

**The New Testament Church**  
***Jesus' Birth; A Prophetic Miracle***  
**December 24, 2023 - Pastor Paul Jehle**

**I Is. 7:14 – M. 1:20-23 – *The miraculous prophecy that Jesus would be Born of a Virgin***

- A. Isaiah prophesied about the virgin birth in 734 B.C.
  1. Ahaz, an evil king of Judah is reproved by Isaiah for not trusting God
  2. Ahaz pretends to honor Him, not wanting to “tempt” him and ask for a sign
  3. God speaks through Isaiah, while he has his newborn Shearjashub (remnant shall escape and return) with him, though no contextual event has ever been found that fits this prophecy
- B. The “virgin” and miraculous birth of Immanuel (God with us) is fulfilled in Jesus
  1. Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-35 chronicle this as fulfilled in Jesus’ birth
  2. But neither Isaiah, or Mary, could ever have known how this would be fulfilled!

***So it is with our new birth, we have no idea what God will do in our lives, but it will help to spread and advance His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven!***

**II Micah 5:2 – Mt. 2:1-6 – *The miraculous prophecy that Jesus born in Bethlehem***

- A. Micah gives hope in the midst of despair in chapter 4 and 5 about Messiah’s birth
  1. Micah prophesied when Israel was taken into captivity to Assyria in 730 B.C.
  2. Israel’s hope will be a Messiah coming from the Watchtower – 4:8-9
  3. He describes how Bethlehem, “city of David” would be where he is born – 5:2
- B. Matthew 2:1-6 describes how God fulfilled this prophecy
  1. The “swaddling cloths” used to birth lambs in the watchtowers given to Mary
  2. Bethlehem the birthplace of Joseph, and he had kin and was well known there
  3. A small village, 6 miles outside Jeruslaem, with a population of about 2 to 3k
  4. Most live in relational clans, with homes (2-3 rooms) built around caves in hills

***Our place of birth, and our parents, are all under the Providential plan of God for His purposes.***

**III Jer. 31:15 – Mt. 2:12-18 – *The prophecy of Comfort in the midst of Suffering***

- A. Jeremiah gives the hope of comfort in the midst of suffering and the deportation of Israel
  1. Jeremiah is a prophet to Judah that will go into captivity to Babylon in 586 B.C.
  2. He predicts the fact that the children will suffer under the tyranny of Rome...
- B. Due to the arrival of the Wise Men 18 or so months after the birth of Christ...
  1. The Wise men do not inform Herod where Jesus is living (in a home)
  2. In vengeance, he slaughters all male children under 2 – about 20 in total...
  3. God had revealed the danger to Joseph and Mary, and they escaped to Egypt

**Note:** *Over 60 prophecies from the Old Testament are fulfilled in Christ, and the odds of even 8 key ones about his birth, death and resurrection would be astronomical – 1 in a quadrillion!*

***We live in a sinful and dark world where we shine forth His purposes; yet we and those we live may suffer as well, demonstrating that we are not victims but victorious in His perfect will***