

# CITYWEST CHURCH

## CHRISTMAS DAY 2025

### 9:30 AM PROMISE MADE, PROMISE KEPT.

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.

#### **Micah 5:2 (NLT)**

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. 2 (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. 4 And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. 5 He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

6 And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. 7 She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them.

#### **Luke 1:1-7 (NLT)**

### **Christmas Is Not an Idea; It's a Fulfillment**

*Christmas Day is not simply the celebration of a beautiful story.  
It is the celebration of a **kept promise**.*

*The birth of Jesus is not God reacting to the world's brokenness.  
It is God **fulfilling what He had already spoken**—over centuries, through prophets, poetry, and promise.*

*Paul writes:*

Remember that Christ came as a servant to the Jews<sup>[a]</sup> to show that God is true to the promises he made to their ancestors.

## **Romans 15:8 (NLT)**

*Christmas is the moment where hope moves from prediction to person.*

## **1. God Promised a Saviour — Long Before the Stable**

*From the very beginning, God promised rescue.*

- In **Genesis 3:15**, God speaks of a future one who would crush the serpent.
- Through the prophets, the promise becomes clearer:
  - **Isaiah 9:6** — a child who would rule with peace.
  - **Micah 5:2** — born in Bethlehem.
  - **Isaiah 7:14** — born of a virgin.

*By the time we reach Luke 2, Israel has been waiting **hundreds of years** for these promises to come true.*

*Christmas reminds us:*

**God is never late — He is faithful.**

## **2. The Statistics of Fulfillment — This Is Not Coincidence**

*Scholars estimate there are over 300 Old Testament prophecies that find fulfilment in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.*

*Even focusing only on His birth and early life:*

- Born in **Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2)
- Born of a **virgin** (Isaiah 7:14)
- From the **line of David** (2 Samuel 7:12–13)

- A **king**, yet humble (Zechariah 9:9)
- A light to the nations (Isaiah 9:2)

*Mathematician Peter Stoner famously calculated that the probability of one person fulfilling just eight specific Messianic prophecies is:*

*1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000*

*That's not luck.*

*That's not chance.*

*That's promise meeting fulfilment.*

*Christmas declares that God keeps His word—even when the wait is long.*

### **3. The Promise Arrives — Not in Power, but in Humility**

*When the promise finally arrives, it does not look like people expected.*

*No palace.*

*No army.*

*No announcement to kings.*

*Instead:*

*A baby, a manger, Shepherds as witnesses*

but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people.

#### **Luke 2:10 (NLT)**

*God’s greatest promise enters the world quietly—but powerfully.*

**N. T. Wright** writes:

*“The birth of Jesus is the moment when the long story of Israel reaches its climax — and the rescue of the world begins.”*

## **4. A Fulfilled Promise Means God Can Be Trusted Now**

*The birth of Jesus tells us something deeply personal:*

*If God kept His promises then,  
He can be trusted with our lives now.*

*The same God who fulfilled centuries-old prophecies:*

*Sees your waiting*

*Knows your uncertainty*

*Is faithful in your unanswered prayers*

*Christmas is not just about what God did. It's about what God will still do.*

## **The Promise Has a Name**

*The promise of peace has a name.*

*The promise of salvation has a face.*

*The promise of God-with-us has arrived.*

**"For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ with a resounding 'Yes!'"**

### **2 Corinthians 1:20**

*This Christmas Day, we celebrate more than a birth.*

*We celebrate a God who keeps His promises.*

*A Saviour who stepped into history.*

*And a hope that will never fail.*

***The promise is fulfilled.***

***And His name is Jesus.***