

# Stories of Christmas

## Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecies

Matthew

### Opening

Gathering: How often do predictions you make come true?

Today's Focus: In His love for His people, God gave prophecies that pointed to the Messiah He would send to save the world, and then He ensured that this Messiah – Jesus Christ – fulfilled all of these prophecies to the finest detail.

Key Verses: *You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.* Matthew 16:16

*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.* John 20:31

Opening Prayer

### Lesson

Messiah (*Daniel 9:25-26*)

What name did the Jews use for the Savior that God promised to send?

Daniel 9:25-26 = Messiah – Hebrew for *Anointed One* – KJV uses *Messiah* in these verses

Notes: The seven sevens (49 years) are taken to be the restoration during Ezra and Nehemiah

The sixty-two sevens (434 years) then bring us to the time of Jesus' ministry

Jerusalem was destroyed by the Romans in 70 AD = A few decades after Jesus' death

Was this title still used in Jesus' time?

John 1:41, 45 = Yes – *Christ* is Greek for *Anointed One*

Was this title unique to the Jews or did others know it also?

John 4:7, 25-26 = The Samaritan woman used it and looked for the coming of the Messiah

The Anointed One

Was the title *Anointed One* used only for the promised Savior?

Psalms 105:15 = No, prophets were also considered to be anointed ones (messiahs)

Was *Anointed One* used for anyone else?

Leviticus 6:22 = Priests – *anointed priest* is *priest messiah* in Hebrew

What other servant of God was considered to be an *anointed one*?

1 Samuel 24:6-7 = Kings - Hebrew here is *messiah of Yahweh*

Prophet, Priest and King (*Hebrews*)

How did the view of prophets as anointed ones point to The Anointed One?

Luke 7:16-17 = Jesus is the greatest prophet

How did the view of priests as anointed ones point to The Anointed One?

Hebrews 8:1, 6 = Jesus is the greatest high priest

How did the view of kings as anointed ones point to The Anointed One?

Revelation 17:14; 19:16 = Jesus is King of kings

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Page 2

### The Greater Messiah

How did David point out that the Messiah would be greater than all other messiahs?

Psalm 45:7 = God anointed Him above His companions

How would the Messiah be anointed in a greater manner than all other messiahs?

Isaiah 42:1 = God would anoint Him with His Holy Spirit

How was Jesus anointed?

Luke 3:21-22 = The Holy Spirit descended on Him at His baptism

Did Jesus do anything to make sure that people recognized this fulfillment of prophecy?

Luke 4:17-21 (Isaiah 61:1-2) = He read a Messianic Prophecy and said that He fulfilled it

### Messianic Prophecies

Few scholars agree on the number of Messianic Prophecies in the Old Testament

Edersheim found 456 passages that were considered messianic in ancient Jewish literature

Payne listed 127 predictions of the Messiah in 3348 verses

Smith described 73 clear Messianic prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus

Charles: *Prophecy is a declaration, a foretelling, of the will of God – not a foretelling.*

Is prediction an important component of prophecy? = Prophecies by God's selected show God's will

Deuteronomy 18:21-22 = Fulfilled predictions showed God's selection

### Principles for Identifying Messianic Prophecies \*

Context = The context of the prophecy indicates that it can only apply to the Messiah

Psalm 2:2, 4 = The Messiah in v2 is enthroned in heaven in v4 and v6

Jewish = Pre-Christian Jews recognized the prophecy as Messianic (not influenced by Christian beliefs)

Numbers 24:17 = A powerful ruler would arise in Israel and crush God's enemies

Analogy = Passages are called Messianic because they are similar to others that are clearly Messianic

Isaiah 33:17 = Seeing the king in his beauty becomes Messianic when viewed with Psalm 45

Transcendence = Description is greater than can be given to anyone other than the Messiah

Psalm 110:1, 4 = Yahweh says to my Lord ... priest forever in the order of Melchizedek

Event = Prophecies are often better recognized after they are fulfilled

Luke 24:25-27 = Jesus revealed prophecies to disciples after He had fulfilled them

Authority = If the Bible or Jesus says it's a prophecy, then it's a prophecy

Mark 14:27 = Jesus said that Zechariah 13:7 was a prophecy

### The Purpose of Messianic Prophecy \*

Prepare the Way = People would recognize the Messiah as He fulfilled the prophecies

John 12:14-16 = Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to fulfill Zechariah 9:9

Prepare Israel for Inclusion of Gentiles = Reminded Jews that the Messiah would save all people

Genesis 12:2-3 = All peoples on earth will be blessed through you

Hope in Time of Crisis = Helped put calamity in context of God's great long-range plan

Jeremiah 33:12, 14-16 (1-26) = This desolate, destroyed place will be restored to glory

Promote True Devotion to God = The uncertain nearness of the coming Messiah called for readiness

Malachi 3:1-2 = Suddenly the Lord will come and require righteousness

Testify to God's Wisdom and Sovereignty = God reveals glimpses into His plan through prophecies

Daniel 7:13-14 = The Messiah would be over all forever under God's perfect plan

Support the Scriptures to be the Word of God = Seeing God at work strengthens our faith

John 5:37-40 = Jesus said that the Scriptures testify to Him and vice-versa

\* adapted from "What the Bible Teaches About the Promised Messiah" by Dr. James Smith

# Stories of Christmas

## Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecies

Page 3

### Matthew (*Matthew 1:1-17*)

- Who was Matthew? = Also called Levi (Mark & Luke) – Named after the patriarch of the priests  
Matthew 9:9-13 = Jewish tax collector called by Jesus to be an apostle  
Jewish tax collectors were despised as traitors for working for the Romans & rampant corruption
- How does Matthew show, from the very beginning, his purpose in writing his gospel?  
Matthew 1:1, 17 = Jesus Christ is the son of David & Abraham – In God's logical timing
- What was the purpose of Matthew's gospel?  
Matthew 16:13-17 = To show Jews that Jesus is the Christ, God's promised Messiah
- How did Matthew emphasize that Jesus was the promised Messiah?  
Matthew 26:56 = He showed how Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies
- What did Matthew do to help people make the connection? = People had limited access to Scriptures  
Matthew 4:13-16 = Quoted the prophecy and pointed out its fulfillment
- Did Matthew feel that Jesus could only be recognized as the Messiah by looking at the prophecies?  
Matthew 27:54 = No, may were reached in other ways, Prophecies gave convincing proof

### The Messiah is Born (*Matthew 1-2*)

- Besides the opening genealogy, how does Matthew first show Jesus as the promised Messiah?  
Matthew 1:22-23 (Isaiah 7:14) = Showed virgin birth as fulfillment of prophecy
- How does Matthew's next fulfilled prophecy highlight the universal calling of the Messiah?  
Matthew 2:1-6 (Micah 5:2) = Foreign scholars (Magi) who recognized Jesus as the Messiah
- How does Matthew's next fulfilled prophecy fit the Event Principle?  
Matthew 2:13-15 (Hosea 11:1) = Fulfillment revealed a prophecy where one wasn't obvious
- What other Event Principle example does Matthew offer in this story? = Rachel buried in Bethlehem  
Matthew 2:16-18 (Jeremiah 31:15) = Mourning for murdered children in Bethlehem
- What prophecy does Matthew next give that we have trouble locating in the Old Testament?  
Matthew 2:23 = *Nazarene* synonymous with *despised* in Jesus day (Psalm 22:6; Isaiah 53:3)  
Note: Some feel *Nazarene* refers to Branch (Hebrew *neser*) in Isaiah 11:1

### Prepare the Way (*Matthew 3*)

- How was John the Baptist's ministry the fulfillment of a Messianic prophecy?  
Matthew 3:1-3 (Isaiah 40:3) = John prepared the way for Jesus as prophesied
- How did Luke shed more light on this fulfillment?  
Luke 1:13, 17 (Malachi 4:6) = Words to Zechariah on John reflected prophesy in last OT words
- What did Zechariah say that showed his recognition of the prophecy of John?  
Luke 1:76 (Malachi 3:1) = Quoted Malachi in praise to God for John's calling as a prophet
- What other prophecy did Zechariah see being fulfilled in John?  
Luke 1:79 (Isaiah 9:1-2) = He would shine God's light to reveal His plan

### Jesus' Ministry (*Matthew 11:2-6*)

- How did Matthew show Jesus' healing ministry as proof of His Messiahship?  
Matthew 8:16-17 (Isaiah 53:4) = Isaiah said that the Messiah would heal
- How did Matthew expand on this in respect to the quiet compassion that Jesus had for those in need?  
Matthew 12:14-21 (Isaiah 42:1-4) = He said that it fulfilled Isaiah's first servant song
- Did Jesus make any connections between His ministry and Messianic prophecies?  
Matthew 11:2-6 (Isaiah 35:5-6; 61:1) = He saw it as very clear proof of who He was

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## Jesus Fulfills Old Testament Prophecies

Page 4

### Jesus' Teachings (*Matthew 13*)

How did Jesus' use of parables fulfill Messianic prophecy?

Matthew 13:34-35 (Psalm 78:2) = The Messiah would speak in parables

Did the inability of many Jews to understand His parables challenge His claim to be the Messiah?

Matthew 13:11-17 (Isaiah 6:9-10) = No, it upheld it by fulfilling prophecy

What other prophecy did Jesus say was being fulfilled by those who opposed Him?

Matthew 15:1-3, 7-9 (Isaiah 29:13) = Their meaningless worship & focus on man-made laws

How was their rejection of God's Promised Messiah a fulfillment of prophecy?

Matthew 21:42-45 (Psalm 118:22-23) = Jesus was the rejected stone chosen as the capstone

### Jesus' Last Week (*Matthew 21*)

What prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus on Palm Sunday?

Matthew 21:4-5, 9, 16 (Zech 9:9; Psalm 118:25-26; 8:2) = Riding donkey & shouts of praise

How did Judas' betrayal of Jesus fulfill a Messianic prophecy?

John 13:10, 18-19 (Psalm 41:9) = David prophesied when he said that a friend betrayed him

How did Judas' response to his betrayal fulfill even more prophecies?

Matthew 27:3-10 (Zech 11:12-13; Jer 19:1-13; 32:6-9) = 30 pieces silver returned to potter

### Jesus' Crucifixion (*Matthew 27*)

What Messianic prophecies were fulfilled while Jesus was on the cross?

Matthew 27:34, 48 (Psalm 69:21) = Offered wine mixed with gall, Drank vinegar

Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24 (Psalm 22:18) = They cast lots for His clothes

Matthew 27:38; Luke 22:37 (Isaiah 53:12) = Counted among criminals

Matthew 27:39-44 (Psalm 22:6-8) = Mocked and insulted

Matthew 27:46 (Psalm 22:1) = Forsaken by God

John 19:31-36 (Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20) = No bones broken

John 19:37 (Zechariah 12:10) = Look on the pierced one

Matthew 27:57-60 (Isaiah 53:9) = Buried with the rich

What is one of the main reasons that God went to the trouble to give us prophecies that Jesus fulfilled?

John 20:31 = *These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*

### Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. xxx  
x
2. xxx  
x
3. xxx  
x
4. xxx  
x
5. xxx  
x

Next Week - *In the Fullness of Time* (Galatians 4:4-5)