

Bethlehem
The Message 03 in the series, “Journey to Bethlehem”

A. God sent Samuel to Bethlehem to tell Jesse that his youngest son would be king.

“Now the LORD said to Samuel, ‘You have mourned long enough for Saul. I have rejected him as king of Israel, so fill your flask with olive oil and go to Bethlehem. Find a man named Jesse who lives there, for I have selected one of his sons to be my king.’... Then Samuel asked, ‘Are these all the sons you have?’ ‘There is still the youngest,’ Jesse replied. ‘But he’s out in the fields watching the sheep and goats.’ ‘Send for him at once,’ Samuel said. ‘We will not sit down to eat until he arrives.’ So Jesse sent for him. He was dark and handsome, with beautiful eyes. And the LORD said, ‘This is the one; anoint him.’ So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the LORD came powerfully upon David from that day on. Then Samuel returned to Ramah.” 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (NLT)

Note: God promised David that from his line would come an eternal kingdom ruled by an eternal King.

“For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.” 2 Samuel 7:12-16 (NLT)

B. God sent angels, shepherds and wise men to Bethlehem to announce the birth of the King of Kings.

“...They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David!’” Luke 2:9-11 (NLT)

“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.’” Matthew 2:1-2 (NLT)

Note: Gabriel announced to Mary that her son would be the promised King who would rule forever.

“Gabriel appeared to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!’ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ‘Don’t be afraid, Mary,’ the angel told her, ‘for you have found favor with God! You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!’”

Luke 1:28–33 (NLT)

C. David was a shepherd who risked his life to protect his sheep, and he later became a king who protected God’s people.

“But David persisted, ‘I have been taking care of my father’s sheep and goats,’ he said. ‘When a lion or a bear comes to steal a lamb from the flock, I go after it with a club and rescue the lamb from its mouth. If the animal turns on me, I catch it by the jaw and club it to death. I have done this to both lions and bears, and I’ll do it to this pagan Philistine too, for he has defied the armies of the living God!’” 1 Samuel 17:34–36 (NLT)

Note: Jesus came as the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His flock and reigns as the eternal King, defending and caring for His people.

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.” John 10:11 (NIV)

D. David was a man after God's own heart who did what God asked.

"But God removed Saul and replaced him with David, a man about whom God said, 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart. He will do everything I want him to do.'"

Acts 13:22 (NLT)

Note: Jesus is the perfect Son who fully obeyed the Father's will of laying down His life.

"For I have come down from heaven to do the will of God who sent me, not to do my own will."

John 6:38 (NLT)

"Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine." Luke 22:42 (NLT)

E. David defeated Goliath, who held Israel hostage to fear.

"Goliath stood and shouted a taunt across to the Israelites. 'Why are you all coming out to fight?' he called. 'I am the Philistine champion, but you are only the servants of Saul. Choose one man to come down here and fight me! If he kills me, then we will be your slaves. But if I kill him, you will be our slaves! I defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!' When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken." 1 Samuel 17:8-11 (NLT)

"As Goliath moved closer to attack, David quickly ran out to meet him. Reaching into his shepherd's bag and taking out a stone, he hurled it with his sling and hit the Philistine in the forehead. The stone sank in, and Goliath stumbled and fell face down on the ground. So David triumphed over the Philistine with only a sling and a stone, for he had no sword. Then David ran over and pulled Goliath's sword from its sheath. David used it to kill him and cut off his head." 1 Samuel 17:48-51 (NLT)

Note: Jesus defeated Satan, who wants to hold everyone hostage to fear.

"In this way, he disarmed the spiritual rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross." Colossians 2:15 (NLT)

"Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the fear of dying." Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

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