

Tell Me the Old, Old Story: The Christmas Prophecies

Isa. 9:6-7

Introduction: There is just something about the power of a good story. Today, I want to talk to you about a story— so beautiful, so powerful, and so life-changing that it's been told for thousands of years. It's not just any story; it's "the story." Of course I'm talking about "The Christmas Story," the story of Jesus Christ, His coming, His birth, and His mission. This is "the story" of God stepping into history to change everything! And here's the twist: this story didn't begin in Bethlehem (as many believe). No, this story was told long before the angels proclaimed it, or the shepherds or wisemen came. In fact, it may surprise you to know, this is a story that is woven through the pages of the Old Testament, as prophets, priests, and kings all pointed to the same hope: the coming of Jesus Christ. So today, I want to tell you "The old, old story."

I. The prophecy of the lineage of His birth: The royal line (Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:12-13)

A. Let's start with the family tree.

1. The lineage of Jesus is central to the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

These prophecies establish His identity as the promised Messiah and demonstrate God's sovereign plan unfolding across generations.

- a. Jacob's prophecy*** – under the influence of the Holy Spirit, he prophesied (Genesis 49:10)
- b. David's lineage:*** King David came from the tribe of Judah and Jesus would be a part of this royal line – There are many prophecies of the Old Testament that concur that the future king of the world—that is, the Messiah, or Christ (the Greek term for Messiah)—will be a descendant of David. (1 Chron. 17:11-14; Psa. 89; 132; Isa. 9:6-7). (Jer 23:5; 33:15; Ps.132:17; Isa. 11:1; Zech. 3:8; 6:12)

The genealogy in Matthew 1 and Luke 3 tells us Jesus' earthly lineage traces back to David, affirming His rightful place in this royal line.

Just as God chose Judah—a flawed man with a complicated past—to carry the promise of the Messiah, He also choose the line of David and many others in His lineage, affirming to us, God uses imperfect people to fulfill His perfect plan.

B. Why does this matter? *It lets us know - Jesus wasn't an accident or afterthought—He was God's plan from the beginning.*

II. The prophecy of the method of His birth: The virgin birth (Genesis 3:15; Isaiah 7:14)

A. Prophecies about Jesus' birth began way back in Genesis, 3:15

- 1. This points to the virgin birth.*** *The virgin birth is essential to the Christian faith because it affirms Jesus' divine nature and His unique role as the Savior of humanity. It also confirms...*
- 2. Fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy: such as Isaiah 7:14 it also confirms...***
 - a. Christ's divine nature:*** *Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, not through human means (Matthew 1:18-20). His divinity qualifies Him to be sinless and capable of bearing the weight of humanity's sins.*
 - b. Sinless humanity:*** *Jesus' virgin birth bypasses the transmission of original sin that affects all humanity through Adam. By being born of a virgin, Jesus is holy from*

birth (Luke 1:35). making Him the perfect sacrifice for sin. The virgin birth showcases God's power and sovereignty, accomplishing salvation in a miraculous way that only He could.

It reminds believers that salvation is entirely God's work, not a human effort.

B. This prophecy points out God specialty- the impossible.

This story encourages our lives today: Do you believe that God can do the impossible in your life?

III. The prophecy of the place of His birth: Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

There were 2 towns named Bethlehem in Israel at the time of Jesus' birth. But God leaves nothing up for guess work, Micah specified that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, which was just south of Jerusalem.

- A. Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem—a small, insignificant overlooked town in those days.***
- B. Bethlehem wasn't flashy, but it was exactly where God chose to enter the world.*** *Never think you're too small or insignificant for God to use. God has a way of turning humble beginnings into glorious endings.*

IV. The prophecy of the sign of His birth: A star (Numbers 24:17)

The Old Testament described the Messiah as a "star coming out of Jacob." The star has long served as a symbol of regal power and splendor among all nations: (Isa 14:12; Dan 8:10; Rev 1:16,20; 2:1; 9:1.)

- A. And when Jesus was born, what did the wise men see? A star!***
- B. This wasn't just any star—it was a divine announcement.*** (Matt 2:1-2)

V. The prophecy of the visitors after His birth: The magi (Psalm 72:10-11) It was...Solomon's prophecy foretold that kings would come and bring gifts to the Messiah.

- A. Mary and Joseph were in a house... And what happened? These kings came to worship "the King."***
- B. What we don't know about these visitors -***
 - 1. We do not know how many magi there were.*** (Matt 2:11)
 - 2. But when their caravan arrived in Jerusalem, there were enough of them to trouble the whole city.***
- C. What we do know about these visitors -***
 - 1. These visitors were not Jews, these men were Gentiles. (From the very beginning, Jesus came to be "the Savior of the world" (John 4:42).***
 - 2. These men were also wealthy, wise men who had traveled hundreds of miles to worship Jesus***
 - 3. These men were scholars - scientists in their own right.***

VI. The Flight to Egypt after His birth: Protected by God (Jeremiah 31:15; Hosea 11:1) The Old Testament also predicted that the Messiah would face danger. (Mt.2:1-13)

Conclusion: *The old, old story of Christmas was written long before Bethlehem, and it's still being written today—in your life and mine. This Christmas season, let's tell someone the old, old story and share the hope of Jesus.*