

Tonight, we are gonna talk about prophecies, I know it sounds weird... if you're like me when you first hear this you picture some crazy witch lady reading someone's palm or rubbing a crystal ball. But the truth is prophecy is in the Bible!! We're not going to go through the entire Bible looking at every single prophecy but tonight we'll check out a few out and an overview of what prophecies are and what they mean for us... and see how the so many prophecies were contingent on Jesus' birth!

**The point:** Jesus' birth proves God's promises are trustworthy!

**The hope:** Understand prophecies and celebrate Christ!

*Matthew 1:18-23 – All this took place to fulfill what the Lord has spoken by the prophet...*

**What is Prophecy?** (student answer)

*it is a promise from God for the future... in our day could be called a prediction!*

**Give me one volunteer! -- how many times**

*What makes a prophecy different from some random guess of the future?*

*A true prophecy is given by the Lord and will come to pass!*

Prophecy is seen all throughout the Bible!

There were **over 1800 prophecies** in the Bible at the time the Scriptures were put together.

When the Bible was written **1/4** of it was prophetic!

Whether you know it or not, you're familiar with prophecies; you've heard them before!

*Genesis 3* – God's promise of future hope in the midst of the fall – that's a prophecy!

*Exodus 6* – God promises to deliver Israel from the Egypt – that's a prophecy!

*Matthew 8* – Jesus prophesies His own death – that's a prophecy!

*Revelation 22* – Jesus says he will return – that's a prophecy!

Prophecies are all over the Bible!

When we think about prophecies in the Bible we can relate them to our day!

We could think about prophecies like a sports prediction or projections! Think about this...

**If you like sports, you always check the score prediction of who is going to win!**

**What we are going to be talking about tonight is like 500 yrs ago someone predicting Tua Tagovailoa would run in the winning touchdown in the national championship in 2018... 500 years ago the US wasn't a country, Alabama wasn't a state, football wasn't a sport and Tua Tagovailoa wasn't even thought of... the prophecies of the Bible were this way... they were written way out into the future!**

That's what a prophecy is – *a promise from God for the future!*

**Why Is Prophecy Important?**

Purpose of prophecies is to give God's people hope for the future and to display God's faithfulness!

*Prophecies Give God's People Hope*

Many times, in the OT God's people needed reassurance... something to hold on to...

When God would speak to His people about His plans for the future the prophecies served as a reminder that God was not absent rather he was still working!

- Prophecies helped Israel see God's plan for the future... this was for both judgement and blessing! (schooling)

*Prophecies Display God's faithfulness*

Prophecy shows that God is faithful... He is faithful to follow through with what He said he will do!

Over and over in the midst of turmoil and trouble Israel was reminded that there would be one to come who would save and redeem them. Israel knew that God had been faithful to his Word thus far, so they trusted his Word would come to pass!

Prophecy is important because they give God's people hope and display Gods faithfulness!

We see both of them in the fulfillment of Christmas prophecies

## Let's think about Christmas prophecies!

### Virgin Birth

*Prophesied: Isaiah 7:14  
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:23*

### Born in Bethlehem

*Prophesied: Micah 5:2  
Fulfillment: Matthew 2:1*

### Descendent of David

*Prophesied: Jeremiah 23:5  
Fulfillment: Matthew 1:1-16*

All these fulfilled by Christ's birth!

Listen to these other prophecies Christ would go on to fulfill:

*He would be called Emmanuel, great [people] would come to adore Him, there would be the killing of children in Bethlehem. He would be called out of Egypt. He would be anointed with the Holy Spirit. He'd be a prophet like Moses, a priest after the order of Melchizedek. He would be entering into His public ministry in Galilee. He would be entering publicly into Jerusalem and come into the temple. He would live in poverty and meekness, tenderness, and compassion. He'd be full of zeal, preaching with parables, working miracles, bearing reproach. He would be rejected by His own Jewish brothers. The Jews and Gentiles would [come] together against Him. He would be betrayed by a friend. His disciples would forsake Him.  
He would die with intense suffering yet be silent under that suffering. He would be struck on the cheek, He would be marred. He would be spit upon and scarred. His hands and His feet would be nailed to the cross. He would be forsaken by God, He would cry out, "My God My God, why have You forsaken Me?" He would be mocked. Gal and vinegar would be offered to Him. His garments would be parted. Lots would be cast for His clothing. He would be numbered among the transgressors. He would intercede for His murderers. He would die but not a bone of His body would be broken. He would be pierced. He would be crucified (long before crucifixion would even be invented.) He would be buried with the rich. His flesh would not see corruption. He would be raised from the dead. He would ascend back to the right hand of God the Father. (Lawson, Ligonier)*

Jesus fulfilling all of these is incredible...

Impossible for it to happen for anyone else except the Messiah... imagine this:

*imagine filling the State of Texas knee deep in silver dollars. Included in this huge number is one silver dollar with a black check mark on it. Then, turn a blindfolded person loose in this sea of silver dollars. The odds that the first coin he would pick up would be the one with the black check mark on it is the same as Jesus accidentally fulfilling just 8 prophecies Jesus!! (Stoner)*

If we were to put that into a number – Jesus had 1 in a QUADRILLION chances for him to fulfill just 8 prophecies let alone the 100+ he fulfilled!! – **crazy!!!!**

The only way this could be accomplished is by Jesus being who he was said to be, who he is... God the Savior, the Messiah... the One the prophecies were talking about!!

## What do these prophecies mean for us?

### THEY GIVE US HOPE!!!

*- We have hope for future!*

One of the greatest things the first Advent does for us is assure us that the second Advent will happen!!

Hebrews 9:28 - *So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.*

If God was faithful to bring about the first Advent he will bring about the second!

We know that one day God will not just decide to restart everything or completely redo his plans and leave us out of them... he has written his word and he has been faithful to that, so we should trust in his faithfulness and keep hope!

*- We have hope for the today!*

We can cling on to God's Words with everything we have knowing that he will do what he said he will do! This isn't just for our future, this isn't just for eternity... this is even for today.

We know that God will sustain us through the today. God's promises for us in the Bible mean something for us today. Because we have hope for our future we have peace in today. For the Christian our hope is grounded in Christ... his birth was prophesied over and over, and God was faithful to bring it about and he will be faithful to us! ... for us it begins with following him... for us to have hope we have to have him!!

We see prophecies all over the Bible but more importantly for tonight, for this time of the year, we see a ton of them confirmed and fulfilled by Christ... this drives us to somethings!

### Application

1. Trust God at his Word
2. Celebrate his faithfulness in coming
3. Look forward to the second coming!