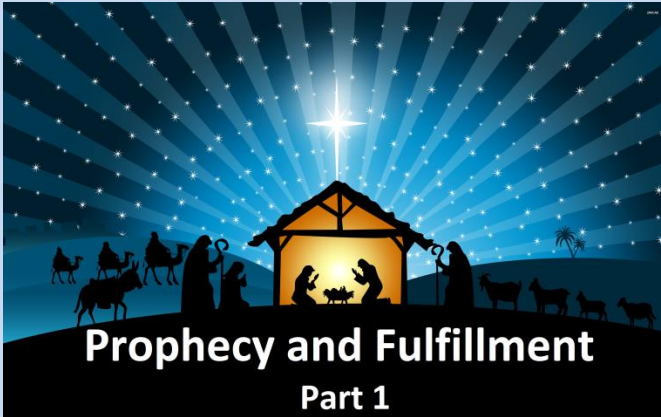


Based on Genesis 3; Galatians 4; Hebrews 2; 1 John 3 NAU



December 2, 2020 ♦ 11 AM & 7 PM

First Wednesday in Advent

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today is part 1 of a 3-part series I am calling: Prophecy and Fulfillment

- In this series, what is prophecy? It is God speaking – *by the Holy Spirit and through a prophet* – to tell us about a future event.
- What is fulfillment? It is God – *according to His timing and by His power* – achieving what He predicted.

The OT contains over 2,000 prophecies, *with over 300 relating to Jesus*. Even though some still wonder if Jesus is more than just an extraordinary man, *the prophecies and fulfillments prove that He is the Promised Savior of the world!*

1. **Why Is Prophecy So Important?** It proves that the Holy, All-Knowing, and Almighty God Is THE AUTHOR OF THE BIBLE! Therefore, *from the Bible, what is true?*
 - a. God created and is sustaining all things!
 - b. There is actual right and wrong!
 - c. All people have broken God's laws!
 - d. All people deserve God's punishment!

- e. God promised to destroy the devil and his works!
 - f. God fulfilled His promise through Jesus!
2. **Genesis 3 – HUGE CHANGES:** It begins with sinless people in a perfect world, includes the fall into sin, the first gospel promise, and the consequences of sin, and ends with a picture of Jesus' sacrifice to cover our sins!
- a. The temptation (1-5): With the permission of the serpent, Satan possessed him, and then spoke through him to deceive the woman. He twisted what God said and enticed her to doubt what God said. Satan said to her, **“Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden’?”** ² **The woman said to the serpent** [regarding the tree in the middle of the garden], **“God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”** Then Satan contradicted God by saying to her, **“You surely will not die!”** What about us... do we believe or doubt the Bible? Do we immediately reject a Bible contradiction or begin to consider it?
 - b. The fall (6-7): Sadly, *for the woman*, she believed Satan over God, so she ate, and then her husband ate. Those *small actions* brought **HUGE PROBLEMS** for everyone!
 - c. The questions (8-13): The LORD said to the man, **“Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”** The man said, **“The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”** It's her fault for giving the fruit to me and Your fault for giving her to me! **Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”** And the woman said, **“The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”** In other words, it's the fault of the serpent, whom You created! *Let us be different by confessing our sins!*

d. The Consequences and Promise (14-19):

- i. Snakes: ¹⁴ **The LORD God said to the serpent [the snake], “Because you have done this [permitting Satan to use your body to deceive the woman], Cursed are you more than all cattle [which are tame and a blessing to people], And more than every beast of the field [more than all the untamed wild animals]; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life; // So snakes go on their bellies today!**
- ii. Promise: ¹⁵ **And I will put enmity [hostility] Between you [Satan, the Prince of Darkness] and the woman, And between your seed [the many you have and will influence for evil] and her seed [a particular future seed of a woman, who will be my Son, defeat you, and destroy your evil work]; He [whose name will be Jesus] shall bruise you on the head [thus destroy you], And you [Satan] shall bruise him on the heel [thus only injure Him].”**
- iii. Women: ¹⁶ **To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth... And [your husband] will rule over you.”**
- iv. Men: ¹⁷ **Then to Adam He said... “Cursed is the ground because of you... [And] you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”**

e. The Sacrifice (21): **The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them. // When did God do that? On the very day they fell into sin! What skin was available? Most likely only the skin of living animals! Therefore, God probably put to death, *thus shed the blood*, of an animal or two to make those garments. Then God clothed them, *which points ahead to God clothing us with Christ in holy baptism (Galatians 3:27)*!**

3. **The Fulfillment:** God is almighty, so He **can** do whatever He says! God is holy, so He **must** do whatever He says!
- The Promised Seed (Galatians 4:4-5):** **But when the fullness of the time came** [as God had planned], **God sent forth His Son** [from heaven to earth], **born of a woman** [the Virgin Mary], **born under the Law** [like everyone else], **so that He might redeem** [buy back] **those who were under the Law** [all people], **that we might receive the adoption** [re-admission into God's family] **as sons.**
 - Crushing Satan (Hebrews 2:14-15):** **...since the children share in flesh and blood, He** [the Son of God] **Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death** [His death] **He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.** // Imagine being cornered by a poisonous snake; if you try to flee, *his deadly venom will enter your body and your will die.* However, when someone comes and crushes the head of that snake, then your fear is replaced with joy. **Jesus is our joy!**
 - Destroying the devil's works (1 John 3:8b):** **The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.** // That is ♣ why God the Father sent Him, ♣ why God the Son came, and ♣ what He did through His *sinless living and sacrificial dying!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, like Adam and Eve, the consequences of our sins are horrible, *yet Your love through Jesus is so wonderful!* Help us to ♣ know Your Word is true, ♣ rejoice in Jesus, and ♣ point others to the Savior!

CONNECT WITH US → Website: www.BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com
Podcast: Benefit from the Bible | Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 7500 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134, 440-845-2230