

“Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled”
Series: “*Be Amazed!*”

12/5-6/09

6 pm; 9 & 10:45 am

INTRODUCTION

Have you noticed how some things cause you to enter the realm of amazement?

Have you seen any of the photographs beamed to Earth by the Hubble telescope? ... the pictures of deep space, viewing galaxies and solar systems that go on for light years into the future?

Maybe you're amazed when you see a stunning athletic performance, like a football player leaving his feet, launching his body forward, horizontal to the ground, with arms out-stretched, and with his fingertips pulls in a pass as he soars over the goal line. An astounding catch!

Or maybe it's viewing the athletic grace and power in the performance of flawless ballet. Remarkable!

Maybe you had a class in mechanics where you studied the internal combustion engine ... like a car engine ... and as you studied how it worked and the hundreds of parts that it takes to create the controlled explosions within the engine that creates the energy to propel a car forward you find yourself amazed at the intricacies of it all and wonder how anyone, ever, could have come up with such an idea.

Maybe you're amazed as you watch bees pollinate an orchard, and several weeks later watch snowy-white flowers emerge and cover acres of almond trees.

Maybe an amazing memory is when snow actually fell in Modesto, and you couldn't keep yourself inside, and went out in the chilling cold to have those flakes fall on your face and into your open palm.

For centuries before Jesus was born, there was a quiet but powerful sense of expectation and amazement among the Jewish people:

It was common knowledge and firmly believed that one day Messiah would come. The One Who would deliver Israel from her enemies and rule as a powerful and benevolent King, bringing prosperity and freedom to the people of Israel *for all time*.

And if you were a young woman in Israel, you might be the one through whom God would bring the Messiah into the world.

There was this kind of confidence of Messiah coming to Israel because of this mind-boggling reality: the prophets of Israel, through whom God had spoken to His people, and

through whom God had written His foreknowledge ... these prophets gave very specific details about Messiah's coming.

And when you consider how centuries and millennia before Christ was born, these very detailed prophecies were given, and then see them fulfilled in Jesus, it is *truly amazing!*

OPEN to the book of Matthew.

There's a reason we're looking at Matthew's writings.

Matthew continually draws attention to specific incidents and details that were a fulfillment of what the prophets of Israel predicted would happen in their words in the Old Testament Scriptures.

“Matthew includes approximately 50 direct citations from the Old Testament. In addition about 75 allusions are made to Old Testament events.” (BKC)

It is clear that Matthew wanted to show unbelieving Jews that Jesus was the Messiah. Matthew had found the Messiah, and he wanted others to come into that same relationship.

Also, it appears that Matthew wrote to encourage Jews who already believed Jesus was the promised Messiah... to communicate the very specific prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus, that He truly is the promised Savior, the Messiah of God.

Times were hard when Matthew wrote this book and he wanted to encourage his brothers and sisters in Christ to stand strong, to not allow pressure-induced doubts to sway them from their faith in Jesus.

So, as we examine some of the prophecies concerning Jesus' birth, if you haven't yet placed your faith in Jesus, listen closely, and be open to God speaking to you.

If you have surrendered your life to Jesus, ask the Lord to fill you with fresh amazement at what He has done!

Be amazed at...

I. The Prophecy of Jesus' Family Line (Matthew 1:1-16; Genesis 3:15; Genesis 12:3; Genesis 49:10; 2 Samuel 7:16)

A. The Human Family

Genesis 3:15 “**And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**”

(given approximately 4,500 years before Jesus was born)

B. The line of Abraham

Also note, in verse 1 Matthew lists “... **the son of David, the son of Abraham.**”

Genesis 12:3 “**I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on Earth will be blessed through you.**”

All people on Earth would be blessed through the Messiah, Who would be a descendent of Abraham, the first “Jew.” Messiah would be a Jew.

This was written approximately 2,150 years before Jesus’ birth.

C. The line of Judah (one of the 12 tribes of Israel)

In Genesis 49:10, we find the prophecy that Messiah would come from the line of Judah:

Genesis 49:10 “**The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until He comes to Whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is His.**”

(1,800 years before Jesus’ birth)

In Matthew 1:2-3, in Jesus’ genealogy, we see Judah.

D. The line of David (one family w/in the tribe of Judah)

Through Nathan the prophet God said to David:

2 Samuel 7:16 “**Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.**”

(1,000 years before Jesus’ birth)

In Matthew 1:6 we see David is in Jesus’ family tree.

Four prophecies regarding the family line of Jesus ... now look at Matthew 1:16:

“and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, Who is called Christ.”

Be amazed at ... I. The Prophecy of Jesus’ Family Line

Be amazed at ...

II. The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth of Jesus (Matthew 1:18-23; Isaiah 7:14)

Of all the prophecies of Jesus’ birth, to me, this one is the most profound, the most amazing!

READ Matthew 1:18-23

Verse 23 quotes from Isaiah 7:14; written 700-750 years before Jesus’ birth:

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.”

The Old Testament word translated “virgin” (‘almâh) can be translated “*young woman*” or “*virgin*.” Through the New Testament, we see God clearly intended it to mean “*virgin*.”

In the New Testament, the Greek word translated “*virgin*” was applied to women and men alike for someone who had never had sexual relations. (BKC, BAG)

Mary’s miraculous conception fulfilled Isaiah’s prophecy, and her **Son** would truly be **Immanuel**, the Hebrew word meaning “**God with us**.”

He was fully human, born of His mother, having grown in her womb for nine months. He was fully God, as He came to life in Mary’s womb by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Be amazed at ... II. The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth of Jesus

Be amazed at ...

III. The Prophecy of the Location of Messiah’s Birth (Matthew 2:1-6; Micah 5:2)

READ Matthew 2:1-6

“It is no surprise that **King Herod ... was disturbed** when the Magi came to **Jerusalem** looking for the One Who had been “born King” (v. 2). Herod was not the rightful king

from the line of David. In fact he was not even a Jew, but was descended from Esau and thus was an Edomite.

So, “If someone had been rightfully born king, then Herod’s job was in jeopardy. So, he **called** the Jewish scholars **together** and asked **where the Christ was to be born** (Matthew 2:4).

In verse 6 we see the scholars quoted the prophecy in Micah 5:2:

Micah 5:2 **“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.”**

(written approximately 700 years before Jesus’ birth).

“**Ephrathah**” is another name for “Bethlehem.” This would be similar to “San Francisco” also being called “The City.”

“**Bethlehem**” means “*house of bread*.” It may have received this name because of the area’s rich farm lands that produced grain for bread-making.

Also, “**clans of Judah**” combined with “**ruler over Israel**” makes clear this is speaking of Messiah, Who would descend from the line of Judah and be Israel’s promised King.

“**Whose origins are from of old, from ancient times**” speaks of the eternal nature of Jesus, just as John begins His Gospel, “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning**.” (John 1:1-2)

The eternal Messiah would be born in the little town of Bethlehem.

Be amazed at ... III. The Prophecy of the Location of Messiah’s Birth

Be amazed at ...

IV. The Prophecy of Jesus Coming Out of Egypt (Matthew 2:15; Hosea 11:1)

READ Matthew 2:13-15

“After the visit of the Magi, **Joseph** was warned by **an angel of the Lord** to take Mary and Jesus and flee **to Egypt** because **Herod** would be searching **for the Child to kill Him**. Under the cover of darkness, Joseph immediately obeyed, and led his family into **Egypt**.

“Why Egypt?”

“... so that the prophet’s words would be fulfilled.” (BKC)

Matthew 2:15 quotes Hosea 11:1:

Hosea 11:1 **“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My Son.”**

(approximately 750 years before Jesus’ birth).

“Hosea was writing of God’s calling Israel out of Egypt into the Exodus.” Matthew helped us to see the fullness of these words; that they not only referred to the past, but also to the future.” (BKC)

Here’s the connection: Just as the Exodus from Egypt to the Promised Land saved the Israelites from slavery, so Jesus’ death and resurrection opened the door for all people to leave the slavery of sin and enter into Heaven and an eternal relationship with God Himself.

Be amazed at ... IV. The Prophecy of Jesus Coming Out of Egypt

CONCLUSION

God wanted us to be able to be certain as to Who His Son was. Over time many have claimed to be Messiah, Christ. But, only Jesus meets every prophecy in Scripture.

Jesus is truly God’s promised Messiah, and the One Who came to save us from the power of sin and punishment for our sins.

“Messiah Jesus, I need You. Thank You for dying for my sins and making it clear that You are God’s Promised One. Please forgive me and come into my life. I want to have an eternal relationship with You and have you lead me out of slavery to sin into freedom! In Jesus’ name, Amen.”