

The Birth of Jesus Christ is the story we think we all know

- It may be the most unknown of all known stories!
- It is almost always presented as an almost random act of God.
- It is no mistake that both accounts of Jesus' birth are deeply connected in History.
 - Matthew begins with a genealogy.
 - Luke begins with a defense of the accuracy of his history, and follows with a genealogy.

The birth of Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of prophecies that go back to the very beginning of the Bible and permeate the pages of the Hebrew Scriptures.

- Genesis 3:15 – a Redeemer is promised and the search for the One who would crush the head of the deceiver begins.
- Genesis 49:10 – An important promise that gives a glimpse of timing.
- Other significant prophecies –
 - 1 Samuel 7:8-17 – Messiah would be of the line of David.
 - Isaiah 7:14 – Messiah would be born of a virgin.
 - Micah 5:2 – Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
 - Daniel 9:24-27 – Messiah would be “cut off” 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem.

The account of Jesus' Birth gives significant insight into the knowledge of his coming.

- Nobody was surprised at the birth of Jesus!
- What did Mary know? Luke 1:26-35
 - She knew about His identity as the Son of God (v. 32, 34-35).
 - She knew about His role as the one who would establish the Kingdom (vv. 32-33).
- What did Zechariah and Elizabeth know?
 - Elizabeth had a full understanding of the identity of her own child (John the Baptist) as well as the child of Mary – Luke 1:42-45
 - Zechariah had a full understanding of the identity of his child, as well as the overall work and plan of God – Luke 1:68-79

- Simeon understood that he had seen the promised Savior, and even understood the suffering this Savior would endure - Luke 2:28-35
- Anna understood that this was the Redeemer that all were looking for – Luke 2:37-38.
- Joseph gives no appearance of apprehension or lack of knowledge in what the Lord is doing – Matthew 1:20-24.
- The Magi from the east arrived, knowing who they came to see: the **King of the Jews** – Matthew 2:1-2.
- The scribes knew exactly where to send the Magi – Matthew 2:4-5.

How did they know all these things?

- The vast majority of it was revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures, and the participants were just eagerly awaiting.
- When we know the Scriptures, we can know the basic building blocks of the future!

The birth of Jesus was the beginning of the fulfillment of the promise of redemption.

- It came at the exact moment God had previously planned, fulfilling every promise of his Son's arrival – Galatians 4:4.
 - Jesus was “made of a woman” and “made under the Law.”
 - This is a much better translation than “born of a woman,” which implies natural occurrence.
 - Jesus was pre-existent, but *made...*
 - ...flesh – John 1:1
 - ... a curse to fulfill the Law – Gal. 3:13
- The entire Old Testament crumbles if Jesus was not the fulfillment of its pages.

Have you recognized that Jesus is the Savior of the world? Have you received the gift of life He offers today, which He paid for on the cross and delivers as the risen and coming Lord?