

The Promised Savior

A Bible Study of The Mt. Zion Church

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Introduction: This final lesson in our study of Jesus as our savior is purposed to ensure that we have a clear understanding of two of the over 300 prophecies regarding the coming of Jesus as our Savior. By the end of this lesson, students will be able to know that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies from scriptures. the qualification of being the answer to our problem that was created in Genesis when Adam decided to be disobedient to God's will.

Remember from the previous lesson

The general definition of **savior** means "One who delivers or rescues." The term "savior" is most frequently applied to God and Jesus Christ in the Bible. The idea that mankind needs a savior begins in Genesis when Adam disobeys God and eats the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge.

Let's read Genesis 3:1-15 once again

➤ Satan's Promise is a lie!

⁴You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

The lie that Satan tells creates _____ between man and God. Remember, sin separates us from one another and from God. This sets up the penalty. Eternal separation because a Holy God will not accept the presence of unholiness.

Throughout the Bible, we get clues to God's plan of salvation. As students, we must remember that God is not reactive to Adam and Eve's sin. He always had a plan in place for their disobedience. In 1 Peter 1:19-21, we read that God's plan was activated before the foundation of the world. Then in Revelation 13:8, we again read that The Lamb (Jesus) was slain before the foundation of the world. These indicate that God's plan was ready before anything was even created.

The implication of an all-knowing God having an unmistakable plan for us is that victory over our enemy was God's plan from the beginning. All that was needed was time for the plan to unfold. The scriptures of The Bible lay out God's plan across time and present to us, through prophecy, many specific parts of the plan.

Two key prophecies about the Messiah are His location of birth and what people would do when He was born.

I. Location Prophecy—Micah 5:2 and Luke 2

Prophecy: The Savior Will Be Born out of Bethlehem

Bethlehem meaning=House of Bread

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2)

Micah wrote these words some 700 years before Jesus was born! Our God is able to tell us exactly where the savior would be born. This is not a coincidence or random happening. God said it, and He made it come to pass.

What does this mean for all of the promises God has made in your life?

Have you ever thought about how God caused His prophecy to happen? God chose a man from Bethlehem, to be Mary’s husband. God used Joseph, who would listen to the angel and not divorce Mary even though she was pregnant before they married. God allowed a census to be taken which forced everyone to go back to their city of Birth. Mary was due to give birth at the time of the census. All of these individual occurrences which needed to happen are part of God’s plan.

Fulfillment: In Luke 2 Joseph and Mary must travel to BETHLEHEM by law for a census. Here, Jesus is born in a manger.

Manger=a feeding apparatus for animals. Jesus’ claims for Himself (John 6:35)

I am the bread of life!



Conclusion: Jesus is born in the city of the House of Bread, in a feeding instrument, and tells everyone He is the Bread of Life.

What is life?

Remember: Life=_____with God! (What happens when mankind sins?)

This prophecy is not simply about location, but it is also about the role that Jesus plays in providing a reconnection between God and man!

II. Gift Prophecy Psalm 72:8-11 and Matthew 2:1-12

May he rule from sea to sea

and from the River[□] to the ends of the earth.

⁹ May the desert tribes bow before him
and his enemies lick the dust.

¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of distant shores
bring tribute to him.

May the kings of Sheba and Seba
present him gifts.

¹¹ May all kings bow down to him
and all nations serve him.

In Matthew 2 gifts are presented to the baby Jesus. The men find Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Bethlehem. Unfortunately, we misread the timing of them finding Jesus. A close read of Matthew 2:9-10 there is an indication that a significant amount of time passed from the birth until the sharing of the gifts. Jesus was living in a home by this time and he was described as a young child. These men and their caravan had been looking for the Messiah for some time. This did not all happen at Jesus' birth!

1. How intently are you looking for Jesus?
2. Will you get to Him regardless of the inherent challenges? (Your distance, your issues, your shortcomings)

When they arrive, they bring gifts. The gifts further prove that Jesus is the Messiah! Isaiah 60:6 and Numbers 24:17 indicates this event would occur in the way that it occurs.

Something to consider: How many people came to give Jesus gifts? Does the Bible actually say three?

Most likely, these men were travelling with a caravan of people. As they had come 400 miles to find the one that has a star above his location, we can imagine that they would have needed food and supplies. Thus, the group would have been larger than three. We have identified three magi because of the association with the three gifts.

What three gifts do they bring?

1. _____ This gift is appropriate for the King due to its precious nature and value. This was a common gift given to kings. This also represents us giving to Jesus what is precious and valuable to us. He deserves the most valuable items we have. What is the most valuable thing you own?

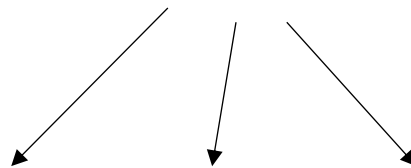
_____ (See Psalms 51 and Romans 12:1)

2. _____ This gift is appropriate for the King because it is a precious ointment and perfume. This also represents the incense or perfume used in worship. Frankincense has also been found to have healing properties. This gift also represents to us the idea that Jesus is to be worshipped as God. He is not just a baby or a prophet. He is God with us, Immanuel.

3. _____ This gift is appropriate for the King because it is another precious ointment. While Matthew does not introduce death or crucifixion in this part of his writing, it is appropriate to infer that myrrh connects with funeral rites. As an embalming agent, myrrh points us to the death of Jesus. The magi most likely did not have this in mind when they presented these gifts, but it does point us to what Jesus will do for all mankind.

The Gifts Tell Us

Jesus is:



King (Gold), God (Frankincense), Savior (Myrrh)



Conclusion: The gifts indicate another proof that Jesus is the Christ. As we read the birth narrative from Matthew and Luke, we are able to see that Jesus fulfills what scripture foretold about Him. This should give us confidence that God keeps His promises to us.

Question: How will you use this information to help others understand the Gospel message?