Introduction: Song “Anticipation” , Is makin' me late, Is keepin' me waitin. There are events in life which create anticipation, new job, weddings, moving, etc. but few things we wait with more anticipation than the birth of a baby. Who will they look like, what will they be like, things they will do, etc**.** In the beginningof Matthew we have the announcement of a soon to be born baby.

**I) The Birth of Jesus**

**8 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. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.”**

**22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 “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 1:18-23**

**A)** As far as the actual birth of Jesus,

1. Luke gives us some important details,

**Luke 1:32 "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.**

2. Mary’s reaction to this news.

**Luke 1:46 And Mary said: "My soul magnifies the Lord, 47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. 48 For He has regarded the lowly state of His maidservant; For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed**.

3. But one has to wonder what was going on the minds of Mary and Joseph as they waited for the birth of this child.

**B) Then going on after His birth we read of two individuals who we might not pay much attention to by the names of Simeon and Anna.**

1. Simeon

**25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. 27 So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, 28 he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said:**

**29 “Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace,**

**According to Your word;**

**30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation**

**31 Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples,**

**32 A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles,**

**And the glory of Your people Israel.” Luke 2:25-32**

a. He knew he would see the Lord’s Christ (Messiah)

b. He recognized the very essence, purpose of the Messiah- salvation for all peoples.

2. Anna

**Now there was one, Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, and had lived with a husband seven years from her virginity; 37 and this woman was a widow of about eighty-four years, who did not depart from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. 38 And coming in that instant she gave thanks to the Lord, and spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem. Luke 2:36-38**

a. She served in the temple for 84 years, fastings, prayers, night and day.

b. Why? Looking for redemption in Jerusalem.

**C) In some ways these two people were like all the Jews from Malachi to Matthew and Luke,**

1. For 400 years they were waiting for the Lord’s Anointed, the Messiah.

a. How many babies were born during this time?

b. How many Simeon’s and Anna’s had served in the temple?

2. Not just His lineage, place of birth, etc, but what would He do and be like?

**II) Isaiah 9.6**

**6 For unto us a Child is born,**

**Unto us a Son is given;**

**And the government will be upon His shoulder.**

**And His name will be called**

**Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,**

**Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

**7 Of the increase of His government and peace**

**There will be no end,**

**Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,**

**To order it and establish it with judgment and justice**

**From that time forward, even forever.**

**The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6-7**

**A) Emphasis on Child and Son**

1. Order of the words places the emphasis on those two words.

2. Child perhaps emphasizes the human side while Son emphasizes the character of someone. “His name speaks of His character.

**B) The government will be on His shoulders (A powerful Ruler)**

1. Power and authority. Compare to earthly kingdoms who were ruled by man.

2. He would come to establish His kingdom. **Mark 9.1, Colossians 1.13**

3. He is the Lord, the one and only King

**that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing, 15 which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, 16 who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen. 1 Timothy 6:14-16**

**C) Wonderful Counselor**

1. Wonderful frequently used on the Old Testament associated with God. His works are wonderful,

**4 We will not hide them from their children,**

**Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD,**

**And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.**

**Psalms 78:4**

2. Counselor -one who gives advice, instructs. Especially when compared to human wisdom.

3. Jesus came to show us the Father, to reveal the will of God.

**The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!” John 7:46**

**Matthew 7:28 And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at His teaching, 29 for He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.**

**D) Mighty God**

1. He will be God with us, Immanuel. **Matthew 1.23.**

2 Jesus did not shy away from equating Himself with deity, calling Himself the Son of God, calling God His Father.

**E) Everlasting Father**

1. Without end, eternal.

2. Jesus is one without beginning or end.

**8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” Revelation 1:8**

**F) Prince of Peace**

1. Peace – Shalom- to be whole, soundness, healthy.

2. Peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of God.

3. Jesus is compared to Melchizedek in Hebrews as he was the King of Salem the king of peace, **Hebrews 7.2**

4. Jesus came to establish peace as He is our peace offering.

**"Now in Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall" (Ephesians 2:13-14**).

Conclusion: Many other prophecies telling the Jews what He would be like and what He would do. Looking at His birth from this side of events we must recognize Him for who He is and what He has done. Our point of anticipation is waiting for His return. Waiting for the Day of Judgement, waiting for the graves to open, waiting for heaven.