

# Prophecies of The Birth Of Christ

Upon Herod's death, the Romans divided his kingdom among three of his sons and his sister. Archelaus became Tetrarch of the tetrarchy of Judea, Herod Antipas became tetrarch in Galilee and Peraea, Philip became tetrarch of territories north and east of the Jordan, and Salome I was given a toparchy including the cities of Jabneh, Ashdod, and Phasaelis.

**Isa. 7:14**, *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***

**Isa. 9:6**, 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. **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.

**Leviticus 12:1**, *And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, **2**, Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, If a woman have conceived seed, and born a man child: then she shall be unclean seven days; according to the days of the separation for her infirmity shall she be unclean. **3**, And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised. **4**, **And she shall then continue in the blood of her purifying three and thirty days; she shall touch no hallowed thing, nor come into the sanctuary, until the days of her purifying be fulfilled.***

**Born in Bethlehem.** The Old Testament foretells of the messiah being born in Bethlehem. **Micah 5:2** says: "*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.***" The story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem is told in the New Testament books of Mathew, Luke, and John.

**Born of a virgin.** **Isaiah 7:14** says: "*Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.***" The New Testament book of Matthew repeats this prophecy in a passage detailing Joseph's encounter with an angel of the Lord, who tells Joseph that Mary's child was conceived by the Holy Spirit and will save his people from their sins.

**From the line of Abraham.** A prophecy of the messiah being a descendant of Abraham is told in **Genesis 22:18**: "*And through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed.*" The genealogy of Jesus is told in the book of Matthew, which refers to him as "the son of David, the son of Abraham."

**A descendant of Jacob.** **Numbers: 24:17** says: "*A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel.*" The genealogy of Jesus laid out in the book of Matthew details Jesus lineage through Isaac and Jacob.

**Called out of Egypt.** Christians believe the Old Testament foretells Jesus being called out of Egypt in **Hosea 11:1**: "*When Israel was a child, I loved him and out of Egypt I called my son.*" Matthew 2:13 is believed to explain this prophecy: "An angel of the Lord appears to Joseph in a dream. 'Get up,' he said, 'take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.'"

**Born among sorrow.** Christians believe the story of Jesus' birth fulfills a prophecy in **Jeremiah 31:15**: "*A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping. Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more.*" This prophecy is repeated in the book of Matthew, which says that King Herod sought to kill Jesus. "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. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled.” Mathew 2:16

1. **A male child**, a son ([Gen. 3:15](#); [Isa. 9:6](#))
2. **A child born** in the line of Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David, and Solomon.
3. **A physical descendant of David** and legal heir to the throne through Solomon, yet not a physical descendant through Jeconiah.
4. **A child born of a virgin** in circumstances which validate the fact of a virgin birth as seen in [Matthew 1](#) and [Luke 1](#).
5. **A descendent of David**, son of Jesse, but not until the tenth generation after Perez.
6. **Born around 4 A.D.** in accordance with the prophecy of [Daniel 9:24f](#).
7. **One who would be preceded** by a forerunner who would prepare the way as did John the Baptist ([Mal. 3:1](#); [Mark 1:1-4](#)).
8. **Born in Bethlehem of Judea** ([Mic. 5:2](#)).
9. **Born of circumstances that would identify Him as the Savior** and the Star of David, the long-awaited Deliver ([Luke 2:9-14](#); [Num. 24:17](#); [Matt. 2:1-9](#)).
10. **One whose life would also fulfill the many other Old Testament prophecies regarding Messiah.**

There are many more prophecy’s that the birth and life of Jesus Christ fulfilled, however, the single most important and earliest prophesied is found in the temple. The temple prophesied the doctrine that is the foundation of Christianity as echoed in 1Tim. 3:16.

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.**”*

The importance is found in the incarnation, the most important reason for the birth of our LORD. In our book, “**Workbook on the Plan of God**”, 4 propositions are dedicated to the INCARNATION and the importance this doctrine has for all creation. From proposition TWO through FIVE, we find the reason for the birth of Christ.

#### **PROPOSITION TWO**

***Free will demands reconciliation between God and creation (as well as redemption), because all free will ultimately rejects sovereignty [Divine Will] at some point (Ex. 26:15-21).***

Here we come to the true reason for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the oldest prophecy predicting His birth. From eternity past, the heavenly temple proclaimed that God must become man.

II. Free will is a “problem” for God. To be free the creature must be able to choose. Yet to choose against God in any way must result in death for the creature. Thus the creature really has no freedom to make mistakes, and God has no freedom to allow decisions to be made against Him.

#### **PROPOSITION THREE**

***Redemption / reconciliation of creation demanded a Divine and eternal resolution of the conflict between sovereignty [Divine free will] and creation’s free will in order to preserve free will and thus perpetuate creation.***

III. God also found His love limited by the fact that a created being, no matter how perfect, cannot fully fellowship with the Trinity. All created beings have creature life; God has eternal life. There is no affinity between the two. God being perfect desired a perfect relationship with His creation. Yet even omnipotence cannot just bestow eternal life directly. Thus God found His will bound by His own essence.

- A. His righteousness was demanding that He destroy what He desired to bless.
- B. His own life essence was blocking the creature from receiving His total love, the love shared by the Trinity.

#### **PROPOSITION FOUR:**

Through creation itself must come the resolution of the ageless conflict between sovereignty and free will.

- IV. Since the problems were with God, the solution could only come from God.
  - A. God Himself must enter the creation as a man and redeem it forever.
    - 1. This was done by Jesus Christ, the second member of the Trinity.
  - B. God must create a being with His own eternal life. God must find a way to give birth to God.
    - 1. This was done through the Church - The Church is taken from the "bone and flesh" of Christ and built into His Bride. Thus it shares the same essence of the God-Man.
    - 2. It receives eternal life - the very life of God.
    - 3. It is a new spiritual species.
    - 4. The Church is in Union with Christ and indwelt with the entire Trinity.

The Church now shares the same destiny as Christ - to rule and intercede for creatures in the eternal state.

#### **PROPOSITION NUMBER FIVE**

**From God's creation must come ... GOD.**

- V. Conclusion: God had two problems in eternity when He decided to share his love.
  - A. **Free will versus righteousness.**
  - B. Limitation placed on His ability to share His happiness with creation.
    - C. Both problems were resolved by Christ, or through Christ.
      - 1. The Cross is the answer to the first problem - God is now free to forgive; the creature is free to err.
      - 2. The Church, Christ's Bride, answers the second; through Christ a new creature has been created, one WITH eternal life. God is now free to share His love totally with a created being. He has given birth to His own life and shared it with creation.

The plan is completed with the Church. Creation is waiting for our arrival in heaven to assume our place as rulers in the eternal state with Christ. Man, the creature God chose to reproduce (as opposed to Angels), will do so. Every attribute in God's essence is now in perfect harmony and satisfied. Thus creation will be freed from its slavery of corruption into the glorious freedom of the children of God (Rom. 8:21).