

## Arrival of The Messiah

### Luke 1:26-38

#### **The Birth of Jesus Foretold**

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

<sup>29</sup> Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

<sup>34</sup> "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. <sup>36</sup> Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. <sup>37</sup> For no word from God will ever fail."

<sup>38</sup> "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

#### A Christmas Sermon

- Christmas Story – What a Story.
- On a day – a real day.
- In a town - an actual town – Bethlehem.
- To real parents – Mary who was living in Nazareth and Joseph a descendant of David.
- A real baby boy – with a real name
- They were to give the son the name Jesus – which means

### Matthew 1:21

<sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, (Jesus is the greek form of the name Joshua – which means The Lord Saves.) because he will save his people from their sins."

#### Bid idea

- The long awaited arrival of Jesus changed the course of human history forever.
- Jesus' arrival was no accident.
- He is the fulfillment of **promise**, **prophecy**, and **prayer** to a weary world in desperate need of a savior.

### Our goal today

- Every boy and girl and teenager and man and woman would welcome Jesus this Christmas just like he welcomed us.
- That he would meet us, no matter where we are or what shape we're in with mercy, grace, and love.
- Today we would be a people overwhelmed by Christmas morning and the miracle of your redemptive love.

### Introduction

- Today we join with over 2 Billion believers all over the world to celebrate Christmas.
- This is a time of hopeful expectation as we remember the birth of Christ on Christmas morning.
- And today is the day we've been so eagerly waiting for...
- The culmination of the Advent season.
- Today is the day we remember and rejoice that Jesus did in fact arrive, just as promised.

### Straw-man

- Chances are good here today that many of you have heard a sermon about the arrival of Christ at some point.
- Some of you have heard a sermon from some of the same passages we're going to look at together.
- For some of us 2023 has been a long year full of challenges.
- I'd also bet that many of you have had a long year since last Christmas.
- For some you have had a great year full of exciting new endeavors and accomplishments.
- For some you're ready to put this one behind you and move on from the pain, suffering, and disappointment you've felt over the past twelve months.
- Chances are good today that for one reason or another, all of us need to hear the Christmas story, again.
- We need to hear how God kept his promise and how all the prophecies about a coming savior are true.
- We need to know that God is a God who answers the prayers of His people and that the birth of Jesus the answer to the deepest cry of our hearts.
- We need to remember, again, *"God SO LOVED the world that He gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."*
- We need the Christmas story, don't we?
- We need it over and over again, year after year.
- Lucky for us, today is the day we've been so eagerly waiting for.
- Today is the day we remember and rejoice that Jesus did in fact **arrive**, just as promised.

### Question

- How many of you here have ever made a promise?
- And conversely, how many of you have ever broken a promise?
- Depending on who you're talking to, promises are a big deal.

### God always keeps his promises

#### Illustration

##### Promise

- A. For as broken as our culture is in some areas, we still seem to understand the gravity of making and keeping promises.
  1. We know, on some level, that it's important to keep your word, to do what you said you were going to do, and to come through.
  2. As much as we expect this from one another, we really expect God — The creator and sustainer of the universe — to be a trustworthy promise maker and keeper.
  3. Christmas is a time we collectively remember that God did in fact come through on one of the greatest promises ever when He gave His Son to us.
  
- B. The promise of Jesus begins all the way back in the Old Testament where we learn that God is in fact faithful to His people and His word.

#### Deuteronomy 7:6-8

<sup>6</sup>For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. <sup>8</sup>But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your ancestors that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

- C. Unpack
  1. Explain Text
  2. Here we read that God has chosen His people because He loves them AND because He made an oath (promise) to their forefathers.
  3. It was because of this promise that He brought the Israelites out of Egypt and ***“redeemed them from the land of slavery.”***
  4. This is all a beautiful foreshadowing of how Jesus will come to our rescue later, as the savior of all mankind.

**Deuteronomy 7:9**

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments.

**D. Unpack**

1. Explain text
2. In this verse we see that God will keep His “*covenant of love to a thousand generations.*”
3. He will be faithful to His promise, and He will see it through to the very end... which is what’s implied by the idea of *a thousand generations.*
4. That’s a really long time to keep a promise!
5. But we now know that God did in fact keep His promise, Jesus did come, and He has set us free from the curse of sin and death.
6. It’s all because of Jesus, or as the Apostle Paul says in

**2 Corinthians 1:20**

For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God.

7. Christmas is a day when we remember the promise of God as foretold throughout the scripture and the prophets, and we proclaim Yes! Amen!

**Prophecy**

Christmas is also a day we remember Jesus is not just a promise fulfilled, which would be enough, but He is also the fulfillment of all the law and prophets. Jesus himself says this in Matthew 5:17...

**Matthew 5:17**

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have **not** come to abolish them but to fulfill them

We can see, through the birth accounts in both the Gospel of Matthew and Luke, that the birth of Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies about the promised Messiah.

**Three promises fulfilled****Promise #1**

Jesus Christ would be born of a virgin **AND** He would be called Immanuel.

**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.

### A. Unpack

1. What is the sign?
2. The sign is that the arrival of Jesus is supernatural.
3. He doesn't arrive through a natural origination.
4. He comes supernaturally.
5. If he was conceived in the normal way – he would be born into sin.
6. He came

### Matthew 1:20-23

<sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

<sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us").

### B. Unpack

1. The name Immanuel means *God with us*, which is precisely what Jesus came to do and be.
2. He lived WITH US, died WITH US, rose again WITH US, and He's building His church to this very day, WITH US.
3. He truly is...Immanuel.

### Illustration

- Fort Bragg – raining HUMVEE pulled over two officers jumped out and got in back with us.
- Rode in the freezing cold rain with us.

### Promise #2

Christ would be born in Bethlehem

### 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.”

### **Matthew 2:10**

<sup>9</sup>After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. <sup>11</sup>On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

### **Luke 2:4**

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. <sup>2</sup>(This was the first census that took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) <sup>3</sup>And everyone went to their own town to register.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, <sup>7</sup>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.

### **Application**

- This is where things get exciting.
- Luke’s passage mentions that Joseph, who ends up being Jesus’ earthly Father, was part of King David’s line.
- And if you turn back to the birth account in Matthew chapter 1 you’ll find a detailed genealogy of Christ, leading all the way back to Abraham that goes specifically through King David. (Matthew 1:1-16)
- This genealogy helps tie in these words we read from Micah 5:2 who says, “(Jesus’) *origins are from of old, from ancient times.*”
- And this is why the prophet Zechariah sings these words in Luke 1:68-70... (**read Luke 1:68-70**) It all comes together in Christ!

### **Luke 1:68-70**

<sup>68</sup> “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel,  
because he has come to his people and redeemed them.

<sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us

in the house of his servant David  
<sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago),

### **Application**

- I know this is a lot of information, and it's not meant to overwhelm you.
- It's meant to inspire and captivate you this Christmas.
- Today we remember that God has a plan of unfailing covenantal love for His people.
- It was never a random plan, it was always an intentional plan.
- Which brings me to one of my favorite prophecies...

### **Promise #3**

He is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace

- A. From Isaiah 9:6-7 we read that through the child born on Christmas day there will come an everlasting government of justice, righteousness, and peace.
1. That sounds pretty good right about now doesn't it?
  2. We need this more than ever before.

### **Isaiah 9:6-7**

<sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born,  
 to us a son is given,  
 and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called  
 Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> Of the greatness of his government and peace  
 there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne  
 and over his kingdom,  
 establishing and upholding it  
 with justice and righteousness  
 from that time on and forever.

### **B. Unpack**

1. Christ wasn't the kind of conquering King that many were hoping for.
2. Jesus was and is the savior we need.
3. He wasn't only the prophetic promise fulfilled, He's also a divine answer to prayer.
4. Not just for the Israelites two thousand years ago, but for us today as well.

### C. Concluding Application

1. Have you ever prayed for something for a really long time?
2. Have you ever prayed for something specific, and the answer you got was opposite or different than the thing you asked for?
3. Can you imagine praying for the same thing your entire life, only to pass that prayer onto your children in hopes that they may see it fulfilled in their lifetimes?
4. I know that these hypotheticals are reality for some of you here today...
5. This was also the reality that the Israelites lived in for hundreds of years, as they waited for their coming King
6. A promised messiah, foretold of by the prophets, who would establish an everlasting kingdom of peace and power.

**Christmas is a reminder that God does answer prayer.**

### D. Celebrating Christmas

1. Celebrating the arrival of Jesus two-thousand years ago is our annual reminder that God hears our prayers and that He does respond.
2. It might take awhile, but He's listening, and He loves you.
3. To a thousand generations, as we read earlier, does He love His people.
4. Jesus is the fulfillment of **promise, prophecy, and prayer** to a weary world in desperate need of a savior.

### E. Mary's Response

1. After learning that she would be giving birth to the Messiah, Mary went to visit her relative, Elizabeth.
2. The two women had a brief exchange and Elizabeth proclaimed, "*Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!*"
3. Overcome in the moment, Mary then sang a song of praise and gratitude;

#### **Luke 1:46-55**

<sup>46</sup> And Mary said:

"My soul glorifies the Lord

<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

<sup>48</sup> for he has been mindful

of the humble state of his servant.

From now on all generations will call me blessed,

<sup>49</sup> for the Mighty One has done great things for me—

holy is his name.

<sup>50</sup> His mercy extends to those who fear him,

from generation to generation.



- <sup>51</sup> He has performed mighty deeds with his arm;  
he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.
- <sup>52</sup> He has brought down rulers from their thrones  
but has lifted up the humble.
- <sup>53</sup> He has filled the hungry with good things  
but has sent the rich away empty.
- <sup>54</sup> He has helped his servant Israel,  
remembering to be merciful
- <sup>55</sup> to Abraham and his descendants forever,  
just as he promised our ancestors.”

### **Conclusion**

1. The arrival of Jesus is a reminder that God keeps His promises.
2. He hears our prayers.
3. This reality overwhelmed Mary two thousand years ago and I pray it would overwhelm us today as well.
4. No matter what you've been praying for, hoping for, or waiting for... God hears and sees.
5. He knows what you need this Christmas and He knows that more than anything else what we all need most is Jesus.

God gave His son so that we might live. Jesus has arrived.