

## The Promised Child (2)

Prophecy is God speaking, by His Holy Spirit, through one person to tell other people God's message. We are going to investigate some prophecies in the Old Testament and see how they were fulfilled in the birth of Jesus of Nazareth.



Read Isaiah 7 v 14. About 700 years before Jesus was born, God said He would give a sign of His power and authority. What would be the sign?

How was it fulfilled *in the prophet's lifetime*? See Isaiah 8 v 3

Read Matthew 1 v 18-25. 700 years later, the prophecy was fulfilled again. How does the birth of Jesus fulfil Isaiah's prophecy?

Read Micah 5 v 2. This prophecy was also given 700 years before Jesus was born. What location does it specify for the birth of a ruler of Israel?

Read Matthew 2 v 1-6. Where was Jesus born?

What should King Herod and the Jewish priests have understood about the baby? (Look at Herod's question and the priests' answer in Matthew 2 v 4-5)

Why do you think God gave so many prophecies about the birth of Jesus?

**Prayer: Father God, thank you that the fulfilment of all the prophecies about the birth, and death, of Jesus reminds us that these events were in your plan all along. Thank you that, as soon as the first sin was committed, your plan to save us was rolled into action! The baby born in Bethlehem is the Christ, the anointed one of God. Please help me to understand more about what Jesus has done to rescue me and please help me to trust Him. Amen.**

If you have a Bible, why not look up the verses yourself instead of just reading them here. I've printed them here for people who don't have a Bible!

Isaiah 7 v 14

<sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.

Isaiah 8 v 3

<sup>3</sup> Then I made love to the prophetess, and she conceived and gave birth to a son. And the LORD said to me, "Name him Maher-Shalal-Hash-Baz."

Matthew 1 v 18-25

<sup>18</sup> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: <sup>23</sup> "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). <sup>24</sup> When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. <sup>25</sup> But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Micah 5 v 2

<sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Matthew 2 v 1-6

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem <sup>2</sup> and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: <sup>6</sup> "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."