

**"THE PROPHETS SPEAK ABOUT THE BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST"**  
**MATTHEW 1:18-2:6**

**INTRO:** The **BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST** did not just take place out of the middle of thin air at some random time. The **BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST** was **PLANNED, PREDICTED AND PERFORMED BY GOD** in just the way **HE PREDETERMINED IT TO TAKE PLACE**. All that God **PLANNED, PREDICTED, PERFORMED AND PREDETERMINED** concerning the **BIRTH OF JESUS CHRIST** was very meticulously **PROCLAIMED** by the **PROPHETS OF GOD** from the early pages of scripture and fulfilled literally, just as **PURPOSED**. As we continue in the Christmas Season with the effort to **MAINTAIN THE CENTRALITY OF CHRIST** in our thoughts and activities, let's take a look at what the **PROPHETS OF GOD WERE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD TO PROCLAIM ABOUT THE BIRTH OF CHRIST THAT CHANGED THE WORLD**.

**NOTE:** Throughout the pages of the Old Testament there are **MORE THAN 300 PROPHECIES** presented about the **BIRTH OF CHRIST**, all of which were fulfilled literally as they were given.

**NOTE:** A study of what the prophets predicted about Christ's birth and work on earth is crucial for us to understand, appreciate and worship Christ for **WHAT GOD DID THROUGH HIM AND FOR WHO HE REALLY IS**.

**I. THE MINISTRY OF THE PROPHETS OF GOD**

**THE PROPHETS WERE CALLED BY GOD TO REVEAL GOD'S TRUTH AND ACTIONS**

**A. Their Purpose**

1. Dr. C.I. Schofield said of the Prophets of God: **"THEY WERE MEN RAISED UP BY GOD IN TIMES OF DECLENSION AND APOSTASY IN ISRAEL. THEY WERE PRIMARILY REVIVALISTS AND PATRIOTS SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF GOD TO THE HEART AND CONSCIENCE OF THE NATION."**

2. The Prophets of God did NOT speak their own message. They **SPOKE ONLY GOD'S MESSAGE** as it was revealed to them. [Observe Deuteronomy 18:20-22](#).

**B. Their Prophecies**

1. They Preached to the local time and condition of the nation – Isaiah 1:1ff
2. They Predicted the future workings of God – Isaiah 2:1-4

**C. Their Personages**

1. There were 45 Prophets or Prophetesses listed by name in the Scripture.
2. There were 16 Prophets used by God to record the Scripture.

**II. THE METHOD OF THE PROPHETS OF GOD**

**THE PROPHETS WERE LED BY GOD AND SPOKE FOR GOD**

**A. As Seen in Jeremiah 1:9**

-They were called by God and spoke God's Word.

**B. As Seen in 1 Peter 1:10-12**

-They were seekers of God's truth and spoke by the Holy Spirit.

**C. As Seen in 2 Peter 1:19**

-They had a message that was sure and certain.

**III. THE MESSAGE OF THE PROPHETS OF GOD**

**THE PROPHETS REVEALED JESUS CHRIST AND HIS FUTURE WORKS**

**NOTE:** All of the more than 300 prophecies given about Jesus Christ were fulfilled literally. Dr. A.T. Pierson in his book, "THE PROPHETIC ELEMENT OF SCRIPTURE" said: **"THE CHANCE THAT ALL THE PROPHECIES WOULD BE FULFILLED LITERALLY IS 1 OVER 84 FOLLOWED BY 100 ZEROS'. BUT GOD FULFILLED THEM ALL LITERALLY."**

**GOD IS IN COMPLETE CONTROL OF ALL THINGS, AS ONLY HE CAN BE!**

**NOTE:** Let's observe just a few of the 300 prophecies regarding Christ's Birth. Theologically, this is called **"THE HIGHWAY OF THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST."**

- A. The Prophecy of the Seed Resulting in the Birth of Christ
  - 1. Given by God Himself in Genesis 3:15 in 4000 BC
  - 2. Passed down through Abram's Jewish line in Genesis 12:7 in 1900 BC
  - 3. Fulfilled in the Birth of Christ – Galatians 3:16
- B. The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth of Christ
  - 1. Given by Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14 and 9:6 in 740 BC
  - 2. Passed down to Joseph by the Angel of the Lord in Matthew 1:22,23
  - 3. Fulfilled in the Virgin Birth of Christ in Luke 1:26-35
- C. The Prophecy of the Location of the Birth of Christ
  - 1. Given by Micah in Micah 5:2 in 710 BC
  - 2. Passed down through God's direction of Caesar Augustus in Luke 2:1-5
  - 3. Fulfilled in the Virgin Birth of Christ in Luke 2:6,7
- D. The Prophecy of the Forerunner of the Ministry of Christ
  - 1. Given by Isaiah 40:3 in 712 BC
  - 2. Fulfilled through John the Baptist in Matthew 3:1-3 and Luke 3:3-6

**NOTE:** This was a **"DOUBLE FULFILLMENT"** John the Baptist at the first advent of Christ and by Elijah are the second advent of Christ. Malachi 3:1 and 4:5,6.

**OBSERVATION:** Beyond these few prophecies on the BIRTH OF CHRIST, many other prophecies were given and fulfilled regarding the names, titles, activities and the redemptive work of Christ that deserves the study of the serious-minded student of the Word of God.

#### **LESSON AND APPLICATION**

##### **TWO QUESTIONS**

##### **1) WHAT DOES ALL OF THIS MEAN TO US TODAY?**

- a. That God had a plan for the Birth of Christ and was fulfilled literally.
- b. That as the prophecies of the Birth of Christ were fulfilled literally, we can and must believe that **EVERY OTHER PROPHECY** of scripture will be fulfilled literally too.
- c. That all of God's plans and purposes will be fulfilled.
- d. That we can fully trust God to Keep His Word.

##### **2) HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND TO ALL OF THIS TODAY?**

- a. We should **PRAISE GOD** for His Perfect Working
- b. We should **PROCLAIM** the true Miracle for the Season – **All that God planned and promised through the redemptive work of Christ is FULFILLED!**