

PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

BIBLE TEXT : Numbers 24:17; Isaiah 7:14; 9:1-7; 11:1-5; Micah 5:2; Jeremiah 31:15

LESSON 103 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "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" Isaiah 9:6)

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Numbers 24:17 (KJV)

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.

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Isaiah 9:1 (KJV)

¹ Nevertheless the dimness *shall* not *be* such as *was* in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict *her by* the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations.

Isaiah 9:7 (KJV)

⁷ Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 11:1-5 (KJV)

¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I A Sign to the World

1. Jesus, the light of the world, is to be born of a virgin, Isaiah 7:14;
Matthew 1:21 (KJV)
²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.
Matthew 1:23 (KJV)
²³ 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.
2. He is to be born in Bethlehem of Judea, Micah 5:2;
Matthew 2:6 (KJV)
⁶ 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 my people Israel.
John 7:42 (KJV)
⁴² Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?
3. Five names are attributed to Him here, Isaiah 9:6
4. 4 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, Isaiah 11:2;
Isaiah 61:1 (KJV)
¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *them that are* bound;
Matthew 3:16 (KJV)
¹⁶ And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:
John 1:32 (KJV)
³² And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him.
5. He shall judge in righteousness, Isaiah 11:3, 4;
Revelation 19:11 (KJV)
¹¹ And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

II Great Light

1. Because of sin, darkness prevailed over the land, Isaiah 9: 1;
2 Kings 17:6-7 (KJV)
⁶ In the ninth year of Hoshea the king of Assyria took Samaria, and carried Israel away into Assyria, and placed them in Halah and in Habor *by* the river of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.
⁷ For so it was, that the children of Israel had sinned against the LORD their God, which had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods,
2. The people that sat in darkness saw a great light, Isaiah 9:2;
Matthew 4:16 (KJV)
¹⁶ The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.
Ephesians 5:8 (KJV)
⁸ For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:
3. The Gospel when received breaks the yoke of sin and brings rejoicing to the heart, Isaiah 9:3-5;
Judges 7:22 (KJV)
²² And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the

and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

⁵ And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

Micah 5:2 (KJV)

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.

Jeremiah 31:15 (KJV)

¹⁵ Thus saith the LORD; A voice was heard in Ramah, lamentation, *and* bitter weeping; Rahel weeping for her children refused to be comforted for her children, because they *were* not.

host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, *and* to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath.

4. The Son that was to be born would sit on the throne of David, and of the increase of His government there would be no end, Isaiah 9:7;

Daniel 2:44 (KJV)

⁴⁴ And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, *but* it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Luke 1:32 (KJV)

³² 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:

III A Star out of Jacob

1. 1 A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel and destroy the ungodly, Numbers 24:17;

Genesis 49:10 (KJV)

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*.

2. 2 There shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, Isaiah 11:1, 4,

Isaiah 11:10 (KJV)

¹⁰ And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

Acts 13:22-23 (KJV)

²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the *son* of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will.

²³ Of this man's seed hath God according to *his* promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

3. 3 Weeping and lamentations were heard in Ramah. Jeremiah 31:15;

Matthew 2:17-18 (KJV)

¹⁷ Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

¹⁸ In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping *for* her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

NOTES:

God's Word Imutable

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." There is no variableness, neither is there any shadow of turning in God's Word, because it was from the beginning and was God. How precious to our hearts are God's promises, for we know that what He has promised He will surely do. And nowhere in God's Word is that more predominantly true than in the prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus. From the time of God's creation and man's fall in the Garden of Eden to the time of God's redemption of man, we find interspersed through the Word of God prophecies pointing to the Messiah, the Redeemer of mankind. From Genesis on through the Old Testament to the time of fulfillment, we find these prophecies. It makes us exclaim, "How immutable is God's Word!"

Lowly Bethlehem

"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" (Micah 5:2). Lowly

Bethlehem! Yet in it was to be cradled the Savior of all mankind. This prophecy was made about 700 years before the birth of Christ. No doubt many scoffers, in the years that followed this prophecy, disbelieved, saying they had heard that prophecy many times before and that it had not yet happened; just as we hear people say today, of the coming of Jesus, that they have heard it all their lives and it has not happened yet. But the child of God believes the promise and is looking for the soon coming of the Savior. The God of Heaven and earth chose a manger as the place for the meek and lowly Jesus to be cradled.

He chose the little town of Bethlehem as the place for Him to be born. He chose the mean city of Nazareth for His childhood days, showing to the people that no matter how poor, how lowly, how despised one may be in this world, the Lord of Glory went through it all for us that we might be redeemed from our sins and have a home on High. What a privilege to be one of God's little ones and a joint-heir with Jesus Christ!

A Star out of Jacob

When Balak tried to hire Balaam to curse Israel, the Lord turned the curse into a blessing and Balaam prophetically saw a Star come out of Jacob and a Sceptre rise out of Israel ([Numbers 24:17](#) (KJV))

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.). Fourteen centuries later some wise men in the East saw a star appear on the horizon. They seemed to know at once that a King had been born, and they made that long journey to Jerusalem to pay homage to the newborn King.

These wise men are thought to be descendants of Abraham. No doubt the faithfulness of Abraham had followed his descendants down through the centuries until at last the King had come. At once they recognized the star and believed it to be a fulfillment of the promise. **And they did** something about it. They made ready and took that long journey to see the King for themselves.

All over the world today people believe the prophecies are being fulfilled that are to usher in the second advent of that glorious King. Yet how few are making the necessary preparations that the Bible tells us we must make if we are to see the King in His beauty.

Not one of all God's good promises in regard to the first coming of the Just and Holy One failed, and we are persuaded that not one will fail to come to pass that tell us of His coming back again to be glorified in His saints and to be admired in all them that believe (**2 Thessalonians 1:10 (KJV)** ¹⁰ When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.).

The Virgin Birth

All down the ages the Lord has performed miracles that men might believe in His infinite wisdom and power. He does

the impossible as far as man is concerned. Jesus said to the people one day, "Believe me for the very works' sake." At one time the Lord wanted to give Ahaz, king of Judah, a sign. He was a wicked king but the Lord was still showing mercy to the people of his kingdom. Ahaz, under pretense of piety, refused God's offer to give him a sign. The Lord said He would give a sign anyway. "Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Perhaps Ahaz was like many people today who discredit miracles. Matthew's and Luke's Gospels both declare that Jesus was born of a virgin; yet the modernists of today, who compose a large percentage of the rank and file of many churches in our land, openly declare their disbelief in the virgin birth. The Apostles' Creed, that has been used and cherished for many years by various churches as a concise form of what the Scriptures teach, is being set aside by the modernists. It plainly declares that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost and born of the virgin Mary. When one is born of the Spirit how easy it is to believe the whole Word of God!

A Great Light

Isaiah prophesied of the land of Zebulun and Naphtali and said, "The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined."

In the beginning when darkness reigned over the earth the Lord made the sun, moon, and stars to give light to this world. Then when sin entered and the world was plunged into spiritual darkness, the Lord began revealing through His prophets that a greater light would shine in this world, a light that would lighten all people.

When Joseph and Mary took Jesus to the Temple to offer sacrifices according to the Law of Moses, Simeon, that godly man, saw Jesus and took the Babe up in his own arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel" (Luke 2:25-35).

QUESTIONS

- 1 Where in the Bible do we find the first promise of a Redeemer?
- 2 Repeat all the names by which Jesus is to be called.
- 3 In what town was it prophesied that Jesus was to **be born, and who** gave the prophecy?
- 4 What was the sign the Lord gave concerning the birth of Jesus?
- 5 How many prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus have been fulfilled?
- 6 Who prophesied that a Star would come out of Jacob?
- 7 Who prophesied that a Rod would come out of the stem of Jesse?
- 8 To whom do the Star, the Rod, the Sceptre, and the Branch refer?