

THE PROPHECY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

“A Prophet is Promised”

“Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear. I assure you that many prophets and righteous people wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn’t.”
Matthew 13:16-17



In Deuteronomy God promised that the Messiah would be a Prophet. There were so many prophets. How were people to understand? In Matthew Jesus speaks to his Disciples about why he speaks in parables.

He refers to Isaiah, again the Old Testament, but it is very difficult to understand how we are to listen. Isaiah says that people will harden their hearts to the truth and Christ tells the disciples the same thing.

“For this people’s senses have become calloused, and they’ve become hard of hearing, and they’ve shut their eyes so that they won’t see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.” He tells the disciples how then he must get the truth to the people through stories or parables. He also told them they were different. They understand but many people did not just as they did not listen to the prophets in the Old Testament. *“Happy are your eyes because they see. Happy are your ears because they hear.”* Because Christ was with them, they were able to see with their eyes and see the prophecies fulfilled.

“You will hear, to be sure, but never understand; and you will certainly see but never recognize what you are seeing. For this people’s senses have become calloused, and they’ve become hard of hearing, and they’ve shut their eyes so that they won’t see with their eyes or hear with their ears or understand with their minds, and change their hearts and lives that I may heal them.” Matthew 13: 14-15

Many of the Old Testament prophets would have loved to have had this same opportunity, but they did not. He told them *“I assure you that many prophets and righteous people wanted to see what you see and hear what you hear, but they didn’t.”* Matthew 13.

He told them that Isaiah had prophesied that people would not understand, and I wonder if they did completely.

They were able to see miracles, and wonder. Sometimes we don’t understand and we have the advantage of being “Monday morning quarterbacks.”



The Trinity has been a difficult concept for some to grasp and some people still have difficulty with it. How can God be here as Jesus, in Heaven as Father, and also be the unseen Spirit. In Psalm 2 David prophesies that the Son will become incarnate and that he will destroy nations. It tells us that people will scoff at God, but God will rebuke them. Then he declares *“You are my son; today I have become your father. Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. . . Therefore, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear and celebrate his rule with trembling..”*

In Matthew 3 we are told that Jesus will be called the Son of God. Yet he is God.

At his baptism by John the heavens opened and the Spirit of God descended like a dove and a voice from heaven said, *“This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.”* Here in one verse we have God, the Spirit, and Christ.

When we really stop to think, there are so many things that we don't understand. For that reason, we are told that some scientists have trouble accepting faith in God because they can't understand, but those same scientists don't understand everything else either, but we all want to understand. Each day we get up but don't understand why the air is there for us to breath and the ground there for us to walk on. We don't understand night and day, but we accept it as being there and expect it to be perfect with each new day!



Luke records a wonderful promise that was actually prophesied in Isaiah. Jesus was in the synagogue in Nazareth. He picked up the book of the prophet Isaiah and read *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and to recovery of sight for the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed.”*

When he finished reading he proclaimed that they were seeing that Scripture fulfilled in him. When the people heard this they declared that this was not Joseph's son. They were very offended at his telling them he was the anointed one and he had been sent by God. The people became so angry at what he had said about the Old Testament and its prophecy that they led him out of the city to the brow of a hill and wanted to throw him off the cliff. But Jesus just walked through them and left for Capernaum. Luke 4 16-30

“Out of the stump of David's family will grow a shoot—yes, a new branch bearing fruit from the old root. And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.”

Isaiah 11:1-5

There is another wonderful prophecy in Isaiah 11 about the wonder and majesty of this Messiah who was coming. We are encouraged to be Christ like. We have some mighty big shoes to fill! But Christ just encourages us to try with his blessings everyday.

Prayer:

Father, Thank you for sending your son to us so that your prophecy of a wonderful

Savior could be fulfilled.

We know that we are sinners and sometimes we must be upsetting to you, but you never stop loving us. Thank you Lord. Amen



1. What is a prophet?
2. What is the importance of the Trinity?
3. Because of the Trinity is God always with us? How?
4. Do we ever stop and think each morning that we have the fresh air and many promises as gifts of God, or do we just grow to expect them.
5. Instead of being thankful for everything we have, do we ever get upset when it rains on a day we planned to be outside, or the trees aren't blooming as nicely this spring? Or someone doesn't do something the way we think it should be done?
6. What is the difference between faith and trust?
7. How amazing is God's grace?

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