



Empowering People to Change the World

First Sunday of Advent 2021

The Coordinates of the Messiah on the First Christmas

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The greatest story ever told—the life, death, and resurrection of Christ—all began with the birth of Jesus Christ. But it's not where it all began. It actually began 1,000 years before, through the prophets in Israel.

- It is believed by scholars and historians that Jesus fulfilled 465 prophecies.
- There are 70 major prophecies with 263 ramifications.
- These prophecies predict the where the Messiah would be born, to whom the Messiah would be born—a description of his mother, one lineage he would come from, where he would be born, and even how he would die.
- The prophecies were begun 1,000 years before Christ and were completed 500 years before His birth.

Galatians 4:4

- The Greek meaning here is that “when every detail was fulfilled, the time came for Jesus to come.”
- In traditional Judaism, there is a scholar named “Rambam.” This is not his real name; but his name is so difficult to pronounce, we will call him Rambam. He is one of the essential Rabbis of ancient times
 - He had 13 principles of Judaism that he said you must believe to be a real Jew. This is just one of those principles:
 - “The Jews must believe in the coming of the Messiah, awaiting him every day, with unwavering faith.”

- This idea of Messianic prophecies in Christianity came from Judaism. The Jewish traditions are that the Prophets of the Bible, the Old Testament, point to a coming Messiah.
- Rambam continues, “Whoever does not believe in Him (Messiah), or does not await His coming, denies not only the other Prophets but also the Torah and Moses, our teacher, for the Torah attests to His coming.”
- This was a huge part of the Jewish faith at the times of Christ.

So, the Jews looked to the Torah, the Prophets, for the fulfillment of a coming Messiah. Christianity took up the expectation and now, this Christmas, the First Sunday of Advent, it seemed right to us to begin with the Biblical prophecies of the coming Messiah. We will just look at a few, or we would be here for days.

Luke 24:25-27, and 44

- Jesus was at the right place at the right time; mathematicians and statisticians show that for one person to have fulfilled just eight of those prophecies in one’s lifetime is 1 out of 10 to the 21st power (10^{21}).
- Ex. The chance of these prophecies coming true is the same as filling the state of Texas two feet deep in silver dollars, making an “X” on one silver dollar, mixing them up, taking a man who is blindfolded and on his first attempt, finding the silver dollar with the “X.”
- When I am hunting, I use a GPS. This GPS gives me coordinates for a location.
- NASA uses coordinates, and if they are off just one degree, the mission will be compromised by thousands of miles.
- God has given us Biblical coordinates for the Messiah on that first Christmas.

God has given us His Son's coordinates that verify His Messiahship that first Christmas.

- I will begin with a very broad brush and then narrow the prophecies down to more specifics as we go.
- We will look at only eight coordinates for the sake of time.

The Coordinates of the Messiah: Let's begin with Genesis 3:15.

**“And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”**

1st Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will come from the Seed of a Woman

- This is the only place in Scripture where the seed is referred to as coming from a woman and not a man, speaking of the Virgin Birth.
- Jesus will come forth from a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

- Immanuel—God with us. There is Deity inside humanity. This is amazing and unprecedented.

2nd Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will Defeat Satan

**“He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.”**

- There is this descendant, a seed, one individual, from the woman, Eve, Who will defeat the serpent who brought such terror and sin into the world.

- God says to the serpent that He is going to put enmity between Him and the woman.
- There is a head injury and a heel injury.
- Then he talks about the descendants.
- So here at the very beginning we have two key prophecies: The Messiah will come from the Seed of a woman, the Virgin birth, and the Messiah will defeat Satan.
- **Galatians 4:4-5** “But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”
 - He is born of the woman—he will be human
 - Under the law—a Jew, a human male
 - Not an angel, not a spirit, but a human male Who will defeat Satan
- But now we are going to narrow down the prophecies of Messiah...

3rd Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will be a Descendant from Abraham

Genesis 22:15-18

“Then the Angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time out of heaven, and said: ‘By Myself I have sworn, says the Lord, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son— blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies. In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice.’”

- Noah had three sons. All of humanity can be traced back to the three sons of Noah, and the prophecies are that the Messiah would come from only one of those sons, Shem.
- So, two thirds of all humanity have been eliminated.
- A seed from Abraham, of all his many descendants - there will be one seed Who will possess the gates of the enemy; and all the nations of the earth, ALL the nations will be blessed, not just the Jews, but ALL nations through this seed.
- Abraham had eight children, and two by Sarah. But the Messianic prophecies can be narrowed down even more; He will come forth from the line of Isaac.
- Isaac will carry this promise.

4th Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will be a Descendant from Isaac

Genesis 21:12

“But God said to Abraham, ‘Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; for in Isaac your seed shall be called.’”

- So, a human male, of the descendant of Abraham; more specifically, He shall come from Isaac.
- Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. But the Messiah would come from Jacob, eliminating 50% of the line of Isaac.
- Now Jacob had 12 sons, and the prophecy is the Messiah will only come from one tribe, eliminating 11 of the 12 tribes, the tribe of Judah.

5th Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will be a King from the Tribe of Judah

Genesis 49:10

**“The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor a lawgiver from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes;
And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”**

- This passage is universally accepted by Jewish sources also as the Messianic prophecy.
- Notice the word “scepter” - the idea of a King.
- Notice that the Messiah will come from the tribe of Judah, one of Isaac’s children.

A Seed from a woman, a human being will be born and crush the head of Satan → He will be a descendant of Abraham → specifically from the seed of Isaac → a King from the tribe of Judah.

- So, we are narrowing it down even more.

6th Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will come from the Branch of Jesse

Isaiah 11:1

**“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse,
And a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”**

- Jesse’s amazing story is in the Book of Ruth.
- Jesse had eight sons; but the Messiah will come from his last son, David.
- Ruth is David’s grandmother.
- This is about the family of David.
- And it all connects to the genealogy of Jesus.

- There are so many passages that speak of the Messiah coming forth from the line of David, that He became known as “the Son of David” a Messianic title.

7th Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will bring an Eternal Kingdom upon the Throne of David

Isaiah 9:6-7

**“For unto us a Child is born,
Unto us a Son is given;
And the government will be upon His shoulder.
And His name will be called
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of His government and peace
There will be no end,
Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,
To order it and establish it with judgment and justice
From that time forward, even forever.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”**

- This is a “forever Kingdom” that God’s going to do with great zeal!
- This is a Messiah Who will come from the House of David and will inherit the Kingdom of God and will rule forever!
- The increase of His government will never end. He will never need to be reelected. He will rule forever - period, end of story!
- It will eventually encompass the entire planet—all people will be submitted to this King, not just Jews, but everyone on the earth.

8th Coordinate of the Messiah: Jesus will be Born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2

**“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,**

**Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting.”**

- The exact place of Jesus’ birth
- It is called Bethlehem Ephrathah, because there were two Bethlehem’s, and the prophecy is being very specific.
- This is wild: there is the future that He will come forth for, but He has also been in existence for all time!
- He is preexistent, but He will be born in Bethlehem.
- This was the prophecy of the Jews about the Messiah. In fact, when the Wise Men did not come back to Herod, Herod did his research from the Scriptures, and the scholars told him that the Messiah would come from Bethlehem.
- So we are getting really narrow now...

The Coordinates of the Messiah:

- **Born of the Seed of a woman**
- **He would be a human being; He would crush the power of Satan**
- **Descendant of Abraham**
- **Descendant of Isaac**
- **From the Tribe of Judah**
- **From the Branch of Jesse**
- **From the Line of David**
- **Born in Bethlehem**

This is the One Who, through His birth, will destroy the works of Satan; and through His kingship, His rulership, His reign, and His power, will go to every people and change the world.

- His impact upon the earth changed everything.
- He is King, He is Lord, He is our Savior!

- We bow at the feet of Yahweh, the God of Israel.
- Today, there are more than two billion people who say they bow down at the Name of Jesus!
- No human being who has ever lived has the impact upon the world like Jesus Christ has had.
- Jesus has changed our lives! This is what Christmas is all about. Jesus came into this world and changed the world! He has taken the sins of the world upon His shoulders and, if you put your faith in Him, His blood will cleanse you of all unrighteousness in your life.

Jesus came into the world as said, “I am the Light of the world.”

Jesus came and said, “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.”

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through me.”

This is the Messiah we celebrate this Christmas! If you have never given your life to Christ and chosen to become one of His disciples, this Christmas you can!

Discussion Questions:

- 1. What do the prophecies of Jesus tell us about the Divine origin of the Bible? The divinity of Jesus?**
- 2. How do these eight prophecies impact your faith in Christ?**
- 3. What are you doing differently during this Christmas season to celebrate and worship Christ?**