

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church
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Sermon title: Old Testament Prophecy / New Testament Fulfillment, 2 Peter 1

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INTRODUCTION: All of us are so very familiar with the Christmas story. We're probably so familiar with it that it has lost much of its awe and wonder. We almost can quote the passages by memory, which relate the story of Mary and Joseph going to Bethlehem because of the taxation levied upon the people by Herod. We know about the innkeeper who turned the couple away because he had no more room but gave them shelter in a stable where Jesus was born and placed in a manger. We know about the angels, the wise men, and the shepherds.

It's possible the "inn" as we know it was a room at a relative's home. The guest rooms in houses in the country during this time were called "inns." Also, the stables in Israel were not nice little wooden structures but were cave-type dwellings for the animals carved out of the side of a hill or many times the first floor of the house—sort of like a basement. So, the "innkeeper," possibly an uncle or cousin, sent Mary and Joseph downstairs to the stable, not in callous dismissal but in compassion to help them out. The manger was hewn out of rock as well.

But, how many of us understand his birth was the fulfillment of many prophecies in the Old Testament? These prophecies were written between 1450 BC and 430 BC ...400-1000 years before he was born. It's difficult to predict anything 5 years in the future, let alone centuries before, especially with the accuracy of the timing, location, and circumstances with which the scripture speaks. Only God could do something like this. The coming of Christ was in God's heart from the beginning, and he gave his people markers along the way, so those whose hearts were open, would recognize him when he came.

OVERVIEW:

1. Jesus came from the seed of a woman.
2. Jesus came through the seed of Abraham.
3. Jesus came through Isaac.

4. Jesus came out of the Tribe of Judah.
5. Jesus was born into the family of Jesse.
6. Jesus was born into the house of King David.
7. Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
8. Jesus was born of a virgin.
9. There was weeping for the children.

EXPLANATION: Let's look at a few of the prophecies of the birth of Jesus and marvel at how precise they are:

1. Jesus came from the seed of a woman

Old Testament Prophecy – Genesis 3:15 - *And I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring [or seed] and hers, he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*”

New Testament Fulfillment – Luke 1:31 - *You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him JESUS.*

Joseph was the earthly father, but he was not the biological father. This touches on the virgin prophecy as well. It was the seed of a woman who would defeat Satan.

2. Through the Seed of Abraham

Old Testament Prophecy: Genesis 22:18 - ¹⁸ *and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.*”

New Testament Fulfillment: Matthew 1:1 - *This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:*

3. Jesus came through Isaac

Old Testament Prophecy: Genesis 21:12 - ¹² *But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.*

New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 3:34 - ³⁴ *the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,*

4. Jesus came out of the Tribe of Judah

Old Testament 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.”*

New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 3:33 - ³³ *the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah,*

5. Jesus was born into the family of Jesse

Old Testament Prophecy: Isaiah 11:1 - *A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 3:32 - ³² *the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon,*

6. Jesus was born into the house of King David

Old Testament 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.⁶ 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.*

New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 3:31 - *... the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David ...*

7. Jesus was born in Bethlehem

Old Testament Prophecy: Micah 5:2 - *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, (will come the ruler of Israel) 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.”*

New Testament Fulfillment: Luke 2:4-7 - ⁴ *So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ 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 for them.*

8. Jesus was born of a Virgin:

Old Testament 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.*

New Testament Fulfillment: 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.*

It is interesting to note the meaning of the word “virgin” in this day meant “a young woman of marriageable age,” and the understanding during this era was that a young woman of marriageable age was a virgin.

9. There was weeping For The Children

Old Testament 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.”

New Testament Fulfillment: Matthew 2:16 - *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.*

I’ve just told you nine prophecies of the Old Testament, which were fulfilled in the New Testament, but I really didn’t do them justice because there are over 300 prophecies of the coming Messiah. Even with only nine prophecies, it would have taken too long to explain the different meanings and nuances of the words and phrases in the scriptures, but it’s clear those who knew their scripture, knew this was the Christ who had come.

I want you to look in your Bibles at 2 Peter Chapter 1 about prophecy. Prophecy does not come from people. It comes from the Holy Spirit through people, through prophets. People who predict elections are not really prophets. They are predicting based on polls based on hunches. I saw there was a monkey in a foreign country that accurately predicted the outcome of the USA elections for the last twenty or thirty years or something like that. They give the monkey a choice of who is running and he picks one and the monkey has usually been right. Some of our pollsters and newscasters are about as smart as the monkey, I believe.

Listen to what the scriptures say about prophesy. I want you to know this scripture and highlight it.

SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:19-21 ¹⁹ *We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.* ²⁰ *Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about*

by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹ *For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

This just jumped out at me. This is a powerful statement. Prophets didn't go around saying, "Well, I feel someday such and such is going to happen." Prophets didn't go around saying, "The statistical evidence tells us the Christ will be born in this particular location." This scripture tells us the prophets spoke because the Spirit of God gave them the words to say. Nothing they could say came from their own will. That's quite incredible. The way I take this is the prophets of old were overcome in such a way they couldn't even control what they were saying. They were not able to stop even if they wanted to stop because God's spirit was speaking through them.

EXPLANATION: Before Jesus was born, it was a common belief the Messiah would come as a political ruler to set the Jewish people free. This belief was promoted by people who interpreted prophecy through their own bias rather than letting the scripture speak for itself. When Jesus came, he did not come to set up an earthly kingdom the first time. He came to set up a spiritual kingdom and to emancipate people spiritually even though they were slaves politically.

Also, I want to point out to you, all of these Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in one event – in one person – that of Jesus Christ! That in and of itself is just absolutely mind blowing – over three hundred prophecies fulfilled at one time with the birth of Christ!

Note this as well: The prophecies were fulfilled literally. We have figurative prophecy, with a root coming out of the "stump of Jesse," but you will have to study this yourselves to understand what it means. Even though there were figurative images sometimes contained in Old Testament prophecies, they were all fulfilled literally by a literal, actual baby being born. I can just see those religious pundits of their day who thought it was all figurative or some type of allegory or analogy or this coming Christ was something else not literal. Not everybody did, but there were some who just missed this. They just missed it. They believed Jesus would come a different way and he would come and do a different thing.

This leads me to what I believe about his Second Coming someday. I believe Jesus will literally return to this earth. He won't be some ghostly apparition. He will be

the literal Jesus in his resurrected body and come to this earth. Just as the people of the Old Testament were warned, so we have been warned. We have been told to be ready. Just as many people were unprepared for his first coming, there will also be those who are unprepared for his Second Coming. And, just like many who did not believe when he came the first time, so people will not believe when he comes a second time. They'll still have their flawed ideas just like people had their flawed ideas when he came the first time. It is important to know the scriptures.

ILLUSTRATION: A few weeks ago, I did a funeral way out in the country for a very old friend. You never know who is coming to a funeral. Usually you have two groups: those who know Christ as Lord and Savior and those who don't. I've been to so many funerals. I can see people and recognize there is a great gulf between those who know Christ and those who don't. There is a huge gulf between these two camps, and this funeral was no exception.

The woman who died was saved, and she was with Jesus. At the burial, I read from Thessalonians about the return of Christ someday and how the graves will be opened. I paused here and said, "I really do believe this." And, I heard...huh? ...coming from somebody in the crowd. They thought, *This guy's a nut!* I just kept reading because I wanted to leave the family with hope that this was not the end. This was only temporary because we put our faith in what the scripture says. The Bible is reliable and dependable. Over three hundred prophecies were fulfilled in one happening. We have many prophecies regarding the return of Christ. It's going to happen. All these prophecies are going to happen in one event, and it's going to be the return of Christ.

And, just as many people didn't believe Jesus was actually the Messiah the first time, many people won't believe he will come a second time. It will happen again the same way. People will not believe. Not everyone, but many won't believe he is the Messiah. I think it is going to be along the same lines as before. You see, the first people had taken the scripture and turned it into what their whole idea of what Jesus was supposed to be and what he was supposed to do when he came. People are doing the same thing today. We need to read the scripture for ourselves and try not to customize Jesus into our own image of what he is going to be like when he returns. Be open to what the scripture says because he is coming back, because he is coming back. And, this time when he returns, he is coming to set up a spiritual kingdom and an earthly kingdom at the same time. Many people of old had flawed

ideas about the coming of Christ, and today many people have flawed ideas about his Second Coming.

It is important to know the scriptures, so when Jesus does return, those who are true believers will be able to say, *and yes that's him*, because of this scripture, and this scripture and this scripture. Scriptures are being fulfilled right here before our eyes.

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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Sincerely, Paul Gunn
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