The Christmas Story Started with Prophecy

**Experience the power of prophecy concerning Jesus’ birth**

**Monday**

Read Genesis 3:14-15, Romans 16:20; Isaiah 40:3-5, Malachi 4:5-6, Luke 1:14-17

* *Jesus our savior was prophesied about as soon as sin entered the world (over 4000 years before Jesus’ birth). John the Baptist was prophesied about over 700 years before John’s birth.*

**Tuesday**

Read Genesis 12:1-3, Genesis 22:18, John 3:16, 2 Samuel 7:16, Luke 1:31-33, Revelations 11:15

* *Prophesies were given to Abraham over 2000 years before Jesus was born, and to David 970 years before Jesus’ birth.*

**Wednesday**

Read Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6-7, Jeremiah 23:5-6, Matthew 1:1-17, Isaiah 11:1-10, Luke 4:14-22

* *Consider these prophesies and their fulfillment.*

**Thursday**

Read Micah 5:2-4, Luke 2:4-15, Matthew 2:1-6, Psalms 72

* *Consider these prophesies and their fulfillment.*

**Friday**

Read Hosea 3:4-5. Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:13-21, Jeremiah 31:15, Matthew 2:16, Malachi 3:1-6, 1 Corinthians 11:25, Matthew 23:13-34

* *Consider these prophesies and their fulfillment.*

The Christmas Story Started with Prophecy

Genesis 3:14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,

“Cursed are you above all livestock

    and all wild animals!

You will crawl on your belly

    and you will eat dust

    all the days of your life.

15

And I will put enmity

    between you and the woman,

    and between your offspring and hers;

he will crush your head,

    and you will strike his heel.”

Biblical history reveals to the approximate age of creation.

Take a look at our FB post this week summarizing the age of our earth and the universe per the Bible.

From creation to 1 AD was approximately 4150 years.

So other than the fact that we don’t know at what point in Adam’s life he sinned, this prophesy about Jesus was spoken by God about 4000 years before Jesus’ birth.

Romans 16:20 New International Version (NIV)

**20**The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

A prophecy of something that would happened shortly after Jesus’:

**Isaiah 40:3** A voice of one calling:

“In the wilderness prepare

    the way for the Lord;

make straight in the desert

    a highway for our God.

**4**

Every valley shall be raised up,

    every mountain and hill made low;

the rough ground shall become level,

    the rugged places a plain.

**5**

And the glory of the Lord will be revealed,

    and all people will see it together.

For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

Biblical historians are pretty conclusive that Isaiah prophesied between 739 -681 BC

Malachi 4:5-6 New International Version (NIV)

**5**“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. **6**He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

Micah written in 772 BC

Fulfillment:

Luke 1:14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. 16 He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous—to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”

Genesis 12 New International Version (NIV)

The Call of Abram

**12**The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

**2**

“I will make you into a great nation,

    and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,

    and you will be a blessing.

**3**

I will bless those who bless you,

    and whoever curses you I will curse;

and all peoples on earth

    will be blessed through you.”

This story begins around 2091 BC

Over 25 years later, God reiterated the prophecy to Abraham

Genesis 22:18 New International Version (NIV)

**18**and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Fulfillment:

John 3:16 New International Version (NIV)

**16**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

**2 Samuel 7:16**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.’”

This prophecy was given shortly before David’s death in 970 BC

Fulfillment:

Luke 1:**31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**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, **33**and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Revelation 11:15 New International Version (NIV)

**15**The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said:

“The kingdom of the world has become

    the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah,

    and he will reign for ever and ever.”

**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.

written about 735 BC

Luke 1:**31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32**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, **33**and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

**34**“How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

**35**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.

Isaiah 9 New International Version (NIV)

9:6

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.

**7**

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.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty

    will accomplish this.

**Jeremiah 23:5** “The days are coming,” declares the Lord,

    “when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch,

a King who will reign wisely

    and do what is just and right in the land.

**6**

In his days Judah will be saved

    and Israel will live in safety.

This is the name by which he will be called:

    The Lord Our Righteous Savior.

Ministered between 627 BC and 582 BC

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1 New International Version (NIV)

The Genealogy of Jesus the Messiah

**1**This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

**2**Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

**3**Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

**4**Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

**5**Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

**6**and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah’s wife,

**7**Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

**8**Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

**9**Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

**10**Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

**11**and Josiah the father of Jeconiah[c] and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

**12**After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,

Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

**13**Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,

Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

**14**Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

**15**Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

**16**and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

**17**Thus there were fourteen generations in all from Abraham to David, fourteen from David to the exile to Babylon, and fourteen from the exile to the Messiah.

Isaiah 11 New International Version (NIV)

The Branch From Jesse

**11**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;

    from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

**2**

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—

    the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,

    the Spirit of counsel and of might,

    the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

**3**

and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,

    or decide by what he hears with his ears;

**4**

but with righteousness he will judge the needy,

    with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;

    with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

**5**

Righteousness will be his belt

    and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

**6**

The wolf will live with the lamb,

    the leopard will lie down with the goat,

the calf and the lion and the yearling[a] together;

    and a little child will lead them.

**7**

The cow will feed with the bear,

    their young will lie down together,

    and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

**8**

The infant will play near the cobra’s den,

    and the young child will put its hand into the viper’s nest.

**9**

They will neither harm nor destroy

    on all my holy mountain,

for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord

    as the waters cover the sea.

**10**In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious.

Fulfillment:

Luke 4:**14**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. **15**He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

**16**He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18**

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me,

    because he has anointed me

    to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

    and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

**19**

    to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”[f]

**20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21**He began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

**22**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips.

**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.”

3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned

    until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,

and the rest of his brothers return

    to join the Israelites.

**4**

He will stand and shepherd his flock

    in the strength of the Lord,

    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

And they will live securely, for then his greatness

    will reach to the ends of the earth.

Micah written in 772 BC

Luke 2:**4**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.

**11**Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12**This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

**15**When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

Matthew 2 New International Version (NIV)

**2**After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem **2**and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

**3**When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. **4**When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. **5**“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

**6**

“‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,

    are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

for out of you will come a ruler

    who will shepherd my people Israel.

Early Jewish interpreters understood this passage as messianic. The Jerusalem Talmud relates a conversation between a local Arab and a Jewish farmer:

An Arab said to him . . . “Jew, Jew . . . today the Messiah-king was born.” He said to him, “What is his name?” [He replied] “Menachem” [comforter] . . . [The Jew asked] “Where is he from?” He said to him, “From the royal capital of Bethlehem in Judea.” (y. Berachot 2:3)

Hosea 3:**4**For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. **5**Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the Lord their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the Lord and to his blessings in the last days.

755-715BC

Hosea 11:1 New International Version (NIV)

God’s Love for Israel

**11**

“When Israel was a child, I loved him,

    and out of Egypt I called my son.

Fulfillment:

Matthew 2:**13**When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared 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.”

**14**So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, **15**where he stayed until the death of Herod.

**19**After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt **20**and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child’s life are dead.”

**21**So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel.

**Jeremiah 31:15**This is what the Lord says:

“A voice is heard in Ramah,

    mourning and great weeping,

Rachel weeping for her children

    and refusing to be comforted,

    because they are no more.”

Ministered between 627 BC and 582 BC

Fulfillment:

Matthew 2:**16**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.

**Psalms 72**

Possibly written about 1015 BC

Malachi 3 New International Version (NIV)

**3**“I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Fulfillment:

1 Corinthians 11:25 New International Version (NIV)

**25**In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

**2**But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner’s fire or a launderer’s soap. **3**He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; he will purify the Levites and refine them like gold and silver. Then the Lord will have men who will bring offerings in righteousness, **4**and the offerings of Judah and Jerusalem will be acceptable to the Lord, as in days gone by, as in former years.

Malachi prophesied around 445 BC.

Fulfillment:

Matthew 23:**13**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces. You yourselves do not enter, nor will you let those enter who are trying to…

**15**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

**16**“Woe to you, blind guides! ,,,,

**23**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of your spices—mint, dill and cumin. But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy and faithfulness. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former. **…..**

**25**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You clean the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of greed and self-indulgence. **26**Blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and dish, and then the outside also will be clean.

**27**“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You are like whitewashed tombs, which look beautiful on the outside but on the inside are full of the bones of the dead and everything unclean. **28**In the same way, on the outside you appear to people as righteous but on the inside you are full of hypocrisy and wickedness….

**33**“You snakes! You brood of vipers! How will you escape being condemned to hell? **34**Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town.

Jesus was prophesied about and he was the fulfillment in every case.

What sets apart Christianity from every other religion?

What sets Jesus, the Son of God, apart from every other prophet or leader this world has ever know?

Prophecy.

2 Peter 1:21 New International Version (NIV)

**21**For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Charles Russell, founder of the Jehovah’s Witnesses was never prophesied about in scripture.

Mary Baker Eddy, founder of the Christian Science movement was never prophesied about in scripture.

Joseph Smith, founder of the Church of the Latter Day Saints was never prophesied about in scripture.

Gerald Gardner, who propagated what we now know as Wicca was never prophesied about in scripture.

Gautama Buddha, founder of Buddhism and Zen was never prophesied about in scripture.

Muhammad, founder of Islam was never prophesied about in scripture.

Only, Jesus, the Messiah, the Son of God was prophesied about in Scripture.