



# CHRISTMAS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





# Christmas in the Old Testament

ADRIAN ROGERS

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this transcript produced from a live sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This transcript is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

**Note: Though it has been transcribed from a version used for broadcast, it may contain stutters, stammers, and other authentic remarks as would be common in a live setting.**

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other—without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright © 2024 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

Transcripts are used by permission of the Rogers Family Trust.



# Christmas in the Old Testament

**SERMON REFERENCE:** Micah 5:2; John 5:39

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1969

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, but His existence did not begin in Bethlehem; He has been from everlasting. The Book of Micah offers us a clear picture of Christmas to come in the Old Testament.

Micah 5:2 says, *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*

Adrian Rogers says, “Without the Lord Jesus, the Old Testament is simply a bundle of unfulfilled prophecies, of unexplained ceremonies, of unattainable laws. But when you bring Jesus into it, it unlocks the whole thing.”

## **First, there are portraits of Jesus in the Old Testament.**

In Luke 24:44, Jesus says, “These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me.”

Jesus is who all the Old Testament prophets have given witness to. He is portrayed as the Prophet, Priest and King of every story from Genesis to Malachi. He is in every ceremony, and even in the design of biblical architecture such as the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant. When we read the New Testament, we find the fulfillment of each law and prophecy.

## **Second, there are prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament.**

There are more than 300 prophecies concerning the Messiah in the Old Testament. Throughout the Books of Law and Prophecy, God narrows the focus to a specific man from the nation of Israel.

He would come from the Tribe of Judah, specifically the family of Jesse, and the household of David. He would be born of a virgin in Bethlehem, betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, crucified, and then raised from the dead.

Jesus fulfilled each of these prophecies, and many more. Mathematically, when we speak of the laws of probability, there is no doubt He is the Messiah.

## **Finally, Jesus is presented in the Old Testament.**

We must decide how we will respond. Do we crown Him or crucify Him—accept or reject Him? As we study Scripture, we’ll find that we can believe the Bible and trust Him as our Savior.

### **Life Application**

Jesus has been presented to us in the Old and New Testaments. How will you respond? Do you believe in Him? Do you accept Him as your Lord and Savior?



# Christmas in the Old Testament

SERMON REFERENCE: Micah 5:2; John 5:39

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1969

## 1) INTRODUCTION

- a) The book of Micah is a small book that speaks of a small town – Bethlehem.
  - i) In that small town, a small human being would come into the world – Jesus.
  - ii) Zechariah 4:10
- b) Micah 5:2
  - i) Jesus had His birth at Bethlehem, but He did not have His beginning at Bethlehem.
    - (1) He has been from everlasting.
- c) There is a master key that will help us to understand all of the Bible, both the Old Testament and the New Testament.
  - i) That master key is a person.
    - (1) His name is Jesus.
- d) All of the Bible is about the Lord Jesus Christ.
  - i) Jesus is the theme of the Bible.
  - ii) Jesus is the hero of the Bible.
  - iii) Jesus is the message of the Bible.
  - iv) Jesus is the author of the Bible.
  - v) The Bible is a “Him” book.
    - (1) It is about Him, the Lord Jesus.
- e) Sometimes, people mistakenly get the idea that the Old Testament is about Israel and the ceremonies, and the New Testament is about Jesus.
  - i) But all of the Bible is about Jesus.
    - (1) John 5:39
      - (a) At the time when Jesus said this, the New Testament had not yet been written.
- f) In today’s message, we will look at the following three things:
  - i) The portraits of Jesus in the Old Testament.
  - ii) The prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament.
  - iii) The presentation of Jesus from the Old Testament.

## 2) THE PORTRAITS OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (JOHN 5:39)

- a) God the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Old Testament.
  - i) They shaped and formed their writings so that you see the face of Jesus Christ.
- b) Without the Lord Jesus, we do not have the master key that unlocks the Old Testament.
  - i) Without the Lord Jesus, the Old Testament would simply be a bundle of unfulfilled prophecies, unexplained ceremonies, and unattainable laws.
  - ii) When we bring Jesus into it, He unlocks the whole thing.
- c) The Old Testament was finished 400 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
  - i) The Jewish people divided it into the following three sections:
    - (1) The Law
    - (2) The Prophets
    - (3) The Writings
      - (a) Sometimes, this would be called the Psalms.



- d) After the resurrection, Jesus began to explain the Old Testament Scriptures to two of His disciples on the road to Emmaus.
  - i) Luke 24:44
  - ii) The Old Testament Scriptures (the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms) was their Bible.
  - iii) Jesus explained how He is found in the Scriptures.
    - (1) Jesus is the fulfillment of all of these things.
- e) In the monarchy and the theocracy when Israel was a nation, there were three officials who received an anointing: the king, the priest, and the prophet.
  - i) All of these figures or types were emblems of man's greatest longing.
    - (1) What does man need more than anything else?
      - (a) He needs a prophet who can speak the Word of God with truth and finality.
      - (b) He needs a priest who can deal with his sin and bring him to God.
      - (c) He needs a king who is a righteous ruler and can rule with authority.
    - ii) In the Old Testament, the prophets, priests, and kings always pointed to someone greater.
    - iii) All three of these come together in one person; His name is Jesus.
      - (1) In the New Testament Gospels, we see Jesus the anointed Prophet preaching.
      - (2) In Acts and the Epistles, we see Jesus the anointed Priest interceding, saving, and bringing us to God.
      - (3) In Revelations, we see Jesus, God's anointed King, reigning because He is the fulfillment of these prophecies.
- f) The Old Testament and the New Testament are all about Jesus.
  - i) The Old Testament says, "Behold, He comes."
  - ii) The Gospels say, "Behold, He dies."
  - iii) The book of Acts says, "Behold, He lives."
  - iv) The Epistles say, "Behold, He saves."
  - v) Revelation says, "Behold, He reigns."
- g) Not only do we see Jesus Christ in persons, but we also see Him in ceremonies in the Old Testament.
  - i) For example, there is one who will fulfill all of these unexplained ceremonies and all of these people in the Old Testament:
    - (1) Jesus is the last Adam, whom the first Adam prefigures.
    - (2) Jesus is a prophet like Moses.
    - (3) Jesus is a priest like Aaron.
    - (4) Jesus is a champion like Joshua.
    - (5) Jesus is an offering like Isaac.
    - (6) Jesus is a king like David.
    - (7) Jesus is a counselor like Solomon.
    - (8) Jesus is a beloved, rejected, exalted Son and Heaven's bread supplier like Joseph.
    - (9) Jesus is the Ark of the Covenant.
    - (10) Jesus is the Mercy Seat and the Sanctuary.
    - (11) Jesus is the water from the rock.
    - (12) Jesus is the manna from the sky.
    - (13) Jesus is the brazen serpent lifted up for our sins.
    - (14) Jesus is the Passover Lamb.
    - (15) Jesus is the scapegoat that carries away our sins.



- (16) Jesus is the Lion of Judah.
- (17) Jesus is the Good Shepherd.
- (18) Jesus is the Lily of the Valley.
- (19) Jesus is the root out of dry ground.
- (20) Jesus is the faithful branch.
- (21) Jesus is the one without form nor comeliness, yet altogether lovely.
- h) If you read the Bible and do not see Jesus, then you need to reread it because you have missed the message.
  - i) "Scriptures" in John 5:39 means the Old Testament.
    - (1) Without Jesus, all these things become a dead-end road leading to nowhere.
  - ii) Jesus is the theme of the Bible.

### 3) THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- a) Fulfilled prophecy is the great proof of the inspiration of the Bible and the great proof of the deity of Jesus Christ.
- b) There are more than 300 direct prophecies that prophesy the coming Messiah.
  - i) He would be from the human race.
    - (1) Genesis 3:15
      - (a) This first evangelistic message is that God is going to send the seed of the woman to be the Messiah to bruise the serpent's head.
        - (i) A birth, a bruising, and a blessing are in this one verse.
      - (b) This verse speaks of the Messiah who will come.
        - (i) No angel or animal can redeem us.
          - 1. He must be the seed of the woman.
            - a. Generally, when seed is spoken of it speaks of the seed of the man, not of the woman.
  - ii) He would be from a section out of that race.
    - (1) The human race had corrupted itself, and God sent a flood.
    - (2) Out of that flood came three families:
      - (a) Ham
      - (b) Shem
      - (c) Japheth
    - (3) Genesis 9:26
      - (a) God chose that the Messiah would come from Shem.
  - iii) He would be from a nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) Genesis 12:1-2
    - (2) He would come through Abraham's lineage.
  - iv) He would be from a tribe out of that nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) Isaac was born to Abraham.
    - (2) Isaac had two sons:
      - (a) Jacob
      - (b) Esau
    - (3) Numbers 24:17
      - (a) Abraham's grandson Jacob is the one from whom the Messiah would come.
    - (4) Jacob had twelve sons.



- (a) Genesis 49:10
    - (b) The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.
  - v) He would be from a family out of that tribe out of that nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) He would come from the family of Jesse of the tribe of Judah.
      - (a) Isaiah 11:1
      - (b) Judah was a part of the family of Abraham.
        - (i) Abraham was a Shemite.
          - 1. A Shemite was a human being, born of woman.
  - vi) He would be from a household out of that family out of that tribe out of that nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) The household was the house of David, who was the son of Jesse.
      - (a) 2 Samuel 7:8, 16
        - (i) It was not by accident that Jesus was born in the city of David; Bethlehem.
        - (b) Jesse had eight sons, but only one son was chosen.
  - vii) He would be from a woman out of that household out of that family out of that tribe out of that nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) God chose a woman, but not just any woman, from the family of David.
    - (2) Isaiah 7:14
      - (a) A virgin would be the mother of the Messiah.
  - viii) Messiah would be the Son of that woman out of that household out of that family out of that tribe out of that nation out of that section out of that race.
    - (1) Micah 5:2
    - (2) His name is Jesus.
      - (a) This Son, the Messiah, is born.
  - ix) This did not happen just by chance.
    - (1) It is a mathematical impossibility.
    - (2) The Messiah came according to prophecy in the Old Testament.
- c) The Messiah had to be a Son of a woman out of a household out of a family out of a nation out of a section out of a race, but not just any Son.
  - i) He had to be born in Bethlehem.
    - (1) Micah 5:2
  - ii) He had to be rejected by His people, the Jews, and accepted by the Gentiles.
    - (1) Isaiah 53
  - iii) He had to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver.
    - (1) Zechariah 11:12-13
  - iv) He had to be crucified by the piercing of His hands and His feet.
    - (1) Psalm 22:16
  - v) He had to be raised from the dead.
    - (1) Psalm 16:10
  - vi) He is the virgin-born Son of God who lived a perfect life, who lived, who died, who bled, who was buried, who rose, and who ascended.
  - vii) His name is Jesus, and He was born in Bethlehem.



#### 4) THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

- a) Jesus Christ is presented to you and to me.
- b) What will you do with Jesus?
  - i) You crown Him, or you crucify Him.
  - ii) You believe Him, or you disbelieve Him.
  - iii) You accept Him, or you reject Him.
    - (1) But you cannot be neutral.
      - (a) Matthew 12:30

#### 5) CONCLUSION

- a) You can believe the Bible.
  - i) There is no possible way that this portrait could have been drawn by many people over different centuries.
  - ii) There is no possible way that these prophecies could have been fulfilled apart from divine inspiration.
- b) You can trust the Savior because the Bible presents Him.
  - i) John 5:39
- c) Because you can trust the Savior, you can trust the Scriptures.
  - i) They fold into one another.
  - ii) The same Bible that prophesied Jesus' first coming is the same Bible that prophesies Jesus' Second Coming.
  - iii) The Scriptures were so minutely fulfilled in His first coming, and they will be fulfilled when He comes again.
- d) The Savior who came the first time as Messiah is the one who is coming the second time as the King of kings and the Lord of lords.
  - i) It is the one who has come who is getting us ready for the one who is coming.
    - (1) Jesus is Prophet, Priest, and King.
- e) Micah 5:2
- f) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- g) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16





# Christmas in the Old Testament

SERMON REFERENCE: Micah 5:2; John 5:39

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1969

Would you be finding the little book of Micah! Micah chapter 5 and in just a moment I'm going to be reading verse 2. The title of our message today, Christmas in the Old Testament. The book of Micah is a small book and in the book of Micah, in this small book, it speaks of a small town. And in that small town, a very small little human being is going to come into the world. But the Bible says in Zechariah 4:10, "Don't despise the day of small things," because wonderful things come in small packages. Look if you will in Micah chapter 5 verse 2, "But thou Bethlehem, Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee," out of Bethlehem, "shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from old from everlasting." Jesus had His birth at Bethlehem, but He did not have His beginning at Bethlehem. He has been from everlasting.

Now people sometimes say, "How can I understand the Bible and especially how can I understand the Old Testament?" There is a master key that will help you to understand all of the Bible, the Old Testament and the New Testament. That master key is a person, His name is Jesus. All of the Bible is about the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the theme of the Bible, Jesus is the hero of the Bible, Jesus is the message of the Bible, and rightly understood, He is the author of the Bible. And so if you want to understand any book, if you know the author and understand the theme, and are related to the hero, I think indeed you could understand that book. The Bible is a Him book; it is about Him, the Lord Jesus.

Now sometimes people mistakenly get the idea that the Old Testament is about Israel and the ceremonies of the Old Testament, and that the New Testament takes a new departure and now the New Testament is about Jesus. But I want to show you, friend, that all of the Bible is about Jesus and He Himself said so. For Jesus said in John chapter 5 and verse 39, and you might want to put this in your margin, He is speaking to the religious leaders of the day and He throws them this challenge. He says, "Search the Scriptures for in them ye think that ye have eternal life." And then He said, "These are they which testify of Me." And when He said, "Search the Scriptures," to that crowd, the New Testament had not yet been written.

So there are three things I want you to see this morning with me. First of all, I want you to see some **portraits of Jesus in the Old Testament**. Secondly, I want you to see some prophecies of Jesus in the Old Testament. Thirdly, as night follows day, the presentation of Jesus from the Old Testament. Now there is in Washington, I believe it's in Washington, a very beautiful work of art. What the artist has done, he has taken the Constitution of the United States of America and he has written it in calligraphy across the page, word for word the Constitution of the United States is written. But the artist, very skillfully, very cunningly, has shaped and shaded the letters as he writes the Constitution of the United States of America. And as you stand there close to you and you read it, it reads word for word the Constitution of the United States of America. But when you step back and see what the artist has done, the way he has shaped and shaded the letters, there comes out a portrait of George Washington. It's there, but you just have to step back and look at it, and in all of those letters and so forth is George Washington, the father of our country.



Now God wrote the Old Testament the same way. God the Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Old Testament and they shaped and formed their writings that it says exactly what it says, there's the history of Israel, there are all of the ceremonies, all of these things, but when you step back and look, you see the face of Jesus Christ. Jesus said in John 5:39, "Search the Scriptures, these are they which testify of Me." And I want to say that without the Lord Jesus, you do not have the master key that unlocks the Old Testament. Without the Lord Jesus, the Old Testament is simply a bundle of unfulfilled prophecies, of unexplained ceremonies, of unattainable laws. But when you bring Jesus into it, then it unlocks the whole thing.

Now the Old Testament was finished four hundred years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem, and the Jews had taken the Old Testament and they had divided it into three sections. Section number one, the law; section number two, the prophets; section number three, the writings, sometimes they would call that the Psalms, because the Psalms is the first in the third section, so sometimes it would be called the writings or the Psalms. Now this was their Bible, their Old Testament Bible. Jesus came to this earth, born in Bethlehem, lived a righteous life was falsely accused, nailed to a cross, suffered, bled, and died, was buried in a borrowed tomb, rose from the dead the third day. And then He is walking with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, they do not recognize Him in His resurrected form, and outside Jerusalem is that city of Emmaus; I've been there a number of times and I've walked that Emmaus road, what a thrill that is. And as Jesus is walking with these two disciples after His resurrection, He takes the Old Testament Scriptures and He begins to explain the Old Testament Scriptures to them.

Now here's the verse I want you to get, it is found in Luke chapter 24 and verse 44, "And He said unto them," now remember, this is Jesus, "these are the words which I spake unto you while I was yet with you," now listen to this, listen, "that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses and in the prophets and in the Psalms concerning Me." That was their Bible; the law, the prophets, and the Psalms. And Jesus explained to them in the law, in the prophets, in the Psalms, all of those things that concerned Him. I would love to have had a tape recording of that Bible conference, wouldn't you? To hear the Lord Jesus Christ explain how He Himself is found in the Scriptures. Because, you see, He is the fulfillment of all of these things.

Now in the monarchy and in the theocracy when Israel was a nation, there were three officials who received an anointing, if you will, a christening, or a Christing. Three officials. You know who they were? The king was anointed. Do you know who else was anointed? The priest was anointed. Do you know who else was anointed with the holy oil? The prophet was anointed, only those three. The priest, the prophet, and the king. Now why? Because all of these were figures, all of these were types, all of these were emblems of man's greatest longing. What does man need more than anything else? He needs a prophet who can speak the Word of God with truth and finality. Not only does he need that, but he needs a priest, someone who can deal with his sin and bring him to God. And not only does he need a prophet and not only does he need a priest, but he needs a king, a righteous ruler who can rule with authority. And in the Old Testament, the prophets and the priests and the kings always pointed to someone greater. The Old Testament scholars used to study the rabbis and they would say, "Are we going to have three Messiahs? Are we going to have one who will be a prophet? Are we going to have one who will be a priest? Are we going to have one who will be a king?" But we find that all three of these come together in one person who is Prophet, Priest, and King and His name is Jesus. That is the name of this one.



In the Gospels in the New Testament, you see, Jesus, the anointed Prophet preaching. In Acts and Epistles, you see Jesus the anointed Priest interceding, saving and bringing us to God. In the book of the Revelation, you see Jesus, God's anointed King, reigning, because He is the fulfillment of all of these prophecies. You see, it's all about Jesus. Old Testament and the New Testament. The Old Testament says, "Behold, He comes;" the Gospels say, "Behold, He dies." Acts say, "Behold, He lives!" The Epistles say, "Behold, He saves." And Revelation says, "Behold, He reigns." That's Jesus. That's Jesus. All of the Bible, Old and New, is about the Lord Jesus Christ.

And you see Christ there not only in persons, but you see Him in ceremonies. For example, there's one who will fulfill all of these unexplained ceremonies and all of these people in the Old Testament. You see, Jesus is the last Adam, who the first Adam prefigures. Jesus is a prophet like Moses. Jesus is a priest like Aaron. Jesus is a champion like Joshua. Jesus is an offering like Isaac. Jesus is a king like David. Jesus is a counselor like Solomon. Jesus is a beloved, rejected, exalted Son and Heaven's bread supplier like Joseph. Jesus helped us to understand the Ark of the Covenant because He is the Ark of the Covenant. He is the Mercy Seat in the Sanctuary. He is the water from the rock. He is the manna from the sky. He is the brazen serpent lifted up for our sins. He is the Passover Lamb. He is the scapegoat that carries away our sins. He is the Lion of Judah. He is the good shepherd. He is the lily of the valley. He is the root out of dry ground. He is the faithful branch. He is the one without form nor comeliness and yet altogether lovely. His name is Jesus. If you read the Bible and you don't see Jesus, go back and reread it! You missed the message! Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures." He's talking about the Old Testament, and He said, "For these are they which testify of Me." And without Him all these things become a dead-end road, leading to nowhere.

When I was a little boy, I can remember it as though yesterday, I'd not yet started school. I came into the kitchen and my mother was fixing a pie. I hung around and then I watched, you talk about classic disappointment. She pulled that thing out of the oven and what she pulled out of the oven was a pie shell. She'd not put the filling in, it was a lemon meringue pie. I didn't understand how they made pies. I thought my mother was either the stupidest or the meanest woman in the world, who would bake a nothing pie. I mean, here it was, just the shell, nothing in it! I was incensed. I really was. How can my mother do such a thing, to bake a pie with nothing in it? Friend, I want to tell you that that's what the Old Testament is, just a pie with nothing in it, if you don't put Jesus in it. Jesus is the theme of the Bible. "Search the scriptures," He says, "for these are they which testify of Me." And He showed them in the prophets, in the law, in Moses, in the Psalms, all of the things concerning Himself.

Now you see portraits of Christ in the Old Testament and you see **prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament**. May I tell you this morning that fulfilled prophecy, listen, fulfilled prophecy is the great proof of the inspiration of the Bible, it is the great proof of the Deity of Jesus Christ. There are more than three hundred direct prophecies that prophesy the coming Messiah. Now, that this could've happened by chance is a mathematical absurdity. There is a mathematical law called the law of probabilities. It is a very, very real law. Insurance companies operate on the mathematical law of probabilities. For example, for less than a hundred dollars a month, an insurance company will insure a young thirtyyearold man and will promise to pay his heirs, if he dies, over a million dollars. Why would they do that for less than a hundred dollars a month? Why would they do that? Because they have studied mathematical laws of probabilities and they know what the probability is that this young man will die in that year. They're not there to lose money, they understand that they will risk billions of dollars in the industry based on the mathematical



law of probability. Now I want you to think about these three hundred prophecies concerning the Lord Jesus and I want you to take the mathematical law of probability and see how it works.

Let me illustrate what I'm talking about. I have a son who is a missionary in Spain, and I dial him very frequently and talk with him. But when I want to call my son, do you know how I get him? There are almost eight billion people on the face of this earth. But when I pick up the telephone, immediately I eliminate all the people in the world who don't have a telephone, right, because I've picked up the telephone. Then, when I dial 011, I eliminate all the people who live in the United States, because now I'm dialing overseas. Then when I dial 34, I eliminate all the rest of the nations overseas except one, Spain, then when I dial the next digit, I eliminate all of the areas in Spain except the area that he lives in. And then when I start to dial a successive series of numbers, each number I dial, more and more people fall away, until I dial that final last number. And you see how the focus is getting tighter and tighter and tighter, and then the phone rings and one person picks it up and it's my beloved son and I recognize his voice. Now, how does that happen? It's just simply the law of elimination as the focus gets tighter and tighter and tighter and tighter and tighter and tighter until we dial that last digit and then out of almost six billion people on the face of the earth, one individual picks up the phone.

Now suppose we wanted to dial Messiah's number. Suppose we picked up the Old Testament and we say, "Now, let's find out who the Messiah of Israel is." First of all, Messiah must come from the human race. A race, because Genesis chapter 3 verse 15 says this, "And I," God is speaking and He says to the serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed," that is, the offspring of the serpent, "and her seed;" her descendancy, "it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel." Now what this first evangelistic message is, is this: that God is going to send the seed of the woman to be the Messiah to bruise the serpent's head, both a birth, a bruising, and a blessing is in that one verse. It speaks of Messiah who will come, and no angel can redeem us, no animal can redeem us, no it must be the seed of the woman. And by the way, the Old Testament rabbis used to ponder over this. Why? Because generally when seed is spoken of, it speaks of the seed of the man, not of the woman. But of course we know that Jesus was virgin born. There is a race. All right, right away we eliminate all of the angels and all of the animals.

Now secondly, God narrows the focus a little more and there is a section out of that race. You will remember that the human race corrupted itself. God sent a flood, and out of that flood there came what? Three families. There was the family of Ham, of Shem, and Japheth. Well, which section of that race did God choose? Genesis chapter 9 and verse 26, "And He said, 'Blessed be the Lord God of Shem.'" So now we have not only a race, but a section of that race.

But now God's going to tighten the focus a little more. And God is going to get us a nation out of that section, out of that race. So we go to Genesis chapter 12 and we find where God chose a man named Abraham, the brightest star in the Hebrew Heaven. In Genesis chapter 12 verse 1, "And the Lord God hath said unto Abram, 'Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred and from thy father's house unto a land that I will show thee, and I will make thee a great nation, and I will bless thee.'" Now we have a nation out of that section out of that race.

But now wait a minute, we're going to tighten the focus a little more. And God says, "I want a tribe out of that nation, out of that section, out of that race," and so God chooses a tribe. You see, Isaac was born to Abraham, and Isaac had two sons. And his two sons were Jacob and Esau, and God chose Jacob.



Numbers 24 verse 17, "I shall see Him but not now. I shall behold Him but not nigh. There shall come a Star out of Jacob." And so you see how God now is beginning to tighten the focus. Abraham's grandson Jacob is the one from whom Messiah is going to come. But Jacob had twelve sons. Which one of those twelve sons would Messiah come from? Genesis chapter 49 verse 10, "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a law giver from between his feet until Shiloh come and unto him," Shiloh, "shall the gathering of the people be." Notice how God is tightening the focus. Notice what God is saying, "There must be a race, there must be a section out of that race, there must be a nation out of that section, there must be a tribe out of that nation, out of that section, out of that race, and the tribe is the tribe of Judah.

But God tightens the focus a little more. There must be a family out of that tribe, out of that nation, out of that section, out of that race, and God chooses a family out of Judah. Isaiah chapter 11 verses 1, "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots," because Jesse was of the tribe of Judah and Judah was a part of the family of Abraham, and Abraham was a Shemite, and a Shemite was a human being, born of woman.

But now God begins to tighten the focus a little more, and God gets not only a family, the family of Jesse, but God gets a household out of that family, the house of David, who is the son of Jesse, who is one of Judah, who is born of Abraham, who is a Shemite, who is a human being, and the focus gets tighter and tighter. For God says concerning David in Second Samuel chapter 7 verse 8, "Now therefore, so shalt thou say unto My servant David, 'Thus saith the Lord of Hosts,'" and verse 16, "And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established forever before thee. Thy throne shall be established forever." It is not by accident that Jesus was born in the city of David. Jesse had eight sons, but there was only one son.

Now do you see what I'm saying? There must come a household, out of a family, out of a tribe, out of a nation, out of a section, out of a race. But God is not finished yet, and God takes of the family of David, and God says, "There must be a woman out of the family of David, not just any woman, but a special woman." Isaiah chapter 7 and verse 14, "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and be with child." And God found that one woman, out of that one household, out of that one family, out of that one tribe, out of that one nation, out of that one section, out of one race, and this particular woman God has chosen to be the mother of the Messiah. Do you see the law of mathematical probability building? Do you understand what we're saying?

And now, it wraps up when we come to Micah chapter 5 verse 2. And this Son is born. Who is Messiah? He is, listen, He is the Son of that woman, out of that household, out of that family, out of that tribe, out of that nation, out of that section, out of that race and His name is Jesus! Jesus. Friend, do you think all of this just happened by chance? That this could happen by chance is the same chance that I could pick up a telephone and just dial some numbers at random and my son would answer. No! It's a mathematical impossibility.

Peter Stoner has written a book called Science Speaks. And in that book he talks about the mathematical law of probability. I said there are over three hundred prophecies that deal with the coming of Messiah. I have mentioned less than twenty as I've talked to you right now. Peter Stoner mentions three hundred but then he takes only eight prophecies, only eight of these more than three hundred, and he says, "What is the mathematical probability that these could have been fulfilled by chance." Do you know what it is? It is one in ten raised to the seventeenth power. I don't know how to explain a number like that. It's just, just, take a one and write seventeen zeros after it.



Well, you say, "I can't relate to that." Neither can I, so here's the illustration he gave. He said, "If you were to take the state of Texas, border to border, and cover the state of Texas with silver dollars three feet deep, from border to border," and by the way, the Texans would like that, but if you were to do that, "three feet deep and have one significantly marked silver dollar, then blindfold a man or take a blind man, drop him by helicopter anywhere there in the state of Texas, and out of those billions and billions and billions of silver dollars, if he were to choose the right one, that would be the same law of probability that all of just only eight of these prophecies, not all of them, just eight of these three hundred, could be fulfilled by chance." Friend, I am telling you that Messiah came according to prophecy in the Old Testament. Do you believe that? I believe that with all of my heart.

But now, listen, we said that this had to be a Son of that woman, of that household, of that family, of that tribe, of that nation, of that section, of that race. But not just any Son. This Son had to be born in Bethlehem. Had He been born any other place, it would not have counted. This Son had to be rejected by His people and accepted by the Gentiles, Isaiah 53. This Son had to be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver, Zechariah 11 verses 12 through 13. This Son had to be crucified by the piercing of His hands and His feet, Psalm 22 verse 16. "They pierced My hands and My feet." This Son had to be raised from the dead, Psalm 16 verse 10, "For thou will not leave My soul in Hell, neither will thou suffer thine holy One to see corruption." Not just any Son, the virgin born Son of God, perfect life who lived, who died, who bled, who was buried, who rose, who was ascended. His name, Jesus. And He's born in Bethlehem.

Now what does all of this mean to us? I've talked to you about portraits of Christ in the Old Testament. I've talked to you about prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament. Then that leaves **the presentation of Christ**. He's presented to you. He's presented to me. How are we going to deal with it? What must I do? The question is always, "What will you do with Jesus?" You crown Him or you crucify Him. You believe Him or you disbelieve Him. You accept Him or you reject Him. But I'll tell you one thing you cannot be with Jesus, you cannot be neutral. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 12 verse 30, "He that is not with Me is against Me, and he that gathers not with Me scatters abroad." What will you do with Jesus?

Let me tell you the conclusions I have come to as I have studied these Scriptures. Number one, **you can believe the Bible**. No way possible that this tapestry could have been woven without rent or tear. No way possible that this song could've been written in perfect harmony. No way possible that this portrait could've been drawn by many people over different centuries. No way possible that these prophecies could've been fulfilled apart from divine inspiration; you can believe the Bible.

Second thing, **you can trust the Savior**, because the Bible presents Him. Jesus said, "Search the Scriptures, for these are they which testify of Me." Again, because you can trust the Scriptures, you can trust the Savior. And because you trust the Savior, you can trust the Scriptures. And that is not circular argument. These fold into one another, these blend into one another. You see, listen, listen, the same Bible that prophesied His first coming, are you listening, is the same Bible that prophesies His Second Coming. And if I can believe that these Scriptures were so minutely fulfilled in His first coming, why should I not believe that they will be fulfilled when He comes again? Isn't that true? Isn't that true? Now here's the point: the Savior who came the first time as Messiah is the one who's coming the second time as King of kings and Lord of lords. It is the One who has come who is getting me ready for the One who is coming. He is Prophet, Priest, and King.



You may be saying to me, "Adrian, I don't understand it all." Come up here close and let me tell you something, neither do I. And let me tell you something else. I am glad I don't understand it. Now if you studied physics, I think you know this, that no container can contain more than its capacity, isn't that right? No container. Now, if I could understand it, that would mean that God is no greater than the capacity of my intellect, and that God is a God too small for me to trust. I don't understand Him; I know Him, I love Him, and He has been revealed to me in the Word of God and you can trust the Scriptures and you can trust Him that said in Micah 5:2, "A little baby is going to be born in Bethlehem." Isn't that wonderful? Hallelujah, what a Savior! What a book! Isn't Jesus wonderful?

Let's pray together. Father God, I pray that should there be someone here today who's not said, "Yes," to Jesus and received Him as Lord and Savior, Prophet, Priest and King, that today they might receive Him as Prophet; Your Word to them, as Priest; the one who is the perfect sacrifice and who has made the perfect sacrifice for sin, and as King; the only one who has the right to truly rule over us.

And if you've not been saved, why don't you pray this prayer, "Lord Jesus, come into my heart, forgive my sins, save me, Lord Jesus. I receive You by faith as my Lord and Savior. As You were born in Bethlehem, be born in me and may I be born again. Amen."



2941 Kate Bond Road | Memphis TN 38133 | (901) 382-7900