

NOTES

~ *God, the Son* ~

- Old Testament prophets we'll hear from today:
 - **Hosea:** 760 BC (Prophet during the Assyrian rule)
 - **Isaiah:** 740 BC (Prophet during the Assyrian rule)
 - **Micah:** 736 BC (Prophet during the Assyrian rule)
 - **Jeremiah:** 627 BC (Prophet during the Assyrian & Babylonian rule)
 - **Daniel:** 550 BC (Prophet during the Babylonian & Persian rule)
 - **Malachi:** 430 BC (Prophet during the Persian rule)

- Eight prophecies we'll cover today regarding Jesus:
 - His throne will be eternal (Psalms 45:6 and Daniel 2:44).
 - His mother will be a virgin and called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).
 - Born of a woman (Genesis 3:15 and Galatians 4:4-5).
 - Born 483 years after the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25).
 - Born in the town Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
 - Called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1).
 - His birth would be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow (the babies murdered (Jeremiah 31:15)).
 - He would enter the temple (Malachi 3:1).

- Matthew and Luke 1-2 highlight Jesus' birth.

NOTES

Review el-o-heem

Review God the father, son, and Spirit

Beginning to talk about Jesus' sacrifice and why it was needed

Why Jesus Christ as a name

Iesous / Jehoshua

~ *God, the Son* ~

Our God in plurality from the beginning: *el-o-heem* (Genesis 1:1-2 & John 1:1-14).

Different beings labeled as '**god**' (we'll cover each in great detail each week starting with the **father**):

- ✓ **Father**: the *father of spirits* (Hebrews 12:9), the father who gives us the Spirit (**Luke 11:13**), and the **father who forgives** (**Matthew 6:14-15**).
- ✓ **Son**: came to earth and took human form (spirit in body like us) to become the sacrifice for all. He has earned the right to rescue us from judgment. Sits in the kingdom of heaven at the right side of God the *father* (Ephesians 1:19-20)
- ✓ **Spirit**: described as the '*breath of god*', He is currently on earth to guide and instruct those who follow the Christ (John 16:13).

No one's perfect and everyone will sin – miss the 'mark'. Because of this and God's desire to dwell with us, Jesus became the ultimate sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. All we have to do is believe that, act appropriately out of our faith, and repent of sinful behavior to be saved from God's future wrath.

You'll hear references to Jesus: Messiah, the Christ, His Christ, our Christ, and Jesus. Why so many names and titles? It's important to first understand that His name isn't *Jesus Christ*. It isn't as though someone named Jesus was born to Mr. and Mrs. Christ.

The name *Jesus* is actually just a loose translation of the Greek word *Iēsous* for Jehoshua, Jesus' proper Hebrew name. The word *Christ* is a title, not a proper name, which comes from the Greek word *Christos* – anointed one, or Messiah. So, Jesus Christ is a loose translation of Jehoshua the Messiah. Interestingly, the Bible also refers to Jesus as God's Christ (*His Christ*): **[Luke 23:35] & [Acts 4:26]**

Birth foretold by
several ancient
prophets

I think the reference to Jehoshua as God's Christ is appropriately used to label the son of God sent as the Christos – Messiah – to save mankind through His sacrifice and resurrection. His birth was foretold by a number of ancient prophets:

Hosea: 760 BC (Assyrian)

Isaiah: 740 BC (Assyrian)

Micah: 736 BC (Assyrian)

Jeremiah: 627 BC (Assyrian/Babylonian)

Daniel: 550 BC (Babylonian/Persian)

Malachi: 430 BC (Persian)

Now, let's enjoy the Christmas story together as we listen to Scripture pulled from both Matthew and Luke. During the reading, we'll also introduce the Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' birth.

Read these four prophecies:

- His throne will be eternal (Psalms 45:6 and Daniel 2:44).
- His mother will be a virgin and called Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).
 - Born of a woman (Genesis 3:15 and Galatians 4:4-5).
- Born 483 years after the decree to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem (Daniel 9:25).

Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, "Behold, the bondservant of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins."

Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”

When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.”

So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger. When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child. And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. And when the

days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”), and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law, then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word; For my eyes have seen Your salvation, which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples, A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”

When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

Read this one prophecy:

- Born in the town Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ‘YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Read this One Prophecy:

- Called out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1).

Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.” So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”

Read this One Prophecy:

- His birth would be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow (the babies murdered (Jeremiah 31:15)).

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING

FOR HER CHILDREN; AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.”

But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said, “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead.”

So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee, and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast; and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it, but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

Read this One Prophecy:

- He would enter the temple (Malachi 3:1).

When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.” And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's house?” But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart. And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

