

# Junior High Quarterly

## That It Might Be Fulfilled— Prophecies Concerning Jesus, the Messiah

**Quarterly Aim: To show that the coming of the Messiah and His kingdom was foretold by the prophets.**

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## About the Writer



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## Prophecies of Christ's Birth

### APPLICATION

The student will learn about the details of Christ's birth.

### SCRIPTURES TO READ

Text: Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-10.

Related Scripture: Genesis 3:15; Psalm 2:6; Isaiah 9:6, 7; Luke 1:39-56; 2:4-7.

Devotional Reading: God's Message to Mary, Luke 1:26-35.

### Getting Started

"It is the most wonderful time of the year," or at least that's what the old song says. The Christmas season is here. Have you made your list out? That's always a question that my wife raised at the house when our daughter was small. Christmas is a great time for most young people in the United States although you should always remember those who are less fortunate. Sadly, too many children grow up with so much that they develop a give me syndrome.

Christmas is about more than physical gifts. It is about the greatest gift ever given. God sent His Son to pay the price for our salvation. God set the example of giving. The gift of eternal life is a gift that we can share all the time. It is not just for a particular season or holiday. There is much debate about the time of year that Jesus was born. Whenever He was born, He was born for a special reason.

### The Bible and Christmas

The Bible is actually silent on the holiday we call Christmas. The idea of celebrating a day for the birth of Christ is found nowhere in the Scriptures. Certainly, the giving of gifts can be traced back to the Magi who brought gold, frankincense and myrrh to the Christ child (Matthew 2:11). This event, however, may have occurred a couple of years

after his birth since they did not find Jesus in a stable but in a house. Some people believe that Christmas is a pagan holiday and that Christians have no reason to celebrate it. If you want to celebrate Christmas, you can; if you don't, no one should condemn you (Romans 4:5).

### The Bible Lesson

The coming Messiah was the major theme of the Old Testament. More than three hundred fifty prophecies concerning the first coming of Christ exist in the Old Testament and were fulfilled in the New Testament. Remember, all of those prophecies came at least four hundred years prior to the Lord's entrance into the world because the Bible was silent for four hundred years. The chances of one man filling those prophecies are astronomical. Only God could cause such a fulfillment of prophecies to happen. Today's lesson points to two specific prophecies of Jesus' first coming.

"The promise of the coming of Immanuel is a part of the eternal will of God. No one can thwart His will. The impossible, a virgin conceiving, would become a reality and the Word of God would come to pass. We know that this did happen just that way in the birth of Jesus Christ."

—David Robinson,  
"God's Judgment

Revealed in Judgment"  
ABA Sunday School  
Adult Quarterly  
Winter, 2006

#### 1. The Prophecy (Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:2)

The backdrop for the prophecy in Isaiah involved the threat of Israel, the Northern Kingdom, and its ally Syria threatening to invade Judah, the Southern Kingdom. King Ahaz was the fearful king of Judah who was told to trust God against the possible invasion of the Northern Kingdom. Instead, he trusted his own devices and made an allegiance with Assyria to protect them. Assyria never lifted a hand of protection, but Ahaz gave the Assyrians rights to Judah's land. In the midst of that, God gave Isaiah the prophetic words of a virgin giving birth as a sign that God had a plan for all of Judah.

Some believe that by "virgin" Isaiah just meant a young maiden. But that would not have been much of a sign. Never before and never since has there been a virgin conceive a child. This virgin conceived and bore a son whose name is called Immanuel or God with us.

She bore that son in a place called "Beth-lehem" (Micah 5:2). The word "Beth-lehem" means house of bread. It was a natural place for the birth of the Bread of Life (John 6:35). Yet, it was not a natural place one would expect the Son of God to be born. It was a small town five miles south of the much larger city of Jerusalem, yet many great things happened there. Jacob buried his beloved wife Rachel there (Genesis 35:16-19). Ruth was redeemed there by her husband Boaz (Ruth 4:10, 11). David was anointed king in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:1, 13). None of those were

God chose to enter the world as a man in the most unexpected of places. You would think the Creator would come as part of a royal family who lived in a mansion, but Christ came to a lowly maiden in a small, out of the way town.

greater, though, than the Messiah being born in that small town.

## **2. The Prophecy Fulfilled (Matthew 1:18-20; 2:1-10)**

Fast forward some seven hundred years later to another small town called Nazareth. Joseph, a carpenter, lived there. He was espoused (similar to our engagements but a little more strict) to a young virgin named Mary. Their perfect plans, though, were interrupted by the Holy Spirit who overshadowed Mary and caused her to conceive. Joseph was a typical man. He did not react to news that his soon to be wife was pregnant before they had been together. Espousals were not allowed to have premarital relations, and neither were engagements (1 Corinthians 6:18). Joseph was informed by God in a dream that He had miraculously caused her to be pregnant.

Matthew 2 tells of an unknown number of wise men and their interaction with King Herod who was jealous of this newborn King. He was afraid this King would replace him, and he wanted to kill Him. The wise men, being guided by a star, passed through Jerusalem in search of Jesus. They finally found the child in Bethlehem, and they rejoiced at what they saw (Matthew 2:10). Joseph and Mary had traveled to Bethlehem because Caesar Augustus had issued a decree for a census to be taken for the purpose of taxation (Luke 2:1). Joseph had to return to his native hometown, which was Bethlehem, and he took Mary with him.

## **3. The Prophecy's Blessing (Matthew 1:21-24)**

Joseph's dream inspired by God reminded him of what Isaiah had prophesied (Isaiah 7:14), but it connected the dots, so to speak. He learned that this child would "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). What a blessing! John the Baptist declared, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Jesus was born so that all of us could be saved from our sins, not just Israel. Salvation is available, but not guaranteed. You must add faith to the grace God has given us in order to be saved (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

## **4. The Prophecy's Assurance (Matthew 1:25)**

The assurance that the prophecy is true. Joseph refrained himself from having relations with Mary until after Jesus was born. He had thoughts of putting her away secretly (Matthew 1:19) but chose to abide by the words of God. They named their son "Jesus" (verse 25) which means to save or Savior. This was the promised One from old. What

### **Class Discussion:**

Why do you think the Bible teaches that teens will be happier if they don't have physical relations before marriage? Do you think that His command in this area is old-fashioned? Consider Ephesians 5:22-32 and 2 Corinthians 11:2 in your discussion.

Why did Joseph make his espoused wife Mary go with him to Bethlehem when she was obviously expecting? It could have been for many reasons, but she was ridiculed by people for being pregnant out of wedlock. Maybe, he thought it was best for her to be with him and not have to face the hostility by herself.

an amazing moment in history. Only the resurrection of Jesus stands equal to the birth of Christ.

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”  
—Revelation 1:5

### **The Lesson and You**

Why is the birth of Christ important? Is it to validate Christmas? No. The birth of Christ led to the sinless life of Christ which made Him the perfect Lamb to be slain on the cross of Calvary. He was the greatest sacrifice of all. It is only by His blood that mankind can have salvation. All the blood of goats and bulls that had been sacrificed for the sins of people had only temporarily covered their sins, but Christ’s blood forever washed away sin (Revelation 1:5). He arose from the grave on the third day and lives eternally at the right hand of the Father, preparing a home for those who believe (John 14:1-3). Do you believe? This Christmas will be the best of all for you if you will believe.