

AND THE WORD BECAME FLESH...

Text: Luke 1:26-38; 2:1-20; John 1:14.

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INTRODUCTION.

1. The Bible is silent in regards to a special holiday to celebrate the birth of Jesus.
2. Nevertheless, it is refreshing that, at least once a year, it is politically correct to hear songs about Jesus on the radio.
3. As Christians, we are told to remember His death on a weekly basis in partaking of the Lord's supper.
4. Before He could die for us, He had to be born for us.
5. **John 1:14.** 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.
6. Today, let us notice...
 - a. Old Testament prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus.
 - b. New Testament fulfillment of the Old Testament prophecies.
 - c. The implications of Jesus' birth.

BODY.

I. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

- A. The fact that Jesus was going to become a human was decided before God even created us.
 1. **1 Peter 1:18-20.** Knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, **19** but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. **20** He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you
 2. If such is the case (and it is) then we are not surprised to see predictions about His birth in the Old Testament.
- B. A Virgin Birth.
 1. 1400 B.C. **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."
 - a) Even though this prophecy was written around 1400 B.C. by Moses, it was spoken by God about 2000 B.C.
 - b) In this passage, God is talking to the Serpent (Satan)
 - c) He foretells that the Seed of the woman would bruise Satan's head while Satan would merely bruise His heel.
 - d) Notice that Jesus is described as the Seed of a woman.
 - e) What we have here is the first prophecy of the virgin birth.
 2. 750 B.C. **Isaiah 7:13-14.** Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? **14** Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."
 - a) God would give the house of David a sign... A virgin would conceive and bear a Son.
 - b) That Son's name would be Immanuel. (Which we know means, God with us.)
- C. A Descendant of Abraham.
 1. **Genesis 12:3.** I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
 2. **Genesis 22:18.** In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.
- D. A Descendant of Isaac.
 1. **Genesis 21:12.** But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.

2. **Genesis 26:4.** And I will make your descendants multiply as the stars of heaven; I will give to your descendants all these lands; and in your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed;
- E. A Descendant of Jacob. **Genesis 28:13-14.** And behold, the Lord stood above it and said: "I am the Lord God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants. **14** Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.
 - F. A Descendant of Judah. **Genesis 49:10.** The scepter 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.
 - G. A Descendant of Jesse. **Isaiah 11:1-10.** There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. **2** The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. **3** His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; **4** But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. **5** Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. **6** "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. **7** The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. **8** The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. **9** They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. **10** "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."
 - H. A Descendant of David. **2 Samuel 7:12-13.** "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. **13** He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.
 - I. He was to be a ruler. **Isaiah 9:6-7.** For unto us a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.
 - J. He was to be born in Bethlehem. **Micah 5:2.** "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."

II. NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES CONCERNING JESUS' BIRTH.

- A. In regard to His ancestors...
 1. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah. **Matthew 1:2.** Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.
 2. Jesse and David. **Matthew 1:5.** Salmon begot Boaz by Rahab, Boaz begot Obed by Ruth, Obed begot Jesse, 6 and Jesse begot David the king.
- B. The virgin birth fulfilled. **Matthew 1:18-25.** 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. **19** Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. **20** But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22** So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: **23** "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us." **24** Then

Joseph, being aroused from sleep, did as the angel of the Lord commanded him and took to him his wife, **25** and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name Jesus.

1. Fulfills **Genesis 3:15**.
2. Fulfills **Isaiah 7:13-14**.
3. Notice also **Galatians 4:4**. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law

C. **Luke 1:26-38**. Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" **29** But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. **32** 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. **33** And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." **34** Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" **35** 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. **36** Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37** For with God nothing will be impossible." **38** Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

1. Verse 27. Fulfills Isaiah 7:13-14.
2. Verses 32-33. Fulfills 2 Samuel 7:12-13.

D. He was born in Bethlehem as predicted in Micah 5:2. **Luke 2:1-7**. And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. **2** This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. **3** So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. **4** Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** 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.

III. IMPLICATIONS OF JESUS' BIRTH.

A. So what?

1. What does all of this mean to us today?
2. Why is it important?

B. It is important because it tells us that our Savior has come!

1. **John 1:14**. 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.
2. **Philippians 2:5-7**. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, **7** but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

C. His coming demonstrates His great love for us!

1. He gave up the riches of heaven for us. **2 Corinthians 8:9**. For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich.
2. He suffered death for us.
 - a) **Philippians 2:8**. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.
 - b) **Hebrews 2:9**. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.
 - c) His death gives us the hope of eternal life through obedience to His will.

D. His coming forces us to choose sides!

1. **Matthew 12:30.** He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad.
2. **Romans 6:19.** I speak in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves of uncleanness, and of lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves of righteousness for holiness.