



SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE

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Friday, December 18, 2020

Scripture: Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14, Micah 5:2, Hosea 11:1, Isaiah 60:5

TITLE: He is in Control

What is it that you have anticipated most in your life? What was that gift or that event that you waited for and longed for the most? How long did you have to wait for it? Was it a marriage you waited two years of being engaged? Was it a trip to Disney? You had to save up for years, and finally, you got your down payment, but still had to wait six more months. Was it the adoption of a child that you had fostered for many years, and finally, the child became part of your family?

Whatever it was, I don't think there's ever been greater anticipation than for the Messiah. That's what we want to talk about today, as we are now just one week away from Christmas. Here we are in the Season of Advent, the season of remembering and anticipating that Christmas Day. Well, what I want to do today, is talk about prophecies regarding the birth of the Messiah. You see, back in Genesis 3:15, God pointed towards the coming Messiah. He spoke of a descendant of Adam and Eve, saying that he would be bruised but not defeated. Instead, the bruiser would become defeated.

Thousands of years of waiting - for anticipation for the coming of the Messiah - But do you realize that 700 years before the birth of Jesus, the Prophet Isaiah would say that the virgin would bear a son, and His name would be Immanuel, meaning God With Us? We find that in Isaiah 7:14. Well, we know from Matthew Chapter One, that Jesus would be born of a virgin - The Virgin Mary. 700 years of waiting -- of anticipating - for this miraculous virgin birth to transpire. But we know that this prophecy would be fulfilled.

The Prophet Micah, who prophesied around 700 years before the Messiah, said this in Micah 5:2 (NLT), "[But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel, whose origins are in the distant past, will come from you on my behalf.](#)"

You see, the Prophet Micah said that this Messiah would be born in the town of Bethlehem - just a small village, an insignificant village. But yeah, we know that, according to Matthew Chapter 2, this is exactly where Mary and Joseph would go to deliver the baby. They would return back to fulfill a census, but that wasn't by chance. That was by design, by God. The Messiah was predicted to be born in Bethlehem, and so He was born in Bethlehem.

But then we know from the story of the birth of Jesus, that because King Herod was looking to kill all the newborn sons, Joseph and Mary and Jesus would have to depart, and flee to Egypt. Did you know even that was prophesied? It was in Hosea 11:1. Hosea said, "[When Israel was a](#)

child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” This prophecy came 700 years before the birth of Jesus as well.

But did you know that even the coming of the wise men was predicted by the Prophet Isaiah, 700 years before the event? Isaiah 60:5 (NLT) says,

"Your eyes will shine, and your heart will thrill with joy, for merchants from around the world will come to you. They will bring you the wealth of many lands."

There are over 2500 prophecies in the Bible, and over 2000 of them have been fulfilled without error. There are over 350 prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ alone.

Whatever it is you're going through this holiday season, you truly do not have to worry. God is watching over you, and He is in control of it all. That doesn't mean that He is forcing something to happen, but it may mean He is allowing something to happen for a greater purpose. But maybe you're feeling alone, or stuck, or angry, or whatever it is. The same God who, from the moment that Adam and Eve betrayed Him, He still loved them, and He had a plan to redeem mankind; the same God who saved Abraham, and King David, and a fisherman named Peter, and a religious zealot and murderer named Paul, is the same God Who has saved you.

My challenge to you today is this: look at the track record of God to fulfill His promises. God has promised to never leave you nor forsake you. Today, ask God to help you believe it. Ask God to help you trust Him fully. And then I challenge you, to simply be still, and know that He is God.