

Jason Upchurch - Selected Scriptures - Christmas 2025 - Who Is the One to Come?

As we look forward to Christmas, I want to take you on a little tour through the OT. I think most of us know that the details surrounding the conception and birth of Jesus is a fulfillment of a whole host of prophecies from the OT but I think if we're honest we don't always know what those prophecies are or where they're found.

As we prepare our hearts to celebrate the Lord's birth this year, I want to take you on a jet tour through these promises and prophecies that anticipate Christ coming into the world. We won't touch on every single one, but I wanted to touch on the main ones this morning. And my hope here is that as you read through the Christmas story this year, these passages will help you understand the significance of Jesus coming into the world.

1) And I want to start here in **Gen. 3:15** because this is the very first promise God makes and it looks forward to the day when Satan is destroyed.

This is right after Adam and Eve sin by eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. God told them not to, but they did anyway. Eve was deceived by the Serpent - Satan - and she convinced her husband to eat contrary to God's command. And this is where God curses the serpent and Eve and Adam. But notice the promise God gives. **Read 15**

The specific promise - prophecy - here is in **Vs. 15**. We call this the protoevanglion. The proto gospel, the very first gospel. Adam and Eve sinned and deserve death, and in the immediate aftermath God gives the first indication of good news that will reverse the effect of the sin that happened in the Garden that plunged us into ruin and rebellion. What do we see that relates to Jesus in his birth?

First of all, we see that Satan's downfall is assured. He will be defeated and crushed. This isn't pie in the sky or a wish. God will crush Satan. There is an evil spiritual world that will be defeated.

Rom 16:20: the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

There's a sense in which this happened at the cross when Jesus died. **Col. 2:15** says Jesus disarmed the rulers and authorities and them to open shame.

At the first coming the decisive blow against Satan was given, but at the Second Coming Jesus was completely conquer and dispatch his enemies to the Lake of Fire.

1 John 3:8 says that Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil. So this promise is wrapped up in the coming of Jesus.

Second, the way God will crush Satan is through a physical descendant of Eve. There are offspring of Satan - which are all unbelievers. Satan doesn't have babies, he has unbelievers.

Unbelievers are called the children of the devil in **1 John 3:8**

But Satan and his unbelieving offspring will be destroyed by a physical offspring of Eve. **Read 15**

So we're looking for a child. And specifically a male child. "He" - a daughter won't defeat Satan, Mary is not a co-redemptrix. The child who will defeat Satan is a child who is a boy.

And a lot of the Christmas promises we have in the Bible revolve around who this child is. Where he comes from, what tribe, where he's born. There's a reason we put a lot of emphasis on Christmas - because the Bible puts a lot of emphasis on this child.

Third, the offspring of Eve will be wounded even as he crushes the serpent's head. **Read 15**

So Satan will bruise the heel of Eve's offspring.
But Eve's offspring will crush Satan's head.

What's that about? Big picture is that the damage between Eve's offspring, Jesus, and Satan is not equal. Satan will inflict a blow but it won't defeat Jesus. Jesus's blow will defeat Satan.

The bruising of the heel is crucifixion. It's a bad blow - it's death. But it's not final, is it? Because Jesus rises again.

The blow to the serpent is fatal. His head is crushed. Ultimately Satan is cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever in the presence of Jesus.

So we can anticipate the child will suffer harm. But he will destroy Satan.

Fourth, somehow this battle that happens will make right again. The tragedy that happened in the Garden that plunged us into sin will be reversed by the offspring. There is a reversing of the curse we are looking forward to.

There's more we could unpack here, But I think that's a fair amount from just this passage.

Interestingly, this promise of a son who would defeat Satan is the promise Adam and Eve believed in to be justified by faith. God may have told them more about the future offspring to come, but this is all the promise we see.

Now, from this point forward in the Bible we're looking for a child. We're looking for the offspring of Eve who will set everything back to the way it was. We're not told any more here. There's some indication that when Eve gives birth to Cain her expression is that she thinks maybe it's Cain that will defeat the devil. But of course he is the devil and kills his brother.

Then she has Seth who is righteous and his name means "appointed" - maybe he's the one God promised. Turns out he's not. But from now on we're on a hunt for the one who will destroy the serpent.

So this is first promise of a human offspring. Remember he was made like us in every way except for what? Sin. **Heb. 2** says.

2) Descendant of Abraham. **Turn to Gen. 12.** So in Matthew's gospel we have one of the 2 Christmas passages that describe the conception and birth of Jesus. Usually with Matthew we skip to halfway through the chapter to start reading for Christmas. Why is that? What's in the first part of chapter 1 of Matthew? A genealogy. It's long and boring and filled with names. We usually skip it because it reads like the phone book. But's actually incredibly important.

Matt. 1:1: The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of 2 people. Do you remember who they are? The Son of David, the Son of Abraham.

Why does he do that? Because God promised to Abraham and David that the Messiah would come through their lineage. Jesus could not have been born in China or Africa or to some nomadic proto-Germanic tribe in Europe. He came through specific people that received the promises of God. And Matthew goes to great lengths to show this is true. He takes 17 verses to list out the family tree of Jesus to show how God was faithful.

Side note: there is no way any other Jew could ever credibly claim to be the Messiah because all the genealogical information was destroyed when the Temple was destroyed in 70AD. Jesus is the only one who can credibly fulfill these prophecies.

Now, here, you remember that Abram and Sarai were barren - they had no kids. So God comes to Abram - who an idolator at the time - and makes him an amazing promise. **Read 1-3**

Abram just hit the life jackpot. He was a pagan in Ur of the Chaldeans and God speaks to him and gives him a covenant. This is called the Abrahamic covenant. God promises to make a great nation through Abraham. And ultimately Abraham's descendants - offspring, child - will be a blessing to the whole world. What offspring blesses the whole world?

Well, Paul makes it clear in **Gal. 3** that it's Jesus. Jesus is the one through whom all the nations of the earth are blessed. **Look at Gen 15.** God clarifies this a few chapters later. **Read 15:1-6**

God makes it clear here that the promise he is making to Abraham is a physical descendant. In one sense God promises Abraham Isaac, who is born from Abraham and Sarah. But does Isaac bless the whole world? Not really. And the ancient nation of Israel didn't bless the whole world either - they were usually more pagan than the nations around them.

So there must be some other descendant who blesses the whole world. Who is that? Jesus. It is Jesus who blesses the whole world. It is Jesus who

And just like Abraham was justified through faith in Jesus to come, we are justified by faith alone in the very same Jesus who came. You and I have the same exact faith that Abraham did in Jesus - we just have a few more details than he did.

It is through faith in Jesus that we are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise. And the children of Abraham - Christians - are more than the sand on the sea or the stars in the sky.

3) Descendant of Judah. Turn to Gen 49.

So God promised a child, and that child would come through Abraham then Isaac and Jacob. And then specifically through Jacob's son, Judah. Jesus is the lion of the tribe of Judah. That expression comes from this passage.

This is at the end of Jacob's life, he's about to die. And here Jacob is blessing each of his 12 adult children. The blessings he gives are prophetic blessings. That is, it's not just a nice well-wish - some of these are harsh rebukes. But it turns out these blessings actually have significance in the future plans of God. And of all the brothers Judah has the longest blessing. **Read 49:8-12**

So we see a few things. First, Judah is a lion. Lions are powerful and ferocious. They've always been a symbol of strength and power. That's the whole tribe of Judah. Judah was a tribe of powerful warriors.

Second, Judah will reign over his brothers. The kingly line was always to flow from the tribe of Judah. Judah was not the oldest child, but Reuben, Simeon and Levi had forfeited their right rule because of their godless behavior. Judah was next in line. **Vs 8** says that his brothers would bow down to him and **10** says that the scepter - the staff a king would hold on to to show his authority - was never to depart from Judah.

Do you remember who Israel's first king was? Saul. What tribe was he from? Benjamin. Which was also a powerful tribe and God did chose Saul. But it was never the long term solution because Judah was given the right to reign.

This is also the first inclination that the person to rescue humanity would be a king. So this child will be royalty. Which is why when the magi come to visit Jesus they ask where is he who has been born what? King of the Jews.

Herod was upset because he thought he was king of the Jews. No. They wanted the real king. The King of Kings.

4) Turn to 2 Samuel 7. This is the Davidic Covenant, which is the covenant promise that God gave to King David that the Messiah will come through him. Remember in Matthew's gospel the Christ is the son of David, the Son of Abraham. That's how he opens his gospel about Jesus. He is the promised child of Abraham and

David. Has to be both. Well, here it is. David is promised by God that he will have a son that will reign forever and ever.

Now, we're going to read this and it might seem odd at first because there are some things here that seem to refer only to Solomon and others that refer only to Jesus. We call this a dual prophecy - a prophecy that refers to 2 different things at the same time. And you'll see why it must be a dual prophecy when we get to verse 14.

Read 1-7

This is David's good heart. He's a king and he's living in a palace and God is out there in a tent, the Tabernacle. But David thinks it's impossible that he would be in a nicer house than God. **Read 8-17**

So just a few things here. Did you notice the play on words? David wants to build God a house and God responds by saying I will build you a house. That's a play on concepts. David wants to build a permanent Temple for God, God is going to build an everlasting dynasty for David.

And then prophecy centers on an offspring. There's a child coming. Now, I mentioned it's a dual fulfillment. There's a sense in which it refers to Solomon. **Read 14**

This can't be referring to Jesus because Jesus didn't sin, he didn't commit iniquity. We could maybe say **he didn't** but he was treated as though he was. I'm okay with that. But I think there's a sense in which this is just talking about Solomon.

But there's an eternal aspect to the reign of this descendant. **Read 12-13**

The offspring will come after David is dead. Solomon was alive when David died so this is referring to a far off relative.

So let's put a few things together. First, The King to come will have a Kingdom that never ends. His Kingdom is forever. The kingly line of David was cut off when the Jews were exiled to Babylon. After that there were no more kings in Israel. Herod was a king, but not from the line of David. There were no other kings who reigned after the Jews returned to Jerusalem.

So this can only refer to one person: Jesus. And Jesus's kingdom is forever.

Remember on Palm Sunday - what are people shouting? "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; blessed is the coming Kingdom of our father David." They weren't wrong.

Remember when Jesus is standing in front of Pilate and Pilate asks him directly: are you a what? King. What does Jesus say? My kingdom is not of this world. The answer is yes, but the scope is different. He is the eternal King of all the universe. And he will reign forever and ever.

So we've got a human male child who will reverse the curse of Genesis 3 and destroy Satan. He's from Abraham who will bless the whole world, from Judah, a king from David's lineage and will reign forever and ever. One other thing here is that he has a special relationship to God. **Read 14**

There's a special Father/Son relationship that exists between God and this future offspring of David that is unique. Of course this is a sneak peek into the eternal Sonship of the Lord Jesus Christ who is the Son of God from all eternity.

The author of Hebrews actually quotes this passage to show that Jesus is divine. He says God has never spoken to angels like this. He's never said he has begotten an angel, he's never called an angel his Son.

No, this is unique. This means that the son is divine - he is worthy of worship, has a throne, has an eternal scepter of righteousness, and is called God. **Hebrews 1:5-9**

That's what God is alluding to here. This Son to be born will be divine.

5) Turn to Isaiah 7. This section of Isaiah is where we get 2 key prophecies of Jesus. First that he is born of a virgin and that he is also named Immanuel.

And like 2 Samuel 7 this is a dual prophecy. To some extent it is focused on the time Isaiah is written, but there are also ways in which it can't be referring to the current context and so we know it also refers to Jesus.

What is happening in Israel at the time is that Jerusalem is being threatened with attack. And king Ahaz who rules Jerusalem has realized that he's been betrayed. Allies have become enemies and he's going to be stuck.

But God promises that he will save Ahaz, which is pretty amazing because Ahaz is wicked. Maybe not as wicked as Ahab, but not far off. And God shows him mercy anyway. And to reassure Ahaz that he will save Jerusalem God says ask me for a sign. What sign do you want that I will deliver you and your people? That's where we pick it up. **Read 7:10-17**

So here's the sign that God will deliver Jerusalem. There will be a virgin who is pregnant, and she will have a son. Before he's old enough to eat yogurt - curds - the countries that are threatening Jerusalem will be destroyed.

And that happened. Syria and Ephraim were plotting against Jerusalem. Imagine that, another tribe of Israel was going to destroy Jerusalem with the help of a pagan country. That's how degenerate Israel had become. But God says give me about 2 years and those countries won't even exist. He would completely wipe them out. And he did. God sent in the Assyrians and destroyed both Syria and Ephraim and saved Jerusalem.

And God says ask for a sign that I'll do this. Any sign you want. Ahaz says, no way. We don't put the Lord to the test. So God says I'll give you a sign. A maiden - a virgin will have a child and he will be named Immanuel.

Now, the interesting thing here is that Isaiah never sees this prophecy come to pass. No virgin conceives and no son is named Immanuel.

A woman does conceive. She's a prophetess, not a virgin. And she has a child, but her child's name is Maher-shalal-hash-baz. So God actually does use a woman and a child to fulfill the promise to Ahaz, but it's not a virgin and it's not Immanuel. **Read 8:1-4**

We're getting deep in the weeds here, but just know God says this is how I will show you Damascus of Syria and Samaria will be destroyed. So God brings about the destruction of Syria and Ephraim like he said, but without technically fulfilling the promise of a virgin and a son named Immanuel.

Which means the prophecy is unfulfilled. There's still this virgin and there's still a child named Immanuel to come. They didn't come during Isaiah's time. When do they come?

Well, who's the virgin? Mary. The Virgin Mary is the sign of God's true deliverance. Not from Assyria, but from sin and death and hell. In fact Matthew quotes this passage as being fulfilled in Mary.

And who's Immanuel? Jesus. What does Immanuel mean? It means God with us. Matthew makes that clear as well.

So added to everything else we've seen, Jesus is God with us. veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate deity. He's the Son of God and that Son is fully God.

And he's born of a virgin. By the way there are some people who want to say the word virgin in Hebrew - alma - just means girl. It doesn't have to mean virgin and Matthew was confused. Well, the word implies a young maiden who would never have known a man. And a girl getting pregnant isn't much of a sign. A virgin getting pregnant is. And of course it was fulfilled in Jesus.

Turn to Isa 9:1-7 This section is another prophecy of sorts. We'll add a few more details. But it's a really a summary of everything we've seen so far. And it's a beautiful poem in Hebrew that puts all the prophecies of Christ together. **Read 1**

Let's stop there for a second. Where was Jesus's hometown? Not where he was born. Where did he grow up? Nazareth. What area of Israel is that? Galilee.

Here God is promising that Galilee will be blessed. They've been in pagan darkness for a long time but there will come a light to them specifically that will bring them joy. So there's a special relationship Messiah has with Galilee. The gospels say this was fulfilled when Jesus began his ministry. **Read 2-5**

So there's joy and peace and harvest. Why? **Read 6-8**

We're back to a son. This promise of a son, an offspring. Here we see a few more things. The government is on his shoulders. He upholds all governments.

Col. 1:15-20 says of Jesus he is the image of the invisible God and by him all things hold together.

Everything rests on the shoulders of Jesus. And this description here is just an amazing collection of things Jesus is called.

He is wonderful counselor. All the words of Jesus are pure wisdom. There's nothing you ever have to filter from Jesus because his words are God's word.

He is mighty God. The baby in the manger is the God who made the heavens, the sun, moon and stars, every animal and plant. All spiritual beings. And holds the universe by the word of his power. This is why the angels worship him at his birth. This is why the wise men bow down years later. Because he is God in the flesh.

He is everlasting Father. Not father in the sense that this is God the Father. But father in the sense of protector and provider. Kings were often considered the father to their subjects.

And of the increase of his government there will be no end. I love what the ESV Study Bible says about that phrase: The empire of grace will forever expand and every moment will be better than the last. The gospel of Jesus goes out and the Kingdom expands day by day.

Jesus is on David's throne. There some who think Jesus does not sit on David's throne just yet, that that's something for the future. But here we see clearly that he reigns from his throne. That's where Jesus is sitting even now as the King over a kingdom that will never ever end.

And this isn't something God does reluctantly, it's something he's zealous to do. **Read 7c**

The zeal - the passion of Yahweh - will do this. This has been God's plan from eternity past and he will make sure he accomplishes it.

Turn to Micah 5:1-5. Let's look at one more spot in the OT. Micah is the prophet who gives us the location of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Messiah. Here Micah mentions that Bethlehem - a small little village a few miles south of Jerusalem - would be the spot a ruler would come. **Read 1-5**

So Bethlehem is the spot for the Messiah's birth. Everyone knew this. You remember when the magi visited Herod, he was upset and asked all the scholars where the Christ was to be born. They all said Bethlehem. Why? This passage.

From Bethlehem would be born a ruler. A king. And his coming forth is from ancient days. He had been prophesied all these years ago. This is the one.

When he is born, his brothers - the Jews - would return to the people of Israel. They would worship truly and rightly through Jesus.

He would shepherd the flock. Jesus calls himself the Good what? Shepherd. He's our security and our peace.

They knew where Messiah would be born. They knew he would give peace to his people. They knew he would bring glory and honor to God. And they knew he would be great to the ends of the earth. **Read 4-5**

What we celebrate at Christmas is God bringing all these promises and prophesies to pass in Christ.

From Adam in the Garden, to Abraham in Ur, to David in Jerusalem, to the Jews frightened in Jerusalem there was always a child that was to come. He would deliver his people as their God-King born in the flesh.

Jesus is the fulfillment of all God's promises. He is the yes and amen. The first and the last. Christ the Messiah who came to save his people from our sins. To him be the glory forever and ever.

Pray