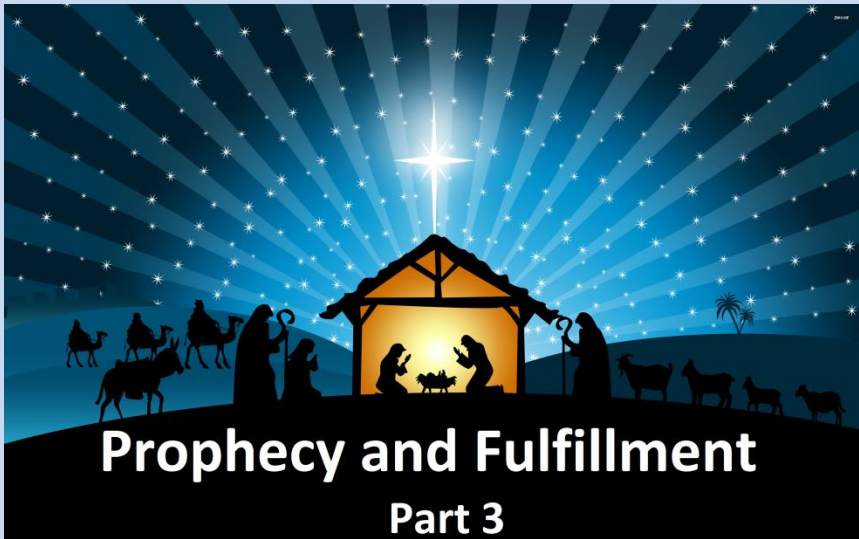


Based on Isaiah 7; Matthew 1; Isaiah 9; Luke 2 NAU



Prophecy and Fulfillment

Part 3

December 16, 2020 ♦ 11 AM & 7 PM

Third Wednesday in Advent

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

In this series, prophecy is **God** telling us about a future event, while fulfillment is **God** achieving what He foretold.

This sermon focuses on **Isaiah chapters 7 and 9**, as well as their fulfillments – *in the Person of our Lord Jesus Christ!*

- The Virgin Birth:** Earlier in **Isaiah chapter 7**, both **Syria** and **Israel** united together against **Judah**. Ahaz, *the king of Judah (from 735 to 715 BC)*, and his people were so fearful that they “**shook as the trees of the forest shake before the wind**” (v. 2). So the LORD sent Isaiah to Ahaz to tell him, “**do not fear**” (v. 4), because the efforts of **Syria and Israel** will fail. *But Ahaz did NOT believe him.*
 - Prophecy – Isaiah 7:** ¹⁰ **Then the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying,** ¹¹ **“Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD**

your God; make it deep as Sheol [*deep as hell*] or high as heaven.” [*In other words, ASK ANYTHING!*] ¹² **But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!”** ¹³ Then he [*Isaiah*] **said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? //** Isaiah implied that the LORD is NOT the God of Ahaz; He should have been, *but He was not!* Now, two signs...

- i. The sign **AFTER** the time of Ahaz: ¹⁴ **“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin [*a young woman (Gen. 24:43), girl (Ex. 2:8)*] will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel [*God with us*]. // The LORD caused that to happen about 700 years later!**
- ii. The sign **DURING** the time of Ahaz: ¹⁵ **“He [*speaking of another child to be born*] will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good [*pointing to a time of some maturity for that child*]. ¹⁶ **For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.” // Therefore, soon, Syria and Israel will no longer be a problem!****
- b. Fulfillment – **Matthew 1:** ¹⁸ **Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph [*thus engagement and even more, since it was a LEGAL arrangement*], **before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit.** // When a man and a woman *come together*, a child could possibly be conceived. However, for Mary, **“she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit” BEFORE they came together! *God in human flesh!*****

2. **The Amazing Child**: *From gloom to great joy!*

a. Prophecy – Isaiah 9:

- i. ¹ **But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish [for God's chosen people who turn to Him in repentance]; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt [when He permitted the Assyrians to attack them (722 BC)], but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles [where Jesus did much of His ministry].**
- ii. ² **The people who walk in darkness [all who are without God's gift of salvation] Will see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them [as the Promised Messiah will be among them].**
- iii. ³ **You [the Christ] shall multiply the nation [of believers], You shall increase their gladness [with Your finished work]; They will be glad in Your presence As with the gladness of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil. // Harvest and spoil are good; God's eternal gifts are FAR BETTER!**
- iv. ⁴ **For You [the Christ] shall break the yoke of their burden and the staff on their shoulders, The rod of their oppressor, as at the battle of Midian. // Enslaved by sin; then set free through Jesus' victory!**
- v. ⁵ **For every boot of the booted warrior in the *battle* tumult, And cloak rolled in blood, will be for burning, fuel for the fire. // Through the Christ, all traces of sin will be thoroughly removed!**
- vi. ⁶ **For a child [the Christ child, born of a virgin] will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the**

government will rest on His shoulders [the child will be the King of the Jews, even the King of kings]; **And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor** [giving perfect advice], **Mighty God** [the second Person of the Holy Trinity], **Eternal Father** [acting like a father to protect us and provide for us], **Prince of Peace** [as He removed all sin to make peace between God and people].

vii. **⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace** [unlike an earthly king who lives and dies], **On the throne of David and over his kingdom** [Jesus – a descendant of David and the newborn King of the Jews], **To establish it** [the kingdom of God] **and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal** [intensity] **of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.**

b. **Fulfillment – Luke 2:** **¹⁰ But the angel said to them** [to the shepherds outside of Bethlehem], **“Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹ for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”** // Even though angels are mighty creatures and can cause fear, this angel had *VERY GOOD NEWS!* The long-promised Savior – *who is for ALL THE PEOPLE* – has been born! *He is Christ the Lord!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father in heaven, back then and today, *everyone in the world continues to desperately need Jesus.* Therefore, move us to be like the angel by announcing to others the GREAT NEWS of Jesus’ birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, and approaching return!

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