

Dear friends and family,

Merry Christmas!

I know, I know, it's the day before Thanksgiving, but bear with me.

Have you ever stopped to take note of the fact

that the central historical event

in ALL of human history

is *the birth of Christ?*

Not a World War.

Not the rise or fall of an Empire.

Not the eradication of the Black Plague

Nor the tearing down of the Berlin Wall.

Neither the Renaissance

Nor the Reformation.

No birth of any other *would be* prophet, priest, or king.

No.

The central event in all of history

Centers around the birth of a tiny baby

In a musty manger

In a dusty village.

There was no figure who was

More prophesied about,

Sought after,

Adored
Or Worshiped.
Jesus of Nazareth.
God Incarnate.
Immanuel.
The most unique person to ever live.
And today,
Seated at the right hand of the Father on high.
And one day,
He will come again,
Having redeemed his people.
With trumpets of glory.
And hosts of angels.
To claim us all as His bride!

Pastor's Point of View

The big question: **What important prophecies did Jesus fulfill during His life on Earth?**

Day 1 - READ Psalm 16:7-11

1. Who is David referring to in verse 10 as the Holy One (Acts 2:30-31)?
2. To say that He will not undergo decay, what is David saying about the Holy One?
3. In contrast, what does David say is in store of himself (including you and I) because the Holy One will not see decay?

Day 2 - READ 2 Samuel 7:8-17

1. This passage is called the Davidic Covenant. Here God decrees that from David will arise one who will have his kingdom established forever.

2. Notice immediately verse 14. “When he commits iniquity”. Jesus never sinned, so how could this prophecy be about Him?
3. Read 1 Kings 11:34. From David came a long line of descendants, which would eventually lead to the Messiah. However, not all of them followed after God and they committed iniquity. In 1 Kings, we see God’s correction by the rods of men. God used other kingdoms to divide Israel.
4. God would eventually use Jesus to set up His eternal kingdom (Matthew 2:2-6).
5. Considering the Magi, how did they know to be looking for a star? And what would that star would indicate? Read Numbers 24:17.

Day 3 - READ Psalm 118

1. The longest chapter of the Bible is Psalm 119 and the shortest chapter is Psalm 117. Right between them lies the exact middle of the scriptures, Psalm 118.
2. Psalm 118 is entirely about Christ and God’s provision for our salvation, look at verse 15.
3. Throughout this passage we are told to give thanks to the Lord for His “lovingkindness is everlasting”. The word lovingkindness is the Hebrew word *hessed*.
4. *Hessed*, in Jewish language and culture means the idea of lovingkindness, especially shown to the “unworthy” of society. It is most notable in the story of Ruth. The entire book of Ruth depicts the character trait of *hessed*.
5. Much more could be said about this subject. However, in this context, the coming of Christ was the ultimate act of *hessed*, a loving act of kindness shown to us, those who were unworthy of it.

Day 4 - READ Isaiah 7:14 and Matthew 1:33

1. Perhaps the most famous and most important prophecy of the Messiah is that He would be born of a virgin.
2. Why do you believe this was such an important aspect of the coming of Christ?

Many scholars will attempt to compromise Scripture for the sake of science at the thought of a virgin birth. These scholars propose that because medical science does not allow for a virgin to conceive, then the language in Isaiah 7:14 *must* mean *young girl*, not necessarily virgin. They retranslate Scripture to fit into the human medical scope of possibility.

But with a quick overview of Scripture, we see that throughout all of time, God continually does the impossible. He continually reaches beyond what might be medically possible and does the exact opposite. What begins in Genesis continues throughout Revelation. From Abraham and Sarah and the birth of an impossible son at 100 years of age, to the raising of a very 3-day-dead Lazarus, Scripture, from cover to cover, reveals that our God is a God not limited to the rules of

this world. A virgin birth, is exactly a God sized miracle, and the reason all of history celebrates each year. May we remember this as we enter this Christmas season.

Happy Thanksgiving, we have much to be thankful for!

I pray you know the God who saves, the God with us, the God of the impossible.

Immanuel, God with us!

Grace be with you!

Pastor Matt

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*Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us **RUN** with endurance the race that is set before us -- Hebrews 12:1*