful enough."

Ok. I will do that, if you insist. Someone please show me in the Old Testament one prophecy of Mohammed's ancestry. The only thing they do is they go Ishmael. That is all. Ishmael.

Wait a minute. I am sorry, but do you know there is a lot of people between Ishmael and Mohammed? There is a lot of people. We are dealing with 2000 years of ancestry. I would like you to please show me a genealogy like in Matthew chapter number one please. Could you show me a genealogy, please? Could you walk the dog back? It is not there. I said it is not there. You can wake up when I say that. It is not there. Ok? It is nowhere to be found.

All right. Turn over to Numbers chapter number 24 verse number 17.

Now my mission this morning is to make sure that you understand unequivocally that the 39 canonical books of the Old Testament are packed full of prophecies concerning Jesus Christ. That is what I want you to walk away with beyond a doubt. Numbers 24 verse 17.

"I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth."¹¹

Now think with me. Now maybe you get a better understanding of why the disciples kept on looking for Jesus to overthrow the Romans, because they knew from the prophecies of

¹¹ Numbers 24:17.

the Old Testament, Mike, that he coming Messiah was going to do this right here, that he would go around destroying nations. And so when he wasn't destroying nations. They were confused. Ok. All right. It is time. Let's go. And he didn't.

In fact, when he did just the opposite, Jonathan, and went to the cross it threw them in a tailspin. The Messiah was not supposed to die on a cross. The Messiah was supposed to rule on the throne of David.

Ok, so where is the prophecy, pastor?

Matthew 2:2. At his birth wise men are coming from the east identifying him as the King of the Jews at his birth.

So what have we done so far? We have looked at the black. We have looked at Moses. Let's go to the Psalms. Psalm 2:7.

Approximately 1000 years before the birth of Christ the psalmist writes in verse number seven:

“I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee.”¹²

Matthew chapter number three. What happened? Do you know your Bible? If you do, you will know what happened in Matthew three. Matthew three is a key passage. What happened? Jesus is what? Baptized. A voice coming down from heaven says:

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”¹³

So go to whatever faith group you want and say, “Where is the fulfillment of this in your religion?”

We would suggest that Luke 1:32 where the Scripture says:

“He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David.”¹⁴

Is a fulfillment. We would suggest unto you that the writer of Hebrews when he says:

“For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee?”¹⁵

¹² Psalm 2:7.

¹³ Mathew 3:17.

¹⁴ Luke 1:32.

¹⁵ Hebrews 1:5.

What is the doctrine? The doctrine is that the prophet in Deuteronomy 18:18 is the Son of God who is the prophet, priest and king.

En route to Psalm 72 let's stop for a pit stop at Psalm 22. So go just a few chapters over. Let me show you this amazing chapter. And we could do this on a couple. I will only do it on one.

Psalm 22, please. Hear the words of the Lord. Let your mind follow along and know your Bible and listen to fulfilled prophecy in not just the birth, in everything you know about Christ. I will begin with verse number one.

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest not; and in the night season, and am not silent. But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in thee: they trusted, and thou didst deliver them. They cried unto thee, and were delivered: they trusted in thee, and were not confounded. But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people. All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him. But thou art he that took me out of the womb: thou didst make me hope when I was upon my mother's breasts. I was cast upon thee from the womb: thou art my God from my mother's belly.

Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.¹⁶

Stop. Time out. This is huge. This is a wake up moment, please. Look at your husband, left or right, and see if he is up. This prophecy was given like 1000 years before anyone was crucifying people. This is critical. This is huge. How did the Jews kill people? The idea of putting to pieces of wood together like this and nailing hands like this and nailing feet like this was completely foreign to the Jews. This, John, this... that method of dying had not been invented for 1000 years. A thousand years before the death of Christ the psalmist prophecies how he would die. A thousand years.

So Mr. Skeptic, Mr. free thinker, Mr. Agnostic Atheist. Would you please show me in any other religion on the globe where the method of death is prophesied of 1000 years

¹⁶ Psalm 22:1-16.

before Joseph Smith dies, before Mohammed dies, before Buddha dies or you pick your religious leader?

It is huge. How does that happen?

Hey, John, one is a coincidence. Two, perhaps. I am walking the dog. Ok? I am unequivocally showing you from Scripture that the entire 39 canonical Old Testament books are packed full of prophecies that should encourage you not to become agnostic, that should encourage you not to become an Atheist, that you should remain pure to your faith, that you should stay committed to the cause of Christ because he is the Messiah.

Psalm 72, please. Let's look at verse number 10.

The psalmist writes:

“The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.”¹⁷

And your mind races immediately to...

“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”¹⁸

Please, please, please show me anywhere where there is a prophecy that gifts would be delivered to Buddha.

So we have looked at Moses. We have looked at David. Let's get into Isaiah seven, please. And those of you that know your Bibles know that we could just camp out in Isaiah for just weeks upon weeks upon weeks upon weeks. If you know your Bible you should immediately think of Isaiah as the fifth gospel. Jesus Christ is on the pages of Isaiah nearly everywhere. He is screaming to you from nearly every single chapter. Isaiah chapter number seven.

And, oh, by the way, if you think God was just involved in the giving of the Hebrew Bible, let me give you an amazing idea. How many chapters in Isaiah? Sixty-six. How many books in the Bible? Sixty-six. Do you know that between chapter number 39 and chapter 40 is an amazing break between old covenant and new covenant, Old Testament and New Testament? I don't think you recognize how cool the Bible in your lap is. This is an amazing book. This is an unbelievably amazing book. The more you get into it, the more you realize that it is a supernatural book, that there is no way a single human author could put this thing together. What I am doing this morning with this Old Testament and this New Testament cannot be done in Hinduism. It cannot be done in Islam. It cannot be done in any other religion on the globe. Can't do it.

¹⁷ Psalm 72:10.

¹⁸ Matthew 2:11.

So the virgin birth in Isaiah seven verse number 14, please.

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”¹⁹

Meaning God with us. Would you please turn over to Isaiah nine verse six?

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”²⁰

This week pastor Bill did a great job of explaining how Jesus is the everlasting Father. That is on SermonAudio if you would like to check it out this week. And in Matthew:

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.²¹

So let me remind you where we are at. When I grab a hold of Isaiah we are right in here, 650, 700 years before the birth of Christ.

Jeremiah 23 verse number five. Turn a few more pages to the right and get into Jeremiah.

Verse number five, please:

“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”²²

All right. Let’s walk it down. Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David. See where we are going here? Ok? So I am not just saying a son of Adam. We are walking this down very, very... Judah had lots of sons who had sons who had sons, but I have got a genealogy in Matthew chapter number one that says:

“The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.”²³

“ And Jesse begat David the king; and David begat Solomon...”²⁴

And the book makes it abundantly clear that Jesus is a descendant of David.

¹⁹ Isaiah 7:14.

²⁰ Isaiah 9:6.

²¹ Mathew 1:22-23.

²² Jeremiah 23:5.

²³ Matthew 1:1.

²⁴ Matthew 1:6.

Turn over to Jeremiah 31, please.

I want you to understand that Christmas is all about fulfilled prophecy. This is a troubling prophecy. This is a hard one. Jeremiah the prophet predicts a time in the future when:

“A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, and bitter weeping; Rachel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they were not.”²⁵

You say what in the world is this all about, pastor? What is going on here?

All right. Let's look at Matthew 2:16.

“Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wrath, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently enquired of the wise men.”²⁶

What is going on here, pastor? What is going on here?

What did we just read about in Jeremiah? What kind of weeping and lamentations? Yes or no? Ok. Let's imagine for just a moment and we don't want to dwell on this too long, because it is too scary of a thought, but just stay with me for just a second. You hear a gunshot. Jason, you hear a second and third and a pop, pop, pop and you suddenly realize they are coming from the nursery. And what has happened is soldiers have kicked in all of the doors from the nursery, left side, right side, back side and they are going from room to room and they are shooting every child in our nursery wing.

Now what would happen in us? What kind of lamentations and weeping would occur in this church at that? Tell me. What kind? Unbelievable. Would anybody be comforted? No. Who would comfort who? We would all be grieving. It would so impact us in such a way. Who would come? When one mother loses her child all the mothers can rally around that mother and comfort her.

Jeremiah the prophet is predicting a time in which a particular city there is no one to comfort anyone because all are weeping, all are experiencing lamentation and that is exactly what happened in this city on that day.

And Jeremiah predicted it 500 years beforehand. So here we are. I have showed you Moses. I have showed you David. I have showed you Isaiah and I have showed you Jeremiah. Let's get into Ezekiel, please, Ezekiel 34.

That is one great way to keep everybody focused. We are turning pages. Ezekiel 34.

²⁵ Jeremiah 31:15.

²⁶ Matthew 2:16.

Now you remember when we preached through this text and we did it in three weeks. I just want to remind you of one simple verse.

Verse 23.

“And I will set up one shepherd over them, and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd.”²⁷

Now you know about Jesus as the shepherd in John chapter 10, but that is dealing with his life. Right? I am not dealing with his life this morning. I am dealing with his birth. Let me show you. This is cool. I mean, this is like super cool.

See that word right there “rule”? See that simple word? Let’s look at it again.

“And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule...”²⁸

Right there, “rule.” Let me show you that word right there. I am going to go to blue letter Bible. You can barely see it, but I want to show you my methodology. I go to blue letter bible dot org so I can look at the Greek text behind it. I go to first the verse right here and I scan all the way down until I find the word “rule” right here. I look over to this Greek word right here. I click on Strongs G4165 and I find that this word right here is the verb of shepherd understood to be feed or tend a flock of keep sheep.

Someone please show me another sacred book that is this cool. Anything. You can’t do this with the Koran. What we just did this morning cannot be done with the Koran. You can’t walk the dog back like we just did right here to show you that even in this word, “he shall rule his people,” is a fulfillment of this is a shepherd.

Hosea 11:1, please.

You know I am almost done because we are in the minor prophets so you can breathe a sigh of relief. If you need a break, go to one of those churches where they grab one verse, they talk for 30 minutes, tell stories and then you come back and get fed.

Hosea chapter 11 verse one.

“When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.”²⁹

Let’s walk the dog back now. Let’s prophecy that he is going to come from Mary or I mean a woman. All right everybody is born of a woman. No big deal. Ok. Let’s take a look further. Of Abraham, of Isaac, of Jacob, of Judah, of David who will shepherd and

²⁷ Ezekiel 34:23.

²⁸ Matthew 2:6.

²⁹ Hosea 11:1.

in his birth there will be great lamentations. Am I making it a little bit more difficult when I keep doing that? Who will be born of a virgin and they will say, “God with us,” when he is born.

Now I am going to add to it and say, “He will be called out of Egypt.” Here we go.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.³⁰

Do you know why the disciples did not get it right away when he was born? Because they said to themselves, how in the world is a guy going to be a shepherd and a king? How in the world is he going to be born in Bethlehem and called out of Egypt and grow up in Nazareth?

They could not figure out how God was going to pull... how will it be born of a virgin, descended of David, of the tribe of Judah, be a shepherd and a king. It was beyond their comprehension. They had no way of pulling it together like we would struggle at doing it without the 27 canonical books that lead us in helping us understand how this is all possible.

Toss you just 39 Old Testament books and say, “Now figure it out.” You are going to struggle. Through the combined revelation of the New Testament and the Old Testament you see this is amazing.

Micah 5:2, we are almost done.

And now we introduce to you our second specific geographical location. Micah 5:2.

“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”³¹

Bethlehem. So this is what we have looked at so far. Woman, Judah, king, virgin born, God with us, child and son, descendant of David, great lamentations, a shepherd, Egypt, Bethlehem and now Nazareth and we will see that in just a minute.

³⁰ Matthew 2:12-15.

³¹ Micah 5:2.

I am concluding right now. So please stay with me. I want you to grab a hold of this in your mind.

Egypt, Bethlehem and Nazareth are all geographical locations. Right? King, son or shepherd, are all occupations. Descendants: Eve, Judah, Jacob, David.

What are you doing, pastor?

It would be one thing for me to say he is going to be a descendant of such and such. It would be another thing for me to declare his occupation. It would be a total... another thing or a third thing for me to say he will have some geographical orientation with this region. That is not what the Bible has. That is not what we are dealing with. We are not dealing with an abstract ancestors or some form of occupations or a little bit of this. This man will be a prophet, priest and king who will shepherd my people, born of a virgin, of the tribe of Judah, a descendant of David and be born in Bethlehem, called out of Egypt and grow up in Nazareth.

So please, someone, send me an email this week on how the Muslims have this. Send me an email this week of how the Mormons have this. Send me an email of how you can walk the dog with the Jehovah Witnesses like this. Just send me an email. Educate me this week on any other grouping on the planet who has anything like this. I will take you to any restaurant you want. Ruth's Chris steak house, anywhere. There is nothing like this on the face of the planet, nothing. That is the point.

Let's finish.

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life.³²

Now we would think they are going to go back to Bethlehem, because that is where they departed from. No.

And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.³³

Next time you think Christmas is about a little dude in a red suit, reject that thought and focus on fulfilled prophecy.

³² Matthew 2:19-20.

³³ Matthew 2:21-23.

Let's pray.