

# Prophecies of Birth of Jesus: 4

## The Names, Titles and Designations Given Him in Prophecy and at Birth: [part 2]

In the last session we began looking at the certain names and designations which were attributed to Jesus in the prophecies and these are important for our study as we learn who He is and what His birth means for us and the world to whom He was given.

We have already studied, although very briefly, the name of **JESUS**, and the titles **CHRIST/MESSIAH** and **LORD**. Let us continue:

### **D. EMMANUEL**

**“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel!” Isaiah 7.14**

What a name! This was not just any other name. It was not to be used in an ordinary way to address Him. Rather it was a name that revealed His character and His contact with men. **Emmanuel** – God with us

**“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 1.22-23

This name speaks to us of His deity and fellowship with men. He is **“God manifest in the flesh”** (1 Timothy 3.16) and He is ever abiding with us in fellowship, **“lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”** (Matthew 28.20)

Now God doesn't dwell in a tabernacle, cut off from men, but He lives in their hearts by His Spirit – He is truly *with us*. Jesus said of those that received Him **“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you”** (John 14.16-17)

and again, **“If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him”** (John 14.23)

The Scripture can be summarised in this threefold way:

In the Old Testament He is – God **for** us

In the Gospels – God **with** us

In the Acts and Epistles – God **in** us

This is a revelation of His character that gives us encouragement, even in the darkest moments of life – though the fiercest storm may rage, He is with us in the vessel, He is Emmanuel.

### **E. KING**

**“Behold, *the* days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgement and righteousness in the earth” Jeremiah 23.5**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem, wise men from the East set out in search of Him. They came to Jerusalem with one question burning on their lips:

““Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”” (Matthew 2.2)

- He was not born in the palaces of Herod's court but in an animal shelter.
- He was not laid in a royal crib but a feeding trough
- His throne was His mother's knee, His robe was the swaddling cloths, His courtiers the shepherds

yet, He was more of a King than Herod, for He is King above all the kings of earth.

“And He has on *His* robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.” (Revelation 19.16).

Let us learn from the example of the wise men and bow our knees and worship the King

“For the LORD *is* the great God, And the great King above all gods... Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. For He *is* our God, And we *are* the people of His pasture, And the sheep of His hand” (Psalm 95.3,6-7)

## **F. GOVERNOR**

**“For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S: and he *is* the governor among the nations.” Psalm 22.28 (AV)**

**“He shall be as a governor in Judah” Zechariah 9.7 (AV)**

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgement and with justice from henceforth even for ever...” Isaiah 9.6-7**

While we may be more familiar with the prophecy in Isaiah 9 where it speaks of His government. The AV calls Him the 'governor' in Psalm 22 and Zechariah 9.

This word governor means someone that rules, reigns and exercises dominion and authority. It is the Hebrew word *mashal* which is like the English marshal, a high ranking officer in the armed forces.

The Greek counterpart is *hegeomai* which means one who leads or commands; a prince, of regal power. This is shown by Herod's response to the news that the chief priests relayed to him, quoting from the Scripture (Micah 5.2)

**“And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel” Matthew 2.6 (AV)**

His government will not diminish – there will be no end. He is the One who governs righteously, and in love. He did not come on this occasion to conquer with a club and

sword, but by the cross and scars. He is coming back again soon to take His rightful place as 'Governor of the nations'

Will we allow Him to rule and reign in our lives?

## **G. SON**

**“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given...” Isaiah 9.6**

This designation speaks to us of a relationship – the Father-Son relationship. The study of this name requires a much deeper look at the Scriptures but as we are concerned with the nativity prophecies we are only going to see what the Gospel writers Matthew and Luke have to say about Him in these passages:

### **a) Son of Abraham**

**“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ..... the Son of Abraham” Matthew 1.1**

**“And in you [*Abraham*] all the families of the earth shall be blessed” Genesis 12.3**

**“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ... Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.” Galatians 3.14,16 (AV)**

In His birth Jesus laid hold of the seed of Abraham, and as his Son, covenant relationship with Israel is implied.

### **b) Son of David**

**“I have made a covenant with My chosen, I have sworn to My servant David: 'Your seed I will establish forever, And build up your throne to all generations.’” Psalm 89.3-4**

**“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David...” Matthew 1.1**

**“concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was born of the seed of David according to the flesh” Romans 1.3**

Kingship and royalty are prominent here – Jesus was born of David's lineage, born in the City of David, of David's genealogy. He became successor and heir of all the promises made to David (see Luke 1.32; Luke 2.4)

### **c) The Firstborn Son**

**“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son...” Isaiah 7.14**

**“and did not know her till she had brought forth her firstborn Son. And he called His name JESUS” Matthew 1.25**

Jesus was Mary's firstborn Son – He opened the womb and this gave Him the rights and privileges of the birthright by the Law, He was inheritor of the blessing. The firstborn was set apart and consecrated for the Lord.

“Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens the womb among the children of Israel, *both* of man and beast; it is Mine.” Exodus 13.2

#### **d) My Son**

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You’” Psalm 2.7

“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...” Luke 1.31-32

“and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.” ” Matthew 2.15 (Hosea 11.1)

When God gave Jesus, His only begotten Son (John 3.16) He emptied Heaven of the very best for the very worst of earth. God declares that Jesus is ‘*My Son*’ and on a couple of occasions in Jesus’ ministry on earth this same declaration was pronounced:

- at His baptism - Matthew 3.17
- on the Mount of Transfiguration - Matthew 17.5

He is the Son of God.

#### **H. NAZARENE**

“**And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene.**” Matthew 2.23

We spent a brief time on this when we were looking at the places mentioned in prophecy concerning Jesus birth.

None of the prophets actually gave Him the literal name ‘Nazarene’ although His contemporaries and peers did. However the name agrees with what the prophets foretold about His character.

“saying, “Let *us* alone! What have we to do with You, Jesus of Nazareth? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!”” Mark 1.24

“But he said to them, “Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him” Mark 16.6

“Now Pilate wrote a title and put *it* on the cross. And the writing was: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS” John 19.19

The designation *Nazarene* is very similar to *Nazirite*, although there is a distinction between the two.

**a) Nazirite** – The Nazirite vow involved complete consecration, separation and dedication to God as prescribed in Numbers 6.2-21. Jesus was consecrated to God as the firstborn Son, as we have already seen, but there is no evidence in Scripture that He took the Nazirite vow, even though by His life He lived the spirit of it, a life totally

consecrated to His Father – John the Baptist probably took the vow as his lifestyle was similar to that of a Nazirite (Luke 7.33); and Paul did (Acts 18.18, Acts 21.23-26).

**b) Nazarene** – The reference here is to one that comes from Nazareth. Jesus is often given the title *Jesus of Nazareth*, as this is where he lived and was brought up.

There are two understanding of the origins of the word -

1. **netzer** – meaning tree or branch. Nazareth was a place of trees. There is a prophecy in Isaiah 11.1 '[There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots](#)'. This prophecy states that a *netzer* would grow out of Jesse's roots and has been said that it refers to an inhabitant of Nazareth.
2. **natzri** – meaning pain. This could be a reference to the Messiah as a 'sufferer of pain' which the prophet portrays in Isaiah 53. Nazareth also had the unfortunate reputation of being a place of no good, or pain. This is illustrated by Nathanael's question in John 1.46 "[Can anything good come out of Nazareth?](#)"

Yet in Jesus we see all those things – a person of no reputation, who submitted Himself to the pain and agony of the death of the cross (Philippians 2.7-8)

## I. WONDERFUL, COUNSELLOR, MIGHTY GOD, EVERLASTING FATHER, PRINCE OF PEACE

[“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace”](#) Isaiah 9.6

Although many, myself included, have broken these 'names' down and looked at each one individually, we actually see the verse in Scripture says 'his name' not his names. It is almost as if the five he gives are just various facets of the one name, rather like a diamond or precious cut stone. It is one stone but when cut or honed has many facets or sides, all which show the stone in a fresh light. Let us look at each of these 'facets' of his name:

### a) Wonderful

[“O LORD, You are my God. I will exalt You, I will praise Your name, For You have done wonderful things; Your counsels of old are faithfulness and truth”](#) Isaiah 25.1

The word translated here and in the prophecy above as 'wonderful' literally means miracle or miraculous, marvellous.

Jesus came and was known as the miracle-worker. Everywhere He went He performed wonderful miracles, miraculous works.

[“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst,”](#) Acts 2.22

[“By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus”](#) Acts 4.30 (AV)

Not only was He wonderful in deed but also in His teaching, His character and His life – He truly is Wonderful.

### **b) Counsellor**

A counsellor is an advisor, someone who imparts wisdom. Isaiah prophesied that Messiah would be the Wisdom of God, the Counsellor.

The Psalmist declared that the words of God, His testimonies, were his counsellor. "Your testimonies also are my delight *And my counselors*" Psalm 119. 24

Solomon personified wisdom in his writings, but Jesus truly was the personification of wisdom.

"...Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God" 1 Corinthians 1.24

The psalmist pronounced that the truly blessed man is the one who does not walk 'in the counsel of the ungodly but delights in the law of the Lord (Psalm 1.1-2). Godly counsel comes from the Word – Jesus.

### **c) Mighty God**

It is interesting to note that the word Isaiah uses here for God is not *Elohim* – rather he uses the name *EI*. Elohim can be used to speak of angels and even human agents but EI is only ever used by Old Testament writers to speak of the One True Living God, Jehovah, the Almighty.

"Thomas answered Him [Jesus] , My Lord and my God!" John 20.28

"For in Him [Jesus] dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily" Colossians 2.9

"And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!" Revelation 19.6

### **d) Everlasting Father**

"Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God" Psalm 90.2

"For I *am* the LORD, I do not change.." Malachi 3.6

He is called the Everlasting or Eternal Father. It can be confusing to speak of Jesus as the Eternal in the light of His birth. His birth only speaks of the time when He stepped out of the eternal realm into our realm of time. But He is eternal, He has always been, we have just seen that He is God.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" John 1.1-2, 14

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting." Micah 5.2

"Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." John 8.58

“The people answered Him, “We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how *can* You say, ‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’? Who is this Son of Man?”” John 12.34

“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, *but it was* He who said to Him: “YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.” As *He* also says in another place: “YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER ACCORDING TO THE ORDER OF MELCHIZEDEK”” Hebrews 5.5-6 [quoting Psalm 2.7, Psalm 110.4]

“Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.” Hebrews 13.8

### **e) Prince of Peace**

We have just seen that Jesus is a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was known as King of Salem, that is King of Peace (Genesis 14.18; Hebrews 7.1-2). Jesus is Prince of Peace.

The one thing that the world craves and longs for is peace, but unless they find Jesus they will never find it – He is the Prince of Peace.

“And this *One* shall be peace....” Micah 5.5

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you... He shall speak peace to the nations...” Zechariah 9.9-10

When He was born the first message to the shepherds was that God's peace had come to all men.

“For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord... “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”” Luke 2.11,14

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace....” John 16.33

“Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you...” John 14.27

“For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation... And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near” Ephesians 2.14, 17

Although very brief we have seen what a wonderful study of the facets of His name this is. Foretold in prophecy, fulfilled in His birth. I would urge you to further study these names, designations and titles given to Him and meditate upon them.