

The Prophecies of the Birth of Jesus

Teaching given by Peter Warren at FGPC, December 2014

1. The Seed of Woman and the Virgin Birth

In this study series I am going to take you through some of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus.

First we must appreciate what we mean by prophecy – often understood to be a prediction, but this is not necessarily the case. As we look at the prophecies concerning Jesus many will contain some prediction others do not. This is because the word *prophecy* (Hebrew *naba*) literally means '*to speak forth by divine inspiration (of God)*' therefore a prophecy is something uttered that comes from God, this may or may not include a predictive word.

OT people that spoke of the coming of Jesus include:

- Prophets – Isaiah, Samuel, Jeremiah, Daniel, Haggai, Micah, Nathan, Hosea
- Patriarchs – Jacob, Moses
- Kings – David

As we go through some of these prophecies we are going to look at both the prophetic utterance and the fulfilment.

“As the Power of the Highest overshadowed Mary, since the 'Holy Thing' to be born of her was to be Son of God, we dare not enter the meditation before us without seeking the same divine overshadowing in order to understand the unique work of the Spirit within her. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, who is the Power of the Highest, and who as such made the womb of Mary His workshop, we cannot understand the truth of the incarnation of Christ, of which Paul wrote, 'Great is the mystery of godliness – God manifest in the flesh’”

*Dr. Herbert W. Lockyer (1886-1984),
“All The Messianic Prophecies of the Bible”, chapter 4, first paragraph.*

To begin our study we are going to look at the very first prophetic word spoken concerning the coming of Jesus. This was not spoken by any man but by God Himself, and sets in order the process by which God uses to get Jesus into the earth – **the spoken word**. We see this process clearly demonstrated in John 1.14, “*and the word became flesh and dwelt among us...*” and this thought must be the base of our understanding the whole issue concerning the birth of Jesus. So keep this thought in your heart and with the help of the Holy Spirit to give the revelation, let us turn to the Bible prophecies about Jesus.

A. The Seed of the Woman

Genesis 3.15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

This was spoken by God Himself to that 'old serpent, the devil'

- He was the first to learn of the Deliverer that would come and destroy his works.
- To him was given the initial promise and prophecy of redemption from sin that he had just introduced to God's perfect creation.
- From this point on, God speaks forth His word that Jesus was to come. Through the mouths of prophets, priests and kings until the time came that "[the Seed should come](#)" (Galatians 3.19)

Prophecy #1 - "The woman.. and her Seed" (Genesis 3.15)

Fulfilment:

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, [she was found with child of the Holy Spirit](#)"

Matthew 1.18

"What purpose then *does* the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, [till the Seed should come](#) to whom the promise was made...." Galatians 3.19

"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, [born of a woman, born under the law](#)" Galatians 4.4

God used this same terminology to Abraham (Genesis 12.7, "[And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land...](#)") which the Holy Spirit translates for us in Galatians 3.16 and tells us that the Seed is Christ.

"Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "AND TO YOUR SEED," [who is Christ](#)"

Galatians 3.16

And again to David (2 Samuel 7.12-14)

"When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son."

The Holy Spirit again tells us that Jesus is the Seed of David in Romans 1.2-4, "[which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.](#)"

Luke 1.30-33

"Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, [you will conceive in your womb](#) and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and [will be called the Son of the Highest](#); and the Lord God will give Him [the throne of His father David](#). And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and [of His kingdom there will be no end.](#)"

B. A Virgin Shall Conceive

Isaiah 7.14

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

The phrase we have just been considering, 'her Seed' is not found anywhere else in the Bible. as we have just seen all other references are to 'the seed' – there are over 100 of them, and they are all used in reference to man - the seed of man. 'Her seed' is a direct reference to a virgin birth.

Jesus was born without the sin nature of Adam, he had to be to pay the price of sin – thus the virgin birth was necessary.

Biologically, the seed comes from the man, the father of the child.

- The genetic 'sin nature' from Adam is passed on through the man not the woman, this is why it was not passed on to Jesus, he had no human father.
- Since the sin nature does not come through the female chromosomes, God did not have to make Mary sinless first (immaculate conception). His sinlessness was not dependent on Mary, she didn't need to be preserved from sin or made sinless before she conceived Him.
 - For Mary to be without sin then her parents needed to be without sin and then their parents and so on down the line.
 - To insist that Mary is without sin, is to deny the virgin conception, which was the supernatural means God chose to keep Jesus sinless.
- Mary conceived Jesus, the same way we received Him as Saviour – she heard the word and believed
 - In His explanation of the parable of the Sower, Jesus identified the seed as the word of God.
 - Mary's statement of faith in Luke 1.38 **“Behold the maidservant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word”** shows us that she received and believed the word – the seed that was sown in good ground.
 - And as we saw earlier John 1.14 says **“and the word became flesh”** - the seed produced and bore fruit – it physically took on human form.
 - This is the same process that was used in creation – God spoke the word and the Holy Spirit took the word and formed the things we see **“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible”** (Hebrews 11.3)

Whenever the birth of Jesus (the Christ/Messiah) is spoken of in prophecy, reference is made to His mother or to the womb, but never to a human father, which of course He did not have.

“Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name” Isaiah 49.1

“And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant...”
Isaiah 49.5

“But You are He who took Me out of the womb...” Psalm 22.9

“Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth...” Micah 5.3

Prophecy #2 - "a virgin shall conceive" (Isaiah 7.14)

Fulfilment:

"And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS... Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*" Luke 1.31,34-35

"Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit... So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us." Matthew 1.18,22-23

2. The Time and Place of Jesus' Birth

A. The Timing of Jesus' Birth

Genesis 49.10

"The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people."

In this lesson we are going to look at the prophecies concerning the time and place of the Lord's birth. I'm not an expert in genealogy but my father has done considerable work on our family tree. I have a birth certificate which gives the date and place of my birth. One thing I have learnt from his work is that in tracing ancestry and to obtain such certificates, it used to be essential to visit the place of a persons birth to access the birth and death registries – this has been done away with to some degree with the advent of technology and the internet.

I think it is generally accepted that 25 December was not the actual date of Jesus' birth, I tend to hold to the view that it was more likely to correspond with one of the major Jewish feasts quite possibly around October time. But the purpose of this study is not to determine or present a date for the birth of Jesus but rather look at the timing of it in relation to God's prophetic timetable for the plan of redemption.

Prophecy #3 - "**The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes..**" (Genesis 49.10)

Shiloh, a designation given to Messiah. Shiloh means peace/tranquility

"I see Him, but *not now*; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; A Sceptre shall rise out of Israel..." (Numbers 24.17)

Fulfilment:

“And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered... And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn... For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.” (Luke 2. 1, 7, 11)

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” (Galatians 4.4)

All the prophecies relating to Christ were accurate, and they were exact in every detail – all specifications of His ancestry and the manner and time of His birth came to pass as predicted.

Paul reminds us that 'when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman' – Jesus birth was not a day before 'the time', not a day after but precisely on the hour of God's prophetic timetable.

At the time when Jesus was to be born, Mary was living in the wrong place, the wrong town, not even in the correct district if Jesus was to be born in Bethlehem of Judea – as she drew near to giving birth, the Roman Emperor issued a decree that every person in the Roman Empire had to be registered, this necessitated a journey back to each man's ancestral home.

British archaeologist and Bible scholar, William Ramsey, found in 1923 an inscription in a Roman temple in Turkey stating that in the reign of Ceasar Augustus there were three great tax collections. The second of these was decreed four years before the birth of Christ. The Jewish people resented this and sent a commission to Rome to protest as the local governor Quirinius, did not have authority to settle the problem. These were days of slow communications and slower travel. The protest failed and the Jews had to submit to this registration and taxation. By the time the official tax collectors had worked their way eastwards town by town, and the delays caused by the protests, sufficient time would have elapsed by the time the enrolment was put in force in Judea to be the exact time for Mary to give birth.

See how God works to bring His prophetic Word to fulfillment.

Dr F J Meldau writes in *Messiah in Both Testaments*

“Neither Mary, nor Caesar, nor the Roman tax collectors did the timing, nor were they in charge of affairs, but the God who rules the world behind the scenes had his hand on the wheel, and He literally 'moved the peoples of the world' and timed everything to the very day, so that Mary and Joseph got to Bethlehem in the nick of time, that Jesus, the chosen Messiah, might be born [*at the right time*] in the right place, the place designated by the infallible finger of prophecy.”
(parentheses mine)

Prophecy #4 Malachi also prophesies:

“Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the LORD of hosts”
(Malachi 3.1)

Here he says that the Lord will come to His Temple – Jesus had to appear in the timing of things while the Temple was still standing – this was destroyed in AD70 when Titus ransacked the city of Jerusalem.

Again we read in Daniel:

“Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks... And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself” (Daniel 9.25-26)

Fulfilment:

“Then Jesus went into the temple of God and drove out all those who bought and sold in the temple, and overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who sold doves.... Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them. But when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that He did, and the children crying out in the temple and saying, "Hosanna to the Son of David!" ...” (Matthew 21. 12, 14-15)

The Messiah had to come 483 years after a specific date given in Daniel's time – a prophecy given by the prophet almost 500 years before Jesus came to the temple. Therefore His public entry into the Temple in Jerusalem was pre-arranged and perfectly fulfilled. His movements matched the blueprint of prophecy. Daniel records in his timetable of the Messiah that He would be 'cut off' or killed before the destruction of the Temple, which took place approx thirty-five years after the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus.

B. The Place of His Birth

Micah 5.2-3

““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.” Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labour has given birth...”

We have just been considering the preciseness of the timing of the birth of Jesus. Just as precise is the place of His birth. We mentioned earlier that Mary was in the wrong place as the time drew near for her to give birth. So God had to move her to be in the correct place at the right time to fulfil the prophetic timetable.

Prophecy #5 - ““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.” Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labour has given birth...” (Micah 5.2-3)

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots” (Isaiah 11.1)

Fulfilment:

“Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem” (Matthew 2.1, see also verses 5-6)

“Others said, "This is the Christ." But some said, "Will the Christ come out of Galilee? Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the seed of David and from the town of Bethlehem, where David was?" ” (John 7.41-42)

The Rod. Isaiah prophesied that a rod would grow from the stem of Jesse. Jesse was from Bethlehem, he was the father of David. Out of Jesse's family would come One who would be great, a ruler - the staff was a sign of a ruler and leader. But here the word is used to denote something small, like a twig. Messiah would rise from small and humble family but would be called great.

“Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.” (Luke 1.30-33)

The Branch. The Branch is another designation for the Messiah. The Hebrew word *netzer* translated here as branch is also the same word used for the 'city of trees' – Nazareth. This prophecy also states then that Jesus would be called a Nazarene.

“And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene.” (Matthew 3.23)

Prophecy #6 - “When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son” (Hosea 11.1)

“Nevertheless the gloom *will not be* upon her who *is* distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed *her*, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined” (Isaiah 9.1-2)

Fulfilment:

“Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him." When he awoke, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” (Matthew 2.13-15)

“Now when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, take the young Child and His mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the young Child's life are dead." Then he awoke, took the young Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea instead of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And being warned by God in a dream, he turned aside into the region of Galilee.

And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene." (Matthew 2.19-23)

3. The Names, Titles and Designations Given to Him in Prophecy and at His Birth: [part 1]

Names are important, perhaps not so much today as they used to be. Parents choose names for their children based on a number of factors

- after a family member e.g. a grandfather
- after some influential person in their life
- some may just choose a name from a book
- or name them after a celebrity
- or maybe after a place that is special to them

Whatever our reasons for choosing a name for a child, the majority of people do not really give any thought to the meaning of name. All names have a meaning, and it is particularly important when looking at the people in the Bible to know the meaning of their name.

Great importance was placed on giving a child their name as in most cases the name of the person defines their character (e.g. look at the life of Jacob, whose name means supplanter or deceiver). We see the struggles and pressures that some had in naming their child as in the case of Zacharias and Elisabeth (Luke 1.59-64). In some cases like Jacob, Abram and Simon, God had to change their names.

Certain names and designations were attributed to Jesus in the prophecies and these are important for our study as we learn who He is and what His birth means for us and the world to whom He was given.

A. JESUS

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins" Matthew 1.21

Prophecy #7 - This prophetic word spoken to Joseph gives Him the name **JESUS**. Jesus is the personal name of Him who was born of a virgin and is the most often used name for Him in the New Testament. His name is found in the first and last verses of the New Testament (Matthew 1.1; Revelation 22.21).

Jesus is the Greek form of the name Joshua and means 'Saviour, salvation of God'. This name is important as it reveals to us one of the prime reasons for Jesus' birth – to save His people from their sins (and satan, death, hell, law, wrath to come etc)

Salvation is not *something*, it is Someone – Jesus was born a Saviour (Luke 2.11) – this is the fulfilment of the prophecy.

It may surprise you to find out that Jesus is all over the Old Testament. Arthur E Glass in his work "*Yeshua in the Tanakh*" (*Jesus in the Old Testament*) says that almost every time the Old Testament uses the word salvation, particularly when used with the Hebrew suffix meaning 'my', 'thy', 'your' or 'his' it is identically the same word as *yeshuah* or Joshua (the Hebrew variation of the name Jesus).

Let us take a look at some of these verses:

“I have waited for your salvation [yeshuah], O LORD!” Genesis 49.18

“Oh, that the salvation [yeshuah] of Israel would come out of Zion! When God brings back the captivity of His people, Let Jacob rejoice *and* Israel be glad.” Psalm 53.6

“Remember me, O LORD, with the favour *You have toward* Your people. Oh, visit me with Your salvation [yeshuah],” Psalm 106.4

“Thus says the LORD: “Keep justice, and do righteousness, For My salvation [yeshuah] is about to come, And My righteousness to be revealed” Isaiah 56.1

“Behold, God *is my salvation [yeshuah]*, I will trust and not be afraid; 'For YAH, the LORD, *is my strength and song*; He also has become my salvation [yeshuah]. Therefore with joy you will draw water From the wells of salvation [yeshuah]” Isaiah 12.2-3

B. CHRIST

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” Luke 2.11

Prophecy #8 - The angel of the Lord gave this message to the shepherds in the fields that the One called the Christ was born. **CHRIST** is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew title Messiah, these titles mean 'anointed, anointing' and when used in reference to Jesus they are translated as 'Anointed One'

“The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed..” Psalm 2.2

It was Messiah/Christ that was eagerly anticipated by all godly Jews. He was the one that was expected to 'redeem Israel' from the yoke and bondage of Roman oppression that the two disciples on the road to Emmaus were discussing (Luke 24.21). Messiah/Christ was the One who would 'tell us all things' (John 4.25), the Jews expected the Messiah to be a prophet like Moses who would teach them the ways of God (Deuteronomy 18.15, Isaiah 2.3).

“Your throne, O God, *is forever and ever*; A sceptre of righteousness *is the sceptre of Your kingdom*. You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions” Psalm 45.6-7

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is upon Me*, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to *those who are bound*; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.” Isaiah 61.1-3

Jesus Himself quoted this prophecy in His message in Nazareth when he exclaimed that the prophecy was being fulfilled that very day in their hearing (Luke 4.18-19)

“Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest *who* shall do according to what *is* in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My anointed forever.” 1 Samuel 2.35

“O LORD God, do not turn away the face of Your Anointed; Remember the mercies of Your servant David” 2 Chronicles 6.42

“There I will make the horn of David grow; I will prepare a lamp for My Anointed.” Psalm 132.17

The lamp that was prophesied of in this verse is a reference to John the Baptist, who was the forerunner of Christ / Messiah. He was sent by God to be the witness to Jesus the Christ - the Light - John 1.6-9.

“You went forth for the salvation of Your people, For salvation with Your Anointed. You struck the head from the house of the wicked, By laying bare from foundation to neck” Habakkuk 3.13

C. LORD

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” Luke 2.11

Prophecy #9 - The angel also announced that the **Lord** was born. He has the triad designation Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 22.21). Apart from the personal name Jesus, this is the most frequently used designation given to Him. This title denotes authority, dominion and deity, and is equivalent to Jehovah in the Old Testament.

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You *are* My Son, Today I have begotten You” Psalm 2.7

“The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”” Psalm 110.1

Peter quotes this verse in his Pentecost sermon and then goes on to say:

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” Acts 2.36

By calling Him Lord, we are as an act of worship surrendering our whole to Him. We receive Him as Saviour, but we make Him our Lord.

The great missionary to China and founder of China Inland Mission, Hudson Taylor, once said: **“If He is not Lord of all, He is not Lord at all”**.

We are truly blessed when we acknowledge Him as Peter did – Lord Jesus Christ. Giving Him all that we are and all that we have – our hearts, lives and possessions.

4. The Names, Titles and Designations Given to Him in Prophecy and at His Birth: [part 2]

In the last session we began looking at the certain names and designations which were attributed to Jesus in the prophecies and these are important for our study as we learn who He is and what His birth means for us and the world to whom He was given.

We have already studied, although very briefly, the name of **JESUS**, and the titles **CHRIST/MESSIAH** and **LORD**. Let us continue:

D. EMMANUEL

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel” Isaiah 7.14

Prophecy #10 - What a name! This was not just any other name. It was not to be used in an ordinary way to address Him. Rather it was a name that revealed His character and His contact with men. **Emmanuel** – God with us

“So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: “BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which is translated, “God with us.””
Matthew 1.22-23

This name speaks to us of His deity and fellowship with men. He is **“God manifest in the flesh”** (1 Timothy 3.16) and He is ever abiding with us in fellowship, **“lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28.20)

Now God doesn't dwell in a tabernacle, cut off from men, but He lives in their hearts by His Spirit – He is truly *with us*. Jesus said of those that received Him **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you”** (John 14.16-17)

and again, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him”** (John 14.23)

The Scripture can be summarised in this threefold way:

In the Old Testament He is – God **for** us

In the Gospels – God **with** us

In the Acts and Epistles – God **in** us

This is a revelation of His character that gives us encouragement, even in the darkest moments of life – though the fiercest storm may rage, He is with us in the vessel, He is Emmanuel.

E. KING

Prophecy #11 -

“Behold, *the days are coming,*” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; **A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgement and righteousness in the earth” Jeremiah 23.5**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East set out in search of Him. They came to Jerusalem with one question burning on their lips:

“Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.” (Matthew 2.2)

- He was not born in the palaces of Herod's court but in an animal shelter.
- He was not laid in a royal crib but a feeding trough
- His throne was His mother's knee, His robe was the swaddling cloths, His courtiers the shepherds

yet, He was more of a King than Herod, for He is King above all the kings of earth.

“And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19.16).

Let us learn from the example of the wise men and bow our knees and worship the King

“For the LORD *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods... Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand” (Psalm 95.3,6-7)

F. GOVERNOR

Prophecy #12 -

“For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.”
Psalm 22.28 (AV)

“He shall be as a governor in Judah” Zechariah 9.7 (AV)

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever...”
Isaiah 9.6-7

While we may be more familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 9 where it speaks of His government. The AV calls Him the 'governor' in Psalm 22 and Zechariah 9.

This word governor means someone that rules, reigns and exercises dominion and authority. It is the Hebrew word *mashal* which is like the English marshal, a high ranking officer in the armed forces.

The Greek counterpart is *hegeomai* which means one who leads or commands; a prince, of regal power. This is shown by Herod's response to the news that the chief priests relayed to him, quoting from the prophets (Micah 5.2)

“And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel” Matthew 2.6 (AV)

His government will not diminish – there will be no end. He is the One who governs righteously, and in love. He did not come on this occasion to conquer with a club and sword, but by the cross and scars. He is coming back again soon to take His rightful place as 'Governor of the nations'

Will we allow Him to rule and reign in our lives?

G. SON

Prophecy #13 -

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...” Isaiah 9.6

This designation speaks to us of a relationship – the Father-Son relationship. The study of this name requires a much deeper look at the Scriptures but as we are concerned with the nativity prophecies we are only going to see what the Gospel writers Matthew and Luke have to say about Him in these passages:

a) Son of Abraham

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ..... the Son of Abraham” Matthew 1.1

“And in you [*Abraham*] all the families of the earth shall be blessed” Genesis 12.3

“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ... Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Galatians 3.14,16 (AV)

In His birth Jesus laid hold of the seed of Abraham, and as his Son, covenant relationship with Israel is implied.

b) Son of David

“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.' ” Psalm 89.3-4

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David...” Matthew 1.1

“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh” Romans 1.3

Kingship and royalty are prominent here – Jesus was born of David's lineage, born in the City of David, of David's genealogy. He became successor and heir of all the promises made to David (see Luke 1.32; Luke 2.4)

c) The Firstborn Son

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son...” Isaiah 7.14

“and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS” Matthew 1.25

Jesus was Mary's firstborn Son – He opened the womb and this gave Him the rights and privileges of the birthright by the Law, He was inheritor of the blessing. The firstborn was set apart and consecrated for the Lord.

“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine.” Exodus 13.2

d) My Son

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You” Psalm 2.7

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest...” Luke 1.31-32

“and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” ” Matthew 2.15 (Hosea 11.1)

When God gave Jesus, His only begotten Son (John 3.16) He emptied Heaven of the very best for the very worst of earth. God declares that Jesus is ‘*My Son*’ and on a couple of occasions in Jesus’ ministry on earth this same declaration was pronounced:

- at His baptism - Matthew 3.17
- on the Mount of Transfiguration - Matthew 17.5

He is the Son of God.

H. NAZARENE

Prophecy #14 -

“**And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.”** Matthew 2.23

We spent a brief time on this when we were looking at the places mentioned in prophecy concerning Jesus birth. (see Section 2 B, prophecy #5)

None of the prophets actually gave Him the literal name ‘Nazarene’ although His contemporaries and peers did. However the name agrees with what the prophets foretold about His character.

“saying, “Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”” Mark 1.24

“But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him” Mark 16.6

“Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS” John 19.19

The designation *Nazarene* is very similar to *Nazirite*, although there is a distinction between the two.

a) Nazirite – The Nazirite vow involved complete consecration, separation and dedication to God as prescribed in Numbers 6.2-21. Jesus was consecrated to God as the firstborn Son, as we have already seen, but there is no evidence in Scripture that He took the Nazirite vow, even though by His life He lived the spirit of it, a life totally consecrated to His Father – John the Baptist probably took the vow as his lifestyle was similar to that of a Nazirite (Luke 7.33); and Paul did (Acts 18.18, Acts 21.23-26).

b) Nazarene – The reference here is to one that comes from Nazareth. Jesus is often given the title *Jesus of Nazareth*, as this is where he lived and was brought up.

There are two understanding of the origins of the word -

1. **netzer** – meaning tree or branch. Nazareth was a place of trees. There is a prophecy in Isaiah 11.1 '[There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots](#)'. This prophecy states that a *netzer* would grow out of Jesse's roots and has been said that it refers to an inhabitant of Nazareth.
2. **natzri** – meaning pain. This could be a reference to the Messiah as a 'sufferer of pain' which the prophet portrays in Isaiah 53. Nazareth also had the unfortunate reputation of being a place of no good, or pain. This is illustrated by Nathanael's question in John 1.46 "[Can anything good come out of Nazareth?](#)"

Yet in Jesus we see all those things – a person of no reputation, who submitted Himself to the pain and agony of the death of the cross (Philippians 2.7-8)

I. WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE

Prophecy #15 -

[“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”](#) Isaiah 9.6

Although many, myself included, have broken these 'names' down and looked at each one individually, we actually see that the verse in Scripture says 'his name' not his names. It is almost as if the five he gives are just various facets of the one name, rather like a diamond or precious cut stone. It is one stone but when cut or honed has many facets or sides, all which show the stone in a fresh light. Let us look at each of these 'facets' of his name:

a) Wonderful

[“O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth”](#) Isaiah 25.1

The word translated here and in the prophecy above as 'wonderful' literally means miracle or miraculous, marvellous.

Jesus came and was known as the miracle-worker. Everywhere He went He performed wonderful miracles, miraculous works.

[“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst,”](#) Acts 2.22

[“By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus”](#) Acts 4.30 (AV)

Not only was He wonderful in deed but also in His teaching, His character and His life – He truly is Wonderful.

b) Counsellor

A counsellor is an advisor, someone who imparts wisdom. Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would be the Wisdom of God, the Counsellor.

The Psalmist declared that the words of God, His testimonies, were his counsellor.
“[Your testimonies also are my delight And my counselors](#)” Psalm 119. 24

Solomon personified wisdom in his writings, but Jesus truly was the personification of wisdom.

“[...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God](#)” 1 Corinthians 1.24

The psalmist pronounced that the truly blessed man is the one who does not walk 'in the counsel of the ungodly but delights in the law of the Lord (Psalm 1.1-2). Godly counsel comes from the Word – Jesus.

c) Mighty God

It is interesting to note that the word Isaiah uses here for God is not *Elohim* – rather he uses the name *EI*. Elohim can be used to speak of angels and even human agents but EI is only ever used by Old Testament writers to speak of the One True Living God, Jehovah, the Almighty.

“[Thomas answered Him \[Jesus\] , My Lord and my God!](#)” John 20.28

“[For in Him \[Jesus\] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily](#)” Colossians 2.9

“[And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!"](#) Revelation 19.6

d) Everlasting Father

“[Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God](#)” Psalm 90.2

“[For I am the LORD, I do not change.](#)” Malachi 3.6

He is called the Everlasting or Eternal Father. It can be confusing to speak of Jesus as the Eternal in the light of His birth. His birth only speaks of the time when He stepped out of the eternal realm into our realm of time. But He is eternal, He has always been, we have just seen that He is God.

“[In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth](#)” John 1.1-2, 14

“[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.](#)” Micah 5.2

“[Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."](#)” John 8.58

“The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how *can* You say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this Son of Man?"” John 12.34

“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was* He who said to Him: "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU." As *He* also says in another place: "YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK"” Hebrews 5.5-6 [quoting Psalm 2.7, Psalm 110.4]

“Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13.8

e) Prince of Peace

We have just seen that Jesus is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was known as King of Salem, that is King of Peace (Genesis 14.18; Hebrews 7.1-2). Jesus is Prince of Peace.

The one thing that the world craves and longs for is peace, but unless they find Jesus they will never find it – He is the Prince of Peace.

“And this *One* shall be peace....” Micah 5.5

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you... He shall speak peace to the nations...” Zechariah 9.9-10

When He was born the first message to the shepherds was that God's peace had come to all men.

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord... "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"” Luke 2.11,14

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace....” John 16.33

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...” John 14.27

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near” Ephesians 2.14, 17

Although very brief we have seen what a wonderful study of the facets of His name this is. Foretold in prophecy, fulfilled in His birth. I would urge you to further study these names, designations and titles given to Him and meditate upon them.

A lot of the material included in this study comes from work of Dr Herbert W Lockyer, “*All The Messianic Prophecies of the Bible*” Chapter 4. Published by Zondervan, 1973

“*Messiah in Both Testaments*” by Dr F J Meldau published by Christian Victory Publishing Company, 1967.

“*Yeshua in the Tanakh*” or (*Jesus in the Old Testament*) by Arthur E Glass. <http://www.menorah.org/yeshname.html>

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