

One Christmas season I saw a sign on a church that said "Christ's birth was not His beginning. It was His becoming." That gives us an important thing to keep in mind: Jesus is an eternal being. He has always existed, but not by the name "Jesus." Before He came to earth, He was known as the Logos, or the Word.

Ok, we usually think in terms of "starting from the beginning," but in our case, we are actually going to start before the beginning. We can do that because God is not bound to our concept of time.

John 1:1-3 KJVA

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

John 17:4-5 KJVA

I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.

Ephesians 1:3-4 KJVA

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: according as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

Jesus' coming to earth was not an afterthought. Far from it! As soon as man falls in the Garden of Eden, a story most of you are familiar with, we see the prophecy of a redeemer come into play immediately. In Genesis 3:15,

Generally, bloodlines are recorded from the father's side. But here, notice that the Messiah is described as "the seed of the woman." So even this early, we start to see a hint at His virgin birth, a topic we'll discuss in more detail in our next lesson.

From here, throughout the Bible we start to see an amazing sequence of prophecies about the One who was to come and rescue us from this mess. In fact, the Old Testament contains approximately 300 prophecies about the coming Messiah. Lets look at just a few of them. Follow along:

Genesis 12:3 tells us that the Messiah will come through Abraham's descendants

Genesis 17:19 says that He will come through Abraham's son , Isaac

Numbers 24:17 narrows it down even further: He will come through Isaac's son Jacob

Genesis 49:10 prophesies that He will come through Jacob's son, Judah

Jeremiah 23:5-6,, along with Psalm 132 states that he would be a descendant of King David

Michah 5:2, predicted 700 years ahead of time the the Messiah would be born in the city of Bethlehem

Isaiah 7:14, also written 700 years before His birth, said His mother would be a virgin. Again, we'll explore that further in our next session.

Psalm 22, the Psalm Jesus quoted on the cross when He cried out "My God my God, why have you forsaken me?" also contains the prediction that the Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. This is an obvious reference to His crucifixion. The amazing thing is that this Psalm was written 700 years before crucifixion had even been invented!

Well, we've only had time to look at a few of them, but the fact is that Jesus' life was a direct fulfillment of roughly 60 major Old Testament prophecies. The chances of someone randomly fulfilling even eight of them is 10 to the 17th power. It's the equivalent to stacking silver dollars two feet deep across the state of Texas, blindfolding a man and asking him to pick out a specifically marked silver dollar on his first try. Amazing, isn't it?

Friends, I am more convinced of the truth of this message than I'm convinced that I'm alive. Wherever you may be on your spiritual journey, I hope that you enjoy continuing to explore it with me. Until next time, keep it real!