

20251207 Hope in the Waiting: The Promise That Drew Near – Ps Bijoy

Mathew 1:21- 23

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).

Let’s play a game for a moment. Imagine trying to predict what will happen next in your life. Maybe you’d get it right once or twice. But now imagine predicting every major detail of your great great grandchild’s life -where they’d be born, their family, the major events, even how they’d die. Not just one or two things, but hundreds of details. How many would you get right? One? Two? None?

Now imagine these predictions being made over many centuries before they occurred. That’s exactly what God did with Jesus. Over 300 prophecies in the Old Testament foretold everything about Him - where He would be born, the circumstances of His birth, the line He would come from, and even the purpose of His coming. It was no accident; the fulfilment of prophecy is evidence that God’s plan is meticulous, sovereign, and trustworthy.

To illustrate the improbability, consider this: the chance of one person fulfilling just eight prophecies is one in ten to the power of seventeen. To visualize, imagine covering the entire country of New Zealand in silver dollars, two feet deep, marking one coin, blindfolding a person, and asking them to find it. That’s the chance of fulfilling just eight prophecies, let alone hundreds. Jesus’ life was not random or coincidental. Every detail was planned and orchestrated by God.

Peter captures this beautifully in 1 Peter 1:10-12, where he says the prophets “searched and inquired carefully” about the salvation that was to come, serving not themselves but us. They foresaw the sufferings and glory of Christ, which would only be fully revealed in His life, death, and resurrection. Prophecy is God’s way of showing His people, centuries in advance, that His promises are sure and His plan unstoppable.

The Messiah would be born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 declares, “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” A virgin conceiving is literally impossible - defying natural law. Yet God foretold it centuries before it occurred, and it happened exactly as He said. The virgin birth was essential, not optional. Without it, Jesus would inherit the sinful nature passed down from Adam, and He

could not have been the spotless sacrifice for humanity. The miracle of the virgin birth is a testament to God's supernatural power and His ability to do what is humanly impossible.

The Messiah would come from the line of David.

Isaiah 11: 1 "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."

Psalms 132:11 "The Lord swore an oath to David,
a sure oath he will not revoke:
"One of your own descendants
I will place on your throne."

God promised David that his offspring would establish an eternal kingdom. Matthew and Luke's genealogies demonstrate that Jesus is the rightful heir of David, confirming that God kept His covenant across generations. Martin Luther says that God's faithfulness is not contingent on human perfection, David's line was filled with sin and failure but God's covenant remains sure and unstoppable. Even in human weakness, God's purposes prevail because God is sovereign.

The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans^[a] 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." foretold that the Savior would come from Bethlehem, a small and seemingly insignificant town. God orchestrated events (roman census) so that Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem at the right time. This shows that God's providence extends to every detail, even arranging circumstances that appear ordinary or coincidental, to fulfill His promises with precision. Also God's providence extends to global events, showing that even a Roman emperor's decree was used to fulfill prophecy perfectly.

The Messiah would come out of Egypt.

When Herod sought to kill the child, Joseph fled with Mary and Jesus to Egypt. Matthew 2:14-15 connects this to Hosea 11:1: "Out of Egypt I called my son." This is a typological fulfillment, showing that Jesus, the true and faithful Son, succeeds where Israel failed. Even Herod's evil

intent could not thwart God's plan. Prophecy often unfolds in ways the human mind cannot anticipate, yet it always accomplishes God's purposes.

The Messiah's birth was orchestrated by God's sovereign plan.

From lineage to location, from timing to circumstances, every detail was designed by God. Galatians 4:4 says Jesus came at the "fullness of time," when the political, cultural, and spiritual conditions were ready. Even Caesar Augustus' census unwittingly fulfilled prophecy. God's sovereignty is absolute, He works through history, nations, and even human agendas to accomplish His purposes.

The birth of Jesus is proof of God's precision, faithfulness, and power. Every prophecy fulfilled reminds us that God keeps His promises.

Because God Fulfilled Every Promise About Jesus, We Can Have Assurance and Hope

When we look at all the prophecies about Jesus' birth and early life, something incredible becomes clear. God does exactly what He says He will do. Every promise, every prophecy, every word spoken through the prophets about the coming Messiah came true in Jesus. If God kept every promise about Jesus, can we doubt that He will also keep His promises to us? Can we doubt that His Word is trustworthy? Absolutely not. The fulfilment of prophecy is God's way of showing His faithfulness, and it gives us confidence and hope in our own lives.

Matthew's Gospel is filled with examples of God fulfilling what He promised. He carefully points out how Jesus' ancestry, birth, and upbringing were predicted hundreds of years before they happened. Each fulfilled prophecy is a reminder that God is in control. If He orchestrated history so precisely to bring the Messiah, He can certainly guide and fulfill His promises in your life. This is not abstract faith; this is seeing God's Word work in real life. If God kept His Word about Jesus, we can fully trust Him to keep His Word to us.

What does this mean for us personally? It means hope is not wishful thinking. It is not optimism based on circumstances. Hope is confidence in the character of God. Because God fulfilled prophecy about Jesus exactly as He promised, we know He is faithful. He is unchanging. He is trustworthy. And that gives us hope that the challenges, uncertainties, and trials we face are not outside His control. He has proven that His plans cannot fail. He has shown that even what seems impossible to humans is possible with Him.

We can also see the assurance God gives us through the details of Jesus' life. God protected Jesus as a baby, guiding Joseph to Egypt to save Him from Herod. God guided them back to Israel at the right time. God's timing and care were perfect. If God guided and protected His own Son in every detail, He will guide and protect us as His children? The story of Jesus is our model and proof. God watches over His people. He orchestrates history according to His promises. He is faithful even when circumstances seem overwhelming.

Hope in God also brings peace. When we know God is faithful, we can rest in His promises rather than striving and worrying in our own strength. Life may be uncertain, but God's Word is certain. Life may be messy, but God's plan is perfect. Life may bring suffering, but God will fulfil His purposes. The certainty of fulfilled prophecy is a pattern: God keeps His Word. And because Jesus fulfilled every promise about His birth and life, we know God is perfectly trustworthy in every promise He has made to us.

Finally, hope is contagious. When we live in confidence that God is faithful, others see it. Our families, friends, and communities are encouraged when they see people trusting God's promises. The story of Jesus' birth is not just history. It is God's demonstration of His faithfulness for all generations. God is showing us that what He has done once, He can do again. He fulfilled His Word in Jesus, and He will fulfil His Word in your life. That is hope. That is assurance. That is confidence in the God who never fails.

So, when we look at the fulfilled prophecies, we see a God who acts with precision, who keeps His Word, and who orchestrates history according to His promises. And that is exactly why we can hope. Hope is not wishful thinking. It is grounded in the character of God. Because He fulfilled every promise about Jesus, we can trust Him with our future, with our families, with our lives. We can face the unknown with courage because God has proven that He is faithful. Every prophecy fulfilled in Jesus becomes a promise fulfilled in us: God is trustworthy, and He is our hope.