

# **Christmas 2023**



Christ's birth was prophesied for thousands of years. As soon as Adam and Eve sinned, God, even while punishing them, told them that He would send them a savior-through the seed of Eve-who would save man from his sin.

God was talking to Satan in the following verse.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between **thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.**

From that time on, Satan knew that a descendant of Eve's would conquer him and his followers, and man could look for a savior to save him from the sin which had entered the world.

We next pick up on the coming savior's (Jesus') lineage through Abraham. God entered into an

everlasting covenant with Abraham and *his seed* after him.

Genesis 17:2-9

**And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly.** And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, As for *me*, behold, my covenant is with thee, and **thou shalt be a father of many nations.** Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. **And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee.** And I will establish **my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.** And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, **the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.** And God

said unto Abraham, Thou shalt keep my covenant therefore, **thou, and thy seed after thee in their generations.**

God promised Abraham that he would be the father of many nations, and that meant many descendants. But, Abraham and his wife Sarah were still childless when God told them about the son, Isaac, that Sarah would have when she was 90 years old! God would continue His covenant with Isaac and his descendants.

### Genesis 17:19

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and **thou shalt call his name Isaac:** and I will establish my covenant with him for **an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.**

After all the waiting for a son, (Abraham was 100 years old when Isaac was born) you remember that God told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac.

Abraham was ready to do it, but God stopped him. Abraham believed God would keep the covenant He had with him and his seed (specifically Isaac,) so he was not concerned. The writer of Hebrews says it was by faith that Abraham figured God was able to raise Isaac from the dead. The writer also says that Isaac was a figure of what would happen to the Lord Jesus Christ, that he would be sacrificed, the promised savior.

Hebrews 11:17-19

**By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac:** and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That **in Isaac shall thy seed be called:** Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Because of Abraham's faith, God told him that through his seed, all the nations of the earth will

be blessed-the promised savior would come from Abraham's seed, and bless all men.

Genesis 22:15-18

And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for **because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:** That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**

We find out from Paul that "seed" is not children of the flesh but children of the promise, the ones who will keep the covenant with God.

Romans 9:6-8

Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of

Israel: Neither, **because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.** That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but **the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**

Abraham's son Isaac had 2 sons, Esau and Jacob. It was the younger son, Jacob, with whom God continued His covenant.

Exodus 2:24

And God heard their groaning, and God remembered **his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.**

So the seed of the women, the savior, would come following the Abraham-Isaac-Jacob line according to the flesh.

Jacob had 12 sons, and each became the head of one of the 12 tribes of Israel. Jacob's 4<sup>th</sup> son, Judah, was chosen, by God, to be the tribe of

Israel's kings. King David wrote:

1 Chronicles 28:4-5

Howbeit the LORD God of Israel chose me before all the house of my father to be king over Israel for ever: for he hath chosen Judah to be the ruler; and of the house of Judah, the house of my father; and among the sons of my father he liked me to make me king over all Israel: And of all my sons, (for the LORD hath given me many sons,) he hath chosen Solomon my son to sit upon the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel.

This is a very important part of the story because kings need heirs. God promised David that as long as his children, and then their children, would keep the covenant and the testimony with God, David's children would reign from his throne forever.

Psalm 132:11-12

**The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David; he**

**will not turn from it; Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne.** If thy children will keep my covenant and my testimony that I shall teach them, **their children shall also sit upon thy throne for evermore.**

So the promised savior (the seed of the woman first promised to Adam and Eve) would come from the tribe of Judah, through the line of David.

Romans 1:3-4

Concerning his Son **Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power,** according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

Jesus' legal father, Joseph, came from the line of David, though David's son Solomon.

Luke 2:4

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the

city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; **(because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**

It is important to note that even though Joseph was from the line of David, he was only Jesus' legal father. Everyone now knows that Jesus' Father is God Almighty, but then, most people thought that Joseph was Jesus' father.

Luke 3:23

And **Jesus himself** began to be about thirty years of age, **being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph**, which was the son of Heli,

God had promised David that it was his seed *according to the flesh* that would sit upon his throne and be king of Israel. So, Jesus' right to the throne came from his *biological* mother, Mary. Mary was from the line of David through David's son Nathan.

### 1 Chronicles 14:3-4

And David took more wives at Jerusalem: and **David begat more sons and daughters.** Now these are the names of his children which he had in Jerusalem; Shammua, and Shobab, **Nathan, and Solomon,**

People in Israel knew that the promised "seed of the woman" would come from Bethlehem.

### Matthew 2:5-6

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And **thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.**

Here is the prophecy in the Old Testament.

### Micah 5:2

**But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of**

**thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel;** whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

The location of Bethlehem is a strong connection to King David. The following verse also emphasizes that Christ was the seed of David.

John 7:42

Hath not the scripture said, That **Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?**

The seed of David would be born in the town of Bethlehem which was considered the "city of David."

Luke 2:4

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto **the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)**

God even told Daniel to tell everyone when to expect the Messiah!

Daniel 9:25

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.

Even though the Jewish leadership knew when and where to expect the savior, it was wise men from the east, not the Jewish leadership, who came to worship Jesus when he was born.

Matthew 2:1-2

Now **when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,** Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east,

and **are come to worship him.**

So after preparing Israel for thousands of years to receive the promised Savior, the Jewish Leadership, and the nation Israel, was unprepared when Jesus was born.

It was Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection for the salvation of every man that was promised to Adam and Eve.

How could every man, not just Jews, be the beneficiary of the salvation which came through the Jews? Paul explains it. God's promise of a savior was made not just to the many seeds that would come from Abraham-Isaac-Jacob. God also made the promise to Abraham and his seed that did not come from the line of Isaac and then Jacob. That promise was Abraham's see, the savior Jesus Christ, the promised "seed of the woman."

### Galatians 3:16

**Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.** He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**

All nations of the earth were blessed because Christ died for the sins of all men, and that includes us today.

### Romans 5:18

Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one **the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.**

So, each person who accepts the free gift, is placed into the Church, the Body of Christ. When we are placed into Christ, we are Christ's! Christ is Abraham's seed and that makes us Abraham's seed and heirs according to the promise, just like Christ.

Galatians 3:29

**And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

Paul takes it one step further. Since we are Christ's and Christ is God's, we are also God's!

1 Corinthians 3:21-23

Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; **And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's.**

Many in Israel expected Jesus Christ to set up His kingdom of heaven on earth when He was on the earth. Verses like the following in Isaiah talk about Jesus as a child, and then go right into talking about Him sitting on the throne of David and ruling His kingdom in peace and justice-forever. Of course this did not happen after Christ was born in Bethlehem. This was one of the reasons that it was difficult for many to

accept Jesus as the prophesied Savior.

What we find is that truth in the Bible is not bound by time constraints. Jesus was born to save every person who had ever lived, and to be King of Israel. It just so happens that these 2 events will be at least 2 thousand years apart!

Isaiah 9:6-7

**For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:** and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. **Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.** The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Jeremiah prophesied the same thing. The prophesied king will grow out of David but,

instead of being described as a seed of David, is represented as a righteous Branch that would grow out of David and save His people. Under His rule, all of Israel will dwell in prosperity, peace and safety.

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, **that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely:** and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The same Jesus who came to earth as a baby will return to be king of Israel and sit on the throne of David forever. He will rule in justice and peace in the future.

Jeremiah 33:15-18

In those days, and at that time, **will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David;**

**and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land. In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely:** and this is the name wherewith she shall be called, The LORD our righteousness. For thus saith the LORD; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel;

If the Jewish leadership had accepted Jesus as the Messiah, the Savior, He would have set up His kingdom of Heaven on earth when He was here 2,000 years ago. The Jewish leadership rejected Jesus and then the Holy Ghost-when the Holy Ghost spoke through Stephen-so Israel will have to wait for Christ to come to earth again to set up His kingdom.

### Acts 1:9-11

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which

also said, **Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**