

The Christmas Spirit Part 2

Have you ever considered why God chose the mother of His son to have a father on earth?

- **It was to protect Mary and Jesus.**
If Joseph had not claimed Mary as his wife she would have been stoned. Joseph did not believe Mary until God sent a divine messenger to personally announce to him what He was doing. He had already chosen to put her away secretly rather than allow her to be stoned. This reveals the heart of Joseph to protect Mary.

Would you have believed her?

This one situation in the bible will forever be for me a warning to be slow to judge anyone based on circumstantial evidence.

God used Joseph to protect Mary and Jesus on more than one occasion.

- **It was to give Jesus a righteous and just father on earth.**
God used Joseph to give Jesus his earliest profession. All sons should learn to do what their fathers do best.

God used Joseph to lead Jesus to fulfill the Law of Moses. Joseph's commitment to the law is seen by the way he led Mary to fulfill the laws of purification and the dedication after the birth of their new son.

- **It was to give Jesus siblings.** Siblings? The bible says that Jesus was tempted in every way even as we are but without sin. Nothing tests the patient of an older brother or sister like younger siblings. His siblings also became His followers. This helped establish his credibility.
- **It was to fulfill prophecy.** The father of the messiah was to be from the House and Lineage of David.

Matt 1:16-17

16 And Jacob begat Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ.

17 So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David until the carrying away into Babylon are fourteen generations; and from the carrying away into Babylon unto Christ are fourteen generations.

KJV

This fulfills Jeremiah 23:5.

The fulfillment of prophecy was very important to the first disciples of Jesus. They all believed that the law and the prophets promise the coming of a Jewish messiah who would rule the world.

John 1:45

45 Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.

KJV

The gospel of Mathew was written specifically for the Jews. Thru out this gospel Matthew shows how Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled prophecy about the Jewish messiah.

Matt 1:22-23

22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying,

23 Behold, **a virgin** shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

KJV

This fulfilled Isaiah 7:14.

Matt 2:1-6

2:1 Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

3 When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

5 And they said unto him, **In Bethlehem of Judaea:** for thus it is written by the prophet,

6 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.

KJV

This fulfilled Micah 5:2.

Matt 2:13-15

13 And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him.

14 When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt:

15 And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Out of Egypt** have I called my son.

KJV

This fulfilled Hosea 11:1.

Matt 2:16-18

16 Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men.

17 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying,

18 In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning,

Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not.

KJV

This fulfilled Jeremiah 31:15

Matt 4:13-16

13 And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim:

14 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

15 The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond

Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles;**

16 The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

KJV

This fulfilled Isaiah 9:1-2.

Matt 8:16-17

16 When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

KJV

This fulfilled Isaiah 53:4.

Matt 12:15-21

15 But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all;

16 And charged them that they should not make him known:

17 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying,

18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

KJV

This fulfilled Isaiah 42:1-3.

Matt 13:13-14

13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, **By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:**

KJV

This fulfilled Isaiah 6:9-10

Matt 13:34-35

34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

35 That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, **I will open my mouth in parables;** I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

KJV

This fulfilled Psalm 78:2-3.

Matt 21:2-5

2 Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me.

3 And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them; and straightway he will send them.

4 All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying,

5 Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and **sitting upon an ass, and a colt the foal of an ass.**

KJV

This fulfilled Zechariah 9:9.

Matt 26:52-56

52 Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

53 Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?

54 But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?

55 In that same hour said Jesus to the multitudes, Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me.

56 But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. **Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.**

KJV

This fulfilled Zechariah 13:7

Matt 27:9-10

9 Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy the prophet, saying, **And they took the thirty pieces of silver**, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value;

10 And gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord appointed me.

KJV

This fulfilled Zechariah 11:13

Matt 27:35

35 And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.

KJV

This fulfilled Psalm 22:16-18.

For Jesus to be the Jewish messiah....

He had to be born to the right parents.

He had to be born in the right city.

He had to be born at the right time.

He had to be raised in the right places.

He had to have a predecessor who would announce his coming.

He had to have power to perform extraordinary good works.

He had to speak truth in parables.

He had to be rejected by his own people.

He had to make a triumphant entry into Jerusalem on a colt.

He had to be forsaken by all of his disciples.

He had to be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.

He had to be humiliated and executed in a particular way.

These are just some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled about the Jewish messiah.

Every one of them was written at least 400 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

This is why we believe what we believe. The odds of one man fulfilling all the prophecies of the Old Testament about the Jewish messiah are astronomical.

The following probabilities are taken from Peter Stoner in Science Speaks (Moody Press, 1963) to show how the science of probability rules out coincidence. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to just eight prophecies about the Jewish messiah...

"We find that the chance that any man fulfilling a these prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} ." That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000.

In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Stoner illustrates it by supposing that "we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep.

THIS IS WHY WE BELIEVE WHAT WE BELIEVE!

The spirit of Christmas comes from the spirit of faith that the birth and life of Jesus fulfilled the Jewish prophecies in the bible about the coming messiah.

Do you have the spirit of Christmas? Do you believe that Jesus is the son of God who fulfilled the prophecies of the bible?

Have you received Jesus as your personal savior? Can you declare with a clear conscience, "Jesus is Lord!"

Does the way that you live support what you declare?

Faith always changes your conduct!

Faith in Jesus always changes your moral conduct and moral character!

The apostle John said that if you have faith in Jesus you will not continue in sin.

Do you have faith in Jesus? Or have you just said that you do to ease your fears or to impress others? You can deceive others. You cannot deceive Jesus.

Jesus promised that He would fulfill every prophecy about the Jewish messiah. He promised that He would be raised from the dead. He promised that He would leave the world for a time. He promised that He would return to retrieve all of those who believed in Him. He promised He would set up a new world. He said that all those who were His followers would be in this new world. He said that all those who were not would be cast into a place of eternal torment.

This could happen before I finish this message. It could happen before the end of this day. If Jesus returned today, would He say you are one of His followers?