

THE PROPHECY OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

“Christ’s Birth Known Abroad”

“Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.”

Matthew 2:2 KJV



The prophecies of the Old Testament are great, and the ones we have studied in the New

Testament are fairly well known. There are more though that we know but take for granted just as we do our own work as prophets. Whether or not we want to do it, we are called by God to be prophets in our own way if we accept him as our personal Savior.

Some of the prophets included in the New Testament include the men from the east. They are sometimes called Kings, sometimes Magi, sometimes scholars, and sometimes Wise Men. Regardless of their legal title they were wise in knowing they should follow a star to worship the new born King of the Jews.

In The Message we see the Scripture written this way. *“Where can we find and pay homage to the newborn King of the Jews? We observed a star in the eastern sky that signaled his birth. We’re on pilgrimage to worship him.”* How did they know which star to follow? There are lots of stars in the sky.

Word of their trip and their mission reached King Herod. King Herod was upset. He was very powerful and was concerned about his position. He sent for his counsel to consult what they should do. Herod called a secret meeting with the wise men from the east and told them he also wanted to worship this new king and asked them to find out everything they could and let him know so he could also go and worship this king.

After the wise men left King Herod the star appeared again and led them to the young child and they were able to worship him and present their gifts to him. But they were warned in a dream from God that King Herod’s intentions were not honorable so they went back a different way and did not see Herod. When Herod realized that the wise men had not done as he asked, he was so upset he ordered all children under two years of age killed. This was prophesied in the Old Testament by Jeremiah.

We don’t know much about the childhood of Christ, but there are a few things in his very young years that we are told. We are told that an angel appeared to Joseph and he and Mary took the baby Jesus to Egypt until King Herod died.

There are two other little-known people though that are very much a part of the prophecy of Christ.



“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word for mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”

Luke 2:29-30

When Jesus was eight days old, Mary and Joseph took him to Jerusalem to be circumcised as was the law, and they also had to offer for sacrifice a pair of doves or two young pigeons. The man that blessed them that day was Simeon. He had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would see the Messiah before he died. When Mary and Joseph went to the Temple for the rituals of the Law, Simeon took Jesus in his arms and blessed him and told God he was now asking to be released to death. He had seen the Messiah. His blessing was probably a mystery to them at that time. He told them *“This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”* Luke 2:34-35.

The Bible tells us that Mary and Joseph “marvelled” at what Simeon said. Even though we know the prophecies were fulfilled that Simeon spoke about, I still

find this very confusing and can't even begin to think what Mary and Joseph must have felt.

Simeon's prophecies went far beyond the time of Christ's lifetime. He prophesied the complete scope of Christ's ministry and told that he would be a Savior to both Jews and Gentiles.



Simeon wasn't the only one to prophesy at the temple.

There was an eighty four year old woman there also. She had only been married for seven years before

her husband died and she just lived at the temple praying night and day. After Simeon had finished his blessing, Anna began to praise God and speak to the people how this baby was going to be the Savior they had waited for, and he would free Jerusalem.

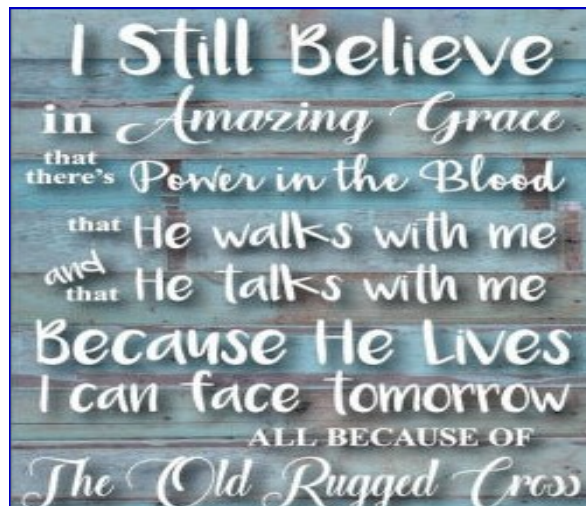
The Bible mentions many prophets and witnesses who were called by God for their part in telling us the story for our salvation. Some of them had small parts, some much larger. They were rich and poor, kingly and humble, young and old, male and female. We are the same today and we are still part of this story.

The coming of Christ offered hope, light, and salvation then and it still does today. The story doesn't end at the manger or

even on the cross. The prophecy was not finished. We are told in several places that Christ will come again. And again he will rule the city of Jerusalem as King of Kings and will reign forever. (Daniel 7:13; Mk 13:26; Lk 21:27)

The prophecies will come true with or without our being a part of it. We don't know if the shepherds told anyone after that night or not. We never hear about them again. We don't know what countries the wise men returned to, or who they told what they had seen. We don't know if people believed them or not. Anna and Simeon were old people and they told the truth, but we don't know if anyone believed them. It is called FAITH.

We are told to go into all the world and speak God's word to all nations, but we can't make people believe what we say. We have been given a gift from God for them, but we can't force them to accept it. We can be like those who have gone before and tell God's word and we can be very thankful for those people in the past who have taken the responsibility to make sure that we know our Lord and Savior.



Prayer: Father, You have given us so much. You have promised us salvation that we cannot begin to comprehend. Help us to accept Your love and be filled with praise as those before us and not be shy to speak about Your love to others. Amen



1. What was the purpose of the story of the wise men being told to us? How does it apply to our lives today?
2. Do we have an Anna and/or Simeon in our lives today? I feel they were a blessing to others at that time. They had "good news" to tell to the people then who maybe would not be around when Christ began to preach.
3. Do we have elderly people who are blessings to us today?
4. Paul is credited with writing Ephesians 4. It tells us "And the One who climbed down is the One who climbed back up, up to highest heaven. He handed out gifts above and below, filled heaven with his gifts, filled earth with his gifts. He handed out gifts of apostle, prophet, evangelist, and pastor-teacher to train Christ's followers in skilled servant work, working within Christ's body, the church, until we're all moving rhythmically and easily with each other, efficient and graceful in response to God's Son, fully mature adults, fully developed within and without, fully alive like Christ." Does it apply to us today?

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