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Why do we celebrate Christmas?

- Biggest event since creation!
- Divides history into before & after
- The view from 200 BC [not to scale]
– Looking back

CREATION
FALL
FLOOD
EGYPT
MT SINAI
PROMISED LAND
BABYLON

[not to scale]

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THE COMING OF JESUS

[not to scale]

- Amos 3:7 “Surely the Lord God does nothing without revealing his plans to his servants the prophets.”
- Over 100 prophecies in OT about the coming of the Jewish Messiah, fulfilled in the arrival of Jesus
 - Interpreting the shadow

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OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES ABOUT THE COMING MESSIAH, FULFILLED BY JESUS

[Source: <https://www.allabouttruth.org/messianic-prophecy.htm>]

| What was prophesied? | Prophecy | Fulfillment |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Born of a virgin | Isalah 7:14 | Matthew 1:21-23 |
| A descendant of Abraham | Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18 | Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16 |
| Of the tribe of Judah | Genesis 49:10 | Luke 3:33, 33; Hebrews 7:14 |
| Of the house of David | 2 Samuel 7:12-16 | Matthew 1:1 |
| Born in Bethlehem | Micah 5:2 | Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7 |
| Taken to Egypt | Hosea 11:1 | Matthew 2:14-15 |
| Herod's killing of the infants | Jeremiah 31:15 | Matthew 2:16-18 |
| Anointed by the Holy Spirit | Isalah 11:2 | Matthew 3:16-17 |
| Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) | Isalah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1 | Matthew 3:1-3 |
| Would perform miracles | Isalah 35:5-6 | Matthew 9:35 |
| Would preach good news | Isalah 61:1 | Luke 4:14-21 |
| Would minister in Galilee | Isalah 9:1 | Matthew 4:12-16 |
| Would cleanse the temple | Malachi 3:1 | Matthew 21:12-13 |
| Would enter Jerusalem as a king on a donkey | Zechariah 9:9 | Matthew 21:4-9 |
| Would be rejected by Jews | Psalms 118:22 | 1 Peter 2:7 |
| Die a humiliating death, involving: | Psalms 22; Isalah 53 | |
| 1. rejection | Isalah 53:3 | John 1:10-11; 7:5,48 |
| 2. betrayal by a friend | Psalms 41:9 | Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18 |
| 3. sold for 30 pieces of silver | Zechariah 11:12 | Matthew 26:14-15 |
| 4. silence before his accusers | Isalah 53:7 | Matthew 27:12-14 |
| 5. being mocked | Psalms 22: 7-8 | Matthew 27:31 |
| 6. beaten | Isalah 52:14 | Matthew 27:26 |
| 7. spat upon | Isalah 50:6 | Matthew 27:30 |
| 8. piercing his hands and feet | Psalms 22:16 | Matthew 27:31 |
| 9. being crucified with thieves | Isalah 53:12 | Matthew 27:38 |
| 10. praying for his persecutors | Isalah 53:12 | Luke 23:34 |
| 11. piercing his side | Zechariah 12:10 | John 19:34 |
| 12. given gall and vinegar to drink | Psalms 69:21 | Matthew 27:34; Luke 23:36 |
| 13. no broken bones | Psalms 34:20 | John 19:32-36 |
| 14. buried in a rich man's tomb | Isalah 53:9 | Matthew 27:57-60 |
| 15. casting lots for his garments | Psalms 22:18 | John 19:23-24 |
| Would rise from the dead!! | Psalms 16:10 | Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31 |
| Ascend into heaven | Psalms 68:18 | Acts 1:9 |
| Would sit down at the right hand of God | Psalms 110:1 | Hebrews 1:3 |

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Example prophecies

- **Isaiah 7:14** *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*
– **Matthew 1:21-23**
- **Micah 5:2-3** *“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. Therefore, Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites.”*
– **Matthew 2:1**
- **Isaiah 60:1-6** *“Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you... Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising... And those from Sheba will come, bearing gold and frankincense and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.”*
– **Matthew 2:11**

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The purpose of prophecy

- **PREP**
 - Predict
 - Reveal
 - Explain
 - Prepare
- Produce **hope**
- Encourage **patience**



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What about us? Looking back

- We can see clearly, reality not shadows
- Begin to understand what happened & why
- **Response-ability**
 - Why did Jesus come? How does it affect me?

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What about us? Looking forward

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What about us? Looking forward

[not to scale]

- **Jesus is coming again**, as king not rescuer
- **In the shadow**: hints, prophecies, not full detail
- Purpose: To give **hope** & encourage **patience**

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Living between the lampposts

FIRST COMING OF JESUS

**RESPOND
IN FAITH**

SECOND COMING OF JESUS

**STAND FIRM
IN HOPE**

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