

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[a] 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.