

Christmas Has Its Cradle

by Rae E Whitney

*Christmas has its cradle, where a Baby cried;
Did the lantern's shadow show Him crucified?
Did He foresee darkly His life's willing loss?
Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its cross.*

*Christmas has its cradle, shepherds came to see
Little Son of Mary Lamb of God to be;
Had His Father warned Him, none would grant Him room
Save in the Christmas cradle and in the Easter tomb?*

*Christmas has its cradle, Wise men came to bring
Myrrh and gold and incense, offerings for a King;
Myrrh alone stayed with Him, death's balm for this Boy,
From the Christmas cradle and to His Easter joy.*

*Christmas has its cradle, where that Baby cried;
In the Easter garden, Christ lay, crucified;
When death's power was conquered, God's life through Him poured;
Christmas has its cradle and Easter has its Lord!*



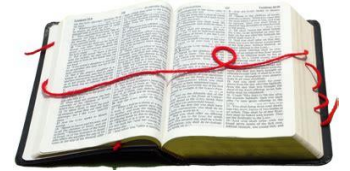
The Jesse Tree The Scarlet Thread of Prophecy Scripture Spilman Memorial Baptist Church, Kinston NC

Dr. H. Powell Dew, Jr.

December 19, 2021

The Scarlet Thread

There is a scarlet thread that runs through the entire Bible – from Genesis to Revelation. The heart of God is demonstrated from beginning to end. God's redeeming love is evidenced from generation to generation. From the beginning of time to the culmination of the God's work eternally in Heaven.



These messianic prophecies run like a thread from book to book. They show God's redemption plan from the beginning, through the life, death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It leads us directly upward to our eternal home as described in the Book of Revelation.

As the choir has reminded us of this story, let us for a few moments this morning see how God ties it all together with His scarlet thread.

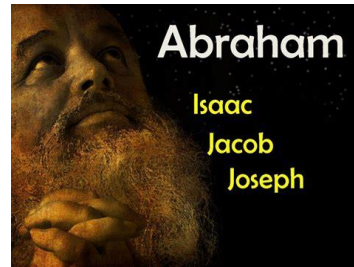
A Messiah is Foretold in the Old Testament

- I. **Bonnie Gaddis** read for us this morning the passage of scripture from Genesis and we see the first scarlet thread concerning a Messiah.

“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.” (Genesis 3:15)

“But when the fullness of 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.” (Galatians 4:4-5)

II. Frances Keel’s reading indicated this scarlet thread would run through the family of Abraham. God said to Abraham, “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Genesis 12:3) This covenant promise also extended to Abraham’s son, Isaac and later Jacob (Genesis 17:19).



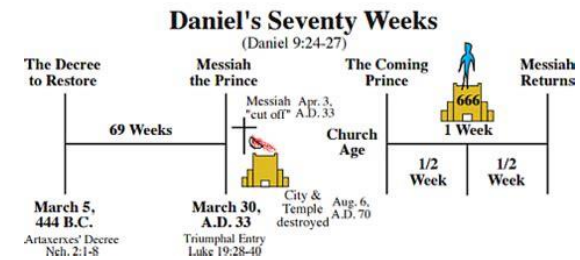
This was clearly fulfilled through the extensive genealogy of Jesus Christ as listed in Matthew 1:1-17.

III. In Genesis we also see that the promised One would come from the tribe of Judah. “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.” (Genesis 49:10)

This was fulfilled completely in Jesus Christ. It will also be demonstrated once again when we gather around God’s throne and see Jesus’ authority. In Revelation 5:5, we read, “But one of the elders said to me (John), “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

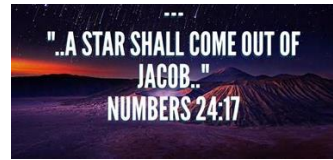


IV. Daniel said the time of the Israelites would be 490 years. He said it would be 7 periods of 70 or 490 years. The Messiah would come after 69 of those periods or 483 years. (Daniel 9:24-27, Luke 19:41-44) The beginning point for the counting of the days began in the month of Nisan in the twentieth year of the King Artaxerxes. (Nehemiah 2:1)

We see this Old Testament prophecy fulfilled concerning the visitation of Jesus Christ in Luke 19:41-44 where it says, “Now as He (Jesus) drew near, He saw the city and wept over it, saying, “If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your enemies will build an

embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave in you one stone upon another, because you did not know the time of your visitation.”

- V. The Messiah would be like a star out of Jacob (Numbers 24:17-19). We read in Matthew 2:2 that God sent a special star to signal the birth of his Only Son. We sing of that “Star of Wonder” at Christmas time.



Deuteronomy declared that the Hoped for One of Israel was a prophet (Deut. 18:15, 18). John 6:14 demonstrates to us that many called Jesus a Prophet who had come from God. *“Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did (the feeding of the 5000), they said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world.”*

Samuel foretold that His throne would be established forever (2 Samuel 7: 12, 13, 16, 25. In Matthew 19:28 Jesus told his closest followers, *“Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*

The Arrival of the Messiah

- VI. **Beth Crisp** reminded us from the Book of Micah how Jesus’ birth was foretold to be in the City of David, 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 going forth are from of old from everlasting.”

Sure enough, we sing of that little baby Jesus born in a manger in a small obscure village called Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1).

Malachi spoke of the Messiah preceded by a forerunner (Malachi 3:1)

We can look at the New Testament narrative and know that the fore runner was none other than Jesus’ cousin, John the Baptist.

Tom Chaney read of the incarnation of Jesus as recorded in John 1:1-14. The very next verse says this, *“John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying, “This was He of whom I said, “He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.”*

Hosea spoke of the Christ child’s flight to Egypt (Hosea 1:1) As we read the story of the birth of Jesus, we realize that King Herod was



extremely jealous of his kingdom and did not want any other person to rise in power and threaten his reign. Herod decreed that all children ages two and

younger were to be killed. There were great cries of grief as these children were murdered. Joseph was warned in a dream and fled to Egypt before the soldiers arrived. (Matt. 2:14).

Luke 1:32 says, *“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”*

Marjorie Taylor read from Isaiah which tells us the Messiah would be born unto a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)

We see this promise recorded and fulfilled by Mary as recorded in Matthew 1:22-23.

David Taylor read of the shepherds going to the manger.

Sharon Dew read about the wisemen being led by a special star.

The Work of the Messiah

VII. Isaiah said the Messiah would preach repentance for the nations. (Isaiah 2:2-4) Luke 24:47 recorded these words of Jesus, *“Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remissions of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem.”*

Michael Cowan read from the passage from Isaiah which said the Messiah would be a light in the darkness (Isaiah 9: 1-20)



Jesus’ appearance on the landscape of Israel was as if the *“Light had dawned”* in a region filled with darkness and death. (Matt. 4:14-16)

The Messiah would be full of wisdom and power (Isaiah 11:1-10)

John 3:34 describes Jesus this way, *“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.”*

Laverne Burks read from Luke 1 which tells us of the Messiah who will be the son of the most High (Isaiah 33:22)

VIII. Isaiah foretold of One that would come and set things right. *“In that day the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness. The humble also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”* (Isaiah 29:18-19)

When John the Baptist asked if Jesus was the Messiah, Jesus replied *“tell John that deaf can hear and the blind can now see.”* (Matt. 5:3, 11:5)

The Sacrifice of the Messiah

IX. Zechariah was the one that said that Christ would enter into Jerusalem on a colt



(Zechariah 9:9). That day, which we call Palm Sunday, Jesus triumphantly entered Jerusalem on a borrowed donkey while crowds shouted “*Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!*” (Matt. 21:4, 7, 9).

- X.** Zechariah prophesied that the Christ would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver and then he would try to return it but it would be used to purchase a potter's field (Zechariah. 11:12, 13)



One of Jesus’ inner-circle betrayed Him. Judas realized too late the error he had made and tried to return the money obtained by his betrayal. The Pharisees refused to accept the money back. Instead, they used it to purchase a potter’s field. (Matt. 26:14-15, 27:9).

- XI.** There were prophecies concerning his crucifixion. Psalms 22:1-31 says that He would be mocked and insulted, they would cast lots for his coat, and even his hands and feet would be pierced. Exodus 12:46 predicted that not even a bone would be broken. Anyone with any understanding of the story of Jesus’ death would realize he was mocked, spat upon, beaten, forced to carry a his own cross, lots were cast for his clothes, and then he was cruelly nailed to a wooden cross.



Before the soldiers came to break his legs to hasten death, Jesus had already died and breaking those bones was unnecessary. (Matthew 27:28-31, 35, John 19:31-34)

- XII.** There are dozens of prophecies concerning events around his crucifixion. It was prophesied that he was to be given vinegar and gall to drink. (Psalm 69:21, Matt. 27:34, 38)

Amos prophesied about the sun darkening (Amos 8:9) In Matthew 24:29, we read about the sun turning totally dark from noon to three in the afternoon.

Zechariah prophesied that as his body was smitten, his followers would be scattered (Zechariah 13:1, 6, and 7). Even those closest to Jesus, Peter especially, would deny him and scatter in fear of being crucified with Jesus. (Matt. 26:31).

- XIII.** There was a prophecy concerning his burial. He would make his grave with the rich (Isaiah 53:9) Joseph of Arimathea, who was a council member, went to Pilate and requested the body of Jesus for burial in his own tomb, in a place hewn out of rock where no one had been laid before. (Luke 23:50-53)

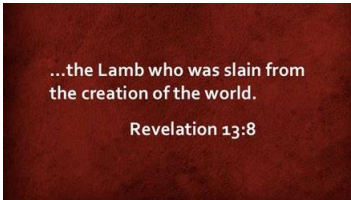
But the Messiah would become the King of Kings as it is written in Isaiah 32:1-4.



Revelation 19:16 shows Jesus Christ as the exalted Lord over all creation. He is the Lamb of God, slain from the foundation of the world wearing a robe with the title, “King of Kings and Lord of Lords” written on it. It is this glorious vision of the victorious Christ that inspired Handel’s Messiah.

The Prophetic Thread is Fulfilled in Jesus Christ

XIV. Jesus came into the world to fulfill His mission to reconcile the world back to God through His death on the cross. There is a prophetic thread running throughout the entire Bible. God has not forgotten us. He has in the fullness of time, sent His Son into the world. He was the Lamb of God slain from the foundation of the world. (Revelation 13:8)



...the Lamb who was slain from
the creation of the world.
Revelation 13:8

We are called to worship Him, adore Him, praise Him, and honor Him. He is our Master, Lord, and Savior.

That prophetic thread is not complete. There are many other prophecies yet to be fulfilled in the return of the Lamb of God. Jesus will return one day to claim us – His Bride – for Himself. He shall be our God and we shall be His people, forever and forever, and forever.

May we learn to live and honor Him with our lives and with all that we are.

AMEN!