

THIS IS JESUS

UNIT 1: THE MESSIAH NAMED JESUS PART 1: JESUS THE MESSIAH

Lesson 2: His Arrival Foretold

Devotion 1

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6)

From the beginning of time, God set His plan in motion. This plan was to bring humanity back into a perfect relationship with Him, even though they had chosen to live apart from Him and die in their sin.

Read Isaiah 9:6.

Life is unpredictable. Even something pretty concrete like mathematical statistics can claim full accuracy. That is one of the things that makes God so incredibly cool. He knows exactly when, where, and what will happen with complete accuracy. When we read Old Testament prophecies, like this one in Isaiah 9, we should keep in mind that only God could overcome the incredible odds stacked against Someone claiming to be the Prince of Peace.

The Old Testament contains nearly 300 prophecies (or predictions) about Jesus. Keep in mind that statistics are usually pretty accurate, even though they aren't foolproof. From a statistical standpoint, to fulfill just one of these 300 prophecies, your odds would be 1 in a Quadrillion. (You read that right... a QUADRILLION.)

There are so many things that we will learn about Jesus. But as you learn, keep this one thing in mind: Jesus is truly one of a kind. He not only fulfilled one of the prophecies spoken about Him as the Messiah, but all of them!

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Devotion 2

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.
(Micah 5:2)

God spoke through a prophet named Micah to proclaim that the Messiah would come from a small clan of Judah and be born in the small, unimportant town of Bethlehem.

Read Micah 5:2.

God's plans are precise. He uses all kinds of situations and people to bring about some pretty awesome things! In the same way, God's eternal plan involves you- no matter how unimportant you may believe you are. You are important to the all-powerful and eternal God.

Are you willing to continue spending time with Him and His Word each day?

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

- How might God's eternal plan involve you?
- Challenge yourself to find one thing that you have deemed unimportant in your life. Then, submit that seemingly unimportant skill or passion to the Lord. Keep track of how He uses what we deem unimportant to share His love with others!

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Devotion 3

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. (Genesis 3:15)

When we say that Jesus was prophesied about LONG before Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were ever written... we mean it! You may not have realized that as early as Genesis 3, God makes a promise to Adam and Eve that even though their sin has brought a curse upon humanity, there is Someone coming to have victory over death and sin.

Read Genesis 3:15.

Take some time today to think about the areas in your life where you desperately need Jesus' victory. It could be a difficult situation that is caused by someone else's sin, or even a sin that you are struggling with personally. Take heart in the fact that Jesus has defeated sin and death, and ask Him to help you walk through whatever tough things you are going through!

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But Zion said, "The Lord has forsaken me; my Lord has forgotten me." "Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands; your walls are continually before me. (Isaiah 49:14-16)

You are an important part of God's eternal plan. In those moments where you feel forgotten, He remembers you!

Read Isaiah 49:14-16.

This passage brings up the relationship between a mother and the child she carries in her womb. For most moms, that is a long 9 months. Barring some sort of tragic accident, she is not going to soon forget that baby. But occasionally, in a rush to get the frozen goods back home to the fridge, she may accidentally leave that baby sitting in the front of the race car grocery cart, all by themselves in the parking lot as she drives off. (Don't worry, she quickly realizes her error and comes back to get the child!)

What this passage wants to remind us is that even the closest relationships here on Earth can be broken or damaged. Especially compared to God's perfect love for us! He reminds us that, as unlikely as it is for a mother to forget her child, it is even more unlikely (impossible even) for Him to forget us.

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Devotion 5

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. (Isaiah 53:4-5)

Not all of the prophecies concerning Jesus are fun to read. Imagine being told that one day, you will meet the love of your life. They are kind, supportive, and they understand you better than anyone else. But even though they are great, you are told that you will also treat them horribly and break up with them on their birthday. That wouldn't be fun to hear at all!

Read Isaiah 53:1-7 (and pay special attention to verses 5-7).

In this passage, the stakes are much higher than in the example above. Jesus isn't the 'perfect date'... He is our Savior. The very One who has come to take our sin away and give us eternal life. And yet, there are still many who reject Him.

Today, spend some time reflecting on how you have responded to Jesus. Have you rejected Him, or is your appreciation and love for Him growing daily?