

Prophecies of Birth of Jesus: 1

The Seed of Woman and the Virgin Birth

Over the Christmas season I am going to take you through some of the OT prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus.

First we must appreciate what we mean by prophecy – often understood to be a prediction, but this is not necessarily the case. As we look at the prophecies concerning Jesus many will contain some prediction others do not. This is because the word *prophecy* (Hebrew *naba*) literally means '*to speak forth by divine inspiration (of God)*' therefore a prophecy is something uttered that comes from God, this may or may not include a predictive word.

OT people that spoke of the coming of Jesus include:

- Prophets – Isaiah, Samuel, Jeremiah, Daniel, Haggai, Micah, Nathan, Hosea
- Patriarchs – Jacob, Moses
- Kings – David

As we go through some of these prophecies we are going to look at both the prophetic utterance and the fulfilment.

“As the Power of the Highest overshadowed Mary, since the 'Holy Thing' to be born of her was to be Son of God, we dare not enter the meditation before us without seeking the same divine overshadowing in order to understand the unique work of the Spirit within her. Without the aid of the Holy Spirit, who is the Power of the Highest, and who as such made the womb of Mary His workshop, we cannot understand the truth of the incarnation of Christ, of which Paul wrote, 'Great is the mystery of godliness – God manifest in the flesh’”

Dr. Herbert W. Lockyer (1886-1984), “All The Messianic Prophecies of the Bible”, chapter 4, first paragraph.

To begin our study we are going to look at the very first prophetic word spoken concerning the coming of Jesus. This was not spoken by any man but by God Himself, and sets in order the process by which God uses to get Jesus into the earth – **the spoken word**. We see this process clearly demonstrated in John 1.14, “*and the word became flesh and dwelt among us...*” and this thought must be the base of our understanding the whole issue concerning the birth of Jesus. So keep this thought in your heart and with the help of the Holy Spirit to give the revelation, let us turn to the Bible prophecies about Jesus.

A. The Seed of the Woman

Genesis 3.15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

This was spoken by God Himself to that 'old serpent, the devil'

- He was the first to learn of the Deliverer that would come and destroy his works.
- To him was given the initial promise and prophecy of redemption from sin that he had just introduced to God's perfect creation.

- From this point on, God speaks forth His word that Jesus was to come. Through the mouths of prophets, priests and kings until the time came that “the Seed should come” (Galatians 3.19)

Prophecy #1 - “The woman.. and her Seed” (Genesis 3.15)

Fulfilment:

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit”
Matthew 1.18

“What purpose then *does* the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made....” Galatians 3.19

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law” Galatians 4.4

God used this same terminology to Abraham (Genesis 12.7, “And the LORD appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give this land...”) which the Holy Spirit translates for us in Galatians 3.16 and tells us that the Seed is Christ.

“Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “AND TO YOUR SEED,” who is Christ”
Galatians 3.16

And again to David (2 Samuel 7.12-14)

“When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his Father, and he shall be My son.”

The Holy Spirit again tells us that Jesus is the Seed of David in Romans 1.2-4, “which He promised before through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures, concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh, and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Luke 1.30-33

“Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

B. A Virgin Shall Conceive

Isaiah 7.14

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

The phrase we have just been considering, 'her Seed' is not found anywhere else in the Bible. as we have just seen all other references are to 'the seed' – there are over 100 of them, and they are all used in reference to man - the seed of man. 'Her seed' is a direct reference to a virgin birth.

Jesus was born without the sin nature of Adam, he had to be to pay the price of sin – thus the virgin birth was necessary.

Biologically, the seed comes from the man, the father of the child.

- The genetic 'sin nature' from Adam is passed on through the man not the woman, this is why it was not passed on to Jesus, he had no human father.
- Since the sin nature does not come through the female chromosomes, God did not have to make Mary sinless first (immaculate conception). His sinlessness was not dependent on Mary, she didn't need to be preserved from sin or made sinless before she conceived Him.
 - For Mary to be without sin then her parents needed to be without sin and then their parents and so on down the line.
 - To insist that Mary is without sin, is to deny the virgin conception, which was the supernatural means God chose to keep Jesus sinless.
- Mary conceived Jesus, the same way we received Him as Saviour – she heard the word and believed
 - In His explanation of the parable of the Sower, Jesus identified the seed as the word of God.
 - Mary's statement of faith in Luke 1.38 "[Behold the maidservant of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word](#)" shows us that she received and believed the word – the seed that was sown in good ground.
 - And as we saw earlier John 1.14 says "[and the word became flesh](#)" - the seed produced and bore fruit – it physically took on human form.
 - This is the same process that was used in creation – God spoke the word and the Holy Spirit took the word and formed the things we see "[By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible](#)" (Hebrews 11.3)

Whenever the birth of Jesus (the Christ/Messiah) is spoken of in prophecy, reference is made to His mother or to the womb, but never to a human father, which of course He did not have.

["Listen, O coastlands, to Me, And take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name"](#) Isaiah 49.1

["And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant..."](#)
Isaiah 49.5

["But You are He who took Me out of the womb..."](#) Psalm 22.9

["Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time *that she* who is in labor has given birth..."](#) Micah 5.3

Prophecy #2 - "a virgin shall conceive" (Isaiah 7.14)

Fulfilment:

“And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS... Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" And the angel answered and said to her, "*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God.*” Luke 1.31,34-35

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit... So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD, AND BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which is translated, "God with us."”
Matthew 1.18,22-23