

“IT IS ALL ABOUT CHRIST”

A CHRISTMAS SERIES

TEXT: COLOSSIANS 1:12-19

PART TWO

“THE PROPHECIES OF CHRIST BEFORE HIS INCARNATION”

INTRO: In approaching Christmas, all too often we get our minds off track spiritually and become more focused on the commercial and secular aspect of the season which truly takes away from the GLORY OF GOD and OUR SINCERE WORSHIP OF CHRIST. **WHY DOES THIS HAPPEN?**

1) Satan does NOT want us to focus on the real reason for the season. In fact, he dreads the thought of GOD BECOMING FLESH IN CHRIST TO PROVIDE SALVATION!

2) We get involved in our own activities and emotions and yield to our personal concerns MORE than FOCUSING ON AND SUBMITTING TO THE PRE-EMINENCE OF CHRIST. Thus the reality and joy of the season passes us by.

3) We get away from BIBLICAL TRUTH and focus more on WORLDY CIRCUMSTANCES that, due to their very nature, rob us of the blessing of the season.

BUT GOD KNEW ALL ABOUT THAT IN ETERNITY PAST AND GAVE US SOME PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST, HIS INCARNATION, HIS REDEMPTION AND HIS GLORIOUS WORK ON OUR BEHALF, THAT WHEN WE CHOOSE TO THINK ABOUT THEM, WILL LEAD US EXALTING AND WORSHIPPING CHRIST AS WE SHOULD, NOT ONLY AT CHRISTMAS TIME, BUT ALL OTHER TIMES OF THE YEAR. So today we will take a few minutes to consider the PROPHECIES OF CHRIST BEFORE HIS INCARNATION that will reveal to us HOW GREAT CHRIST IS. **REMEMBER, CHRISTMAS, AND ALL OF LIFE, IS TO BE ALL ABOUT CHRIST, AND NOTHING ELSE.**

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I. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPHECY IN THE WORD OF GOD

NOTE: Prophecy is a MAJOR PART of the Bible. Up to 1/3 of the scripture is tied to prophecy in one form or another. That in and of itself shows prophetic significance.

QUOTE FROM DAVID LIMBAUGH: (“THE EMMAUS CODE”)

“PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT MANY OF THE PROPHECIES ARE PROMISES MADE BY GOD. THIS IS ONLY NATURAL, AS BIBLICAL PROPHECIES ARE NOT REALLY PREDICTIONS LIKE A TYPICAL HUMAN BEING WOULD MAKE. THEY ARE STATEMENTS FROM GOD’S SPOKESMEN, THE PROPHETS. THEY ARE MORE THAN MERE PREDICTIONS BECAUSE THERE IS NO UNCERTAINTY ABOUT THEIR FULFILLMENT. THE PROPHECIES ARE ACTUALLY DIVINE GUARANTEES THAT CERTAIN THINGS WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FUTURE, BOTH BECAUSE IN HIS SOVEREIGNTY GOD IS THE ACTIVE AGENT IN FULFILLING HIS PROMISES, AND BECAUSE THE MIND OF GOD IS INFINITE; HE EXISTS OUT OF TIME. HE SEES THE FUTURE AS CLEARLY AS IT IF HAS ALREADY TRANSPIRED.”

- A. Prophecy Reveals the Mind of God for the Ages.
- B. Prophecy Reveals the Actions of God for the Future.
- C. Prophecy Reveals the Power of God in His Sovereign Plan.
- D. Prophecy Reveals the Hope of God for God’s People for Eternity.
- E. Prophecy Reveals the Ultimate Victory of God over Sin and Satan.

ILLUSTRATION:

PROPHECY IS THE BEST UNDENIABLE APOLOGETIC THERE IS!

II. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST ARE KNOWN AS “MESSIANIC PROPHECIES” AND THERE ARE WAY OVER A HUNDRED OF THEM IN THE O.T.

NOTES:

1) Prophecies about Christ were given so that the O.T. people would anticipate what the Messiah would do for them in His time and way.

2) Prophecies about Christ, as they were fulfilled, lead humanity to be able to see and to not honestly deny the reality of the Person and Purpose of Christ.

3) Prophecies about Christ, as they were fulfilled, give true believers the assurance that all the unfilled prophecies about Him, will come into fruition literally, even as God said they will.

QUOTE FROM BRITISH PASTOR DR. D.M. PANTON:

“THE MOST AMAZING DRAMA THAT EVER WAS PRESENTED TO THE MIND OF MAN, THAT IS, THE DRAMA WRITTEN IN PROPHECY IN THE O.T. AND IN BIOGRAPHY IN THE FOUR GOSPELS OF THE N.T., IS

THE NARRATIVE OF JESUS THE CHRIST. ONE OUTSTANDING FACT, AMONG MANY, COMPLETELY ISOLATES HIM. IT IS THIS: THAT ONE MAN ONLY IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD HAS HAD EXPLICIT DETAILS GIVEN BEFOREHAND OF HIS BIRTH, LIFE, DEATH AND RESURRECTION; THAT THESE DETAILS ARE IN DOCUMENTS GIVEN TO THE PUBLIC CENTURIES BEFORE HE APPEARED, AND THAT AN NO ONE CHALLENGES, OR CAN CHALLENGE, THAT THESE DOCUMENTS WERE WIDELY CIRCULATED LONG BEFORE HIS BIRTH; AND THAT ANYONE AND EVERYONE CAN COMPARE FOR HIMSELF/HERSELF THE ACTUAL RECORDS OF HIS LIFE WITH THOSE ANCIENT DOCUMENTS, AND FIND THAT THEY MATCH ONE ANOTHER PERFECTLY.”

LET’S TAKE A LOOK AT THE PURPOSE OF SOME OF THE O.T. MESSIANIC PROPHECIES THAT SHAPE THE REALITY OF WHO CHRIST IS.

- A. Messianic Prophecies show the Promise and Provision of Christ
Genesis 3:15 (4004 B.C.) / Galatians 4:4
- B. Messianic Prophecies show the Redemptive Aspect of Christ
Job 19:25-27 (1520 B.C.) / Ephesians 1:7
- C. Messianic Prophecies show the Type of the Birth of Christ.
Isaiah 7:14 (742 B.C.) / Matthew 1:22, 23
- D. Messianic Prophecies show the Location of the Birth of Christ
Micah 5:2 (710 B.C.) / Matthew 2:1-6
- E. Messianic Prophecies show the Jewish Rejection of Christ
Isaiah 53: 3 (712 B.C.) / John 1:11
- F. Messianic Prophecies show the Triumphal Entry of Christ
Zechariah 9:9 (487 B.C.) / Matthew 21:1-5
- G. Messianic Prophecies show the Vicarious Suffering of Christ
Isaiah 53: 4, 5 (712 B.C.) / Matthew 8:17
- H. Messianic Prophecies show the Resurrection of Christ
Isaiah 53:10 (712 B.C.) / Matthew 28:6

ILLUSTRATION:

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST NOT ONLY SUPPORT WHO HE IS, BUT MAKES IT HONESTLY IMPOSSIBLE TO DENY WHO HE IS BY THE CRITICS OF THE WORLD!

III. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPHECY ABOUT CHRIST IN OUR LIVES

NOTE: When we consider the Messianic Prophecies seriously, our ENTIRE PHILOSOPHICAL OUTLOOK about Christmas will be distinguished from that which is believed by the Unsaved World for **WE WILL TRULY SEE CHRIST IN ALL THAT HE IS!**

- A. Fulfilled Prophecies about Christ will Direct our Attitudes and Actions from Humanistic Celebration to Divine Worship during the Christmas Season.
- B. Fulfilled Prophecies about Christ will Lift our Sights from the Manger to the Cross during the Christmas Season.
- C. Fulfilled Prophecies about Christ will Change our Focus from Self-centeredness to Christ-centeredness during the Christmas Season.
- D. Fulfilled Prophecies about Christ Exchange our Desire to be Served to the Desire to Serve during the Christmas Season.

ILLUSTRATION:

ONE CANNOT LOOK UPON JESUS CHRIST WITH AN OPEN HEART AND REMAIN THE SAME! TODAY, LOOK UPON JESUS CHRIST FOR WHO HE REALLY IS AND WATCH HOW HE WILL CHANGE YOUR HEART IMMEDIATELY FOR HIS HONOR AND GLORY!