

The Promise

Message 01 of the series "The Gift"

- A. Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, the prophet Isaiah promised that God would send a Messiah in the form of a child, and He would be a descendent of King David.

Messiah: *the expected king and deliverer of the Jews.*

"For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven's Armies will make this happen!" Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT)

"The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants. The spirit of the Lord will give him wisdom and the knowledge and skill to rule his people..." Isaiah 11:1-2 (GNT)

1. Though Jesus was God, He was willing to leave His throne and become a baby.

"Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Philippians 2:6-11 (NLT)

2. Jesus is no longer a baby... He's a king!

"I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms. Now he is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else—not only in this world but also in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church." Ephesians 1:19-22 (NLT)

"At just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, the King of all kings and Lord of all lords." 1 Timothy 6:15 (NLT)

- B. Fourteen hundred years before Jesus was born, the Bible promised that God would raise up a Messiah similar to Moses.

Moses continued, "The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you yourselves requested of the Lord your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, 'Don't let us hear the voice of the Lord our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will die.' "Then the Lord said to me, 'What they have said is right. I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. I will personally deal with anyone who will not listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf. Deuteronomy 18:15-19 (NLT)

1. Like Moses, Jesus is a deliverer.

"When he came to the village of Nazareth, his boyhood home, he went as usual to the synagogue on the Sabbath and stood up to read the Scriptures. The scroll of Isaiah the prophet was handed to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where this was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, and that the time of the Lord's favor has come.' He rolled up the scroll, handed it back to the attendant, and sat down. All eyes in the synagogue looked at him intently. Then he began to speak to them. 'The Scripture you've just heard has been fulfilled this very day!'" Luke 4:16-21 (NLT)

2. Jesus was anointed by God to deliver us!

Anointed: *To pour oil upon as to signify that a person has been officially chosen to do an important job.*

“And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” Acts 10:38 (NLT)

C. Jesus' birth fulfilled many other promises made about the Messiah in the Old Testament.

1. Isaiah foretold that a virgin would give birth to someone who would be divine.

“...Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel, which means ‘God is with us.’” Isaiah 7:14 (NLT)

“As he considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife. For the child within her was conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name him Jesus for he will save his people from their sins.’ All of this occurred to fulfill the Lord’s message through his prophet.” Matthew 1:20-22 (NLT)

2. Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.

“The Lord says, ‘Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times.’” Micah 5:2 (GNT)

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.’ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, ‘Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?’ ‘In Bethlehem in Judea,’ they said, ‘for this is what the prophet wrote.’” Matthew 2:1-5 (NLT)

3. Hosea foretold that the Messiah would live in Egypt.

“...I called my Son out of Egypt.” Hosea 11:1 (NLT)

“After the wise men were gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. ‘Get up! Flee to Egypt with the child and his mother,’ the angel said. ‘Stay there until I tell you to return, because Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.’ That night Joseph left for Egypt with the child and Mary, his mother, and they stayed there until Herod’s death. This fulfilled what the Lord had spoken through the prophet...” Matthew 2:13-15 (NLT)

Note: “When the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children.” Galatians 4:4-5 (NLT)

Life Application: We can trust God and His Word.

“God faithfully keeps his promises...” 1 Corinthians 1:9 (GW)

“So God has given both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie...” Hebrews 6:18 (NLT)