



**I SOUGHT
I FOUND**



THE BIRTH OF THE SAVIOR; HIS LIFE FOR OURS!

Merry Christmas!

"Glory to God in highest heaven, and peace on earth to those with whom God is pleased (Luke 2:14)."

When I look at the picture of the manger in the shadow of the cross I see my Lord and Savior and I am reminded of The Why, The Promise, The Purpose and The Blessing of what Christmas is all about. There is history to this incredible story of the birth of this baby boy, that would one day die for the sins that Adam and Eve plunged the whole world, people, and all of creation into. This is why we have to start with Genesis.

Without satan casting doubt into the mind of Eve and then deceiving Adam, then the **choice to choose** to obey God or do it their way would never have happened. If Adam and Eve would have obeyed God's one rule, the promise of the

Messiah never would have been needed. But alas, we know what happened. Genesis to Revelation is the ultimate rescue mission from the Father; he sent his Son as the Ark of salvation to all that would receive his message of rescue, to repent and be born again, and would then spend eternity with him forever.

The Why - Genesis 3:1-7 - "The serpent was the shrewdest of all the animals the Lord God had made. One day he asked the woman, "Did God really say you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?" "Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden," the woman replied. It's only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, "You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die." "You won't die!" the serpent replied to the woman. God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil." The woman was convinced. She saw that the tree was beautiful and its fruit looked delicious, and she wanted the wisdom it would give her. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. Then she gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it, too. At that moment their eyes were opened, and they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves."

The Promise - Genesis 3:14-15 - "Then the Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all animals, domestic and wild. You will crawl on your belly, groveling in the dust as long as you live. And I will cause hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." This first messianic prophecy concerning the messiah would be born of a woman is remarkable, one at times sometimes gets overlooked. We

know this future virgin woman to be Mary the mother of Jesus.

The Purpose - Galatians 4:4-7 - "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law. God sent him to buy freedom for us who were slaves to the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father." Now you are no longer a slave but God's own child. And since you are his child, God has made you his heir."

Romans 5:6 - When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.

The Blessing - Colossians 3:1-4 - "Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory."

Ephesians 1:3-11 - "All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ. Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. So we praise God for the glorious grace he has poured out on us who belong to his dear Son. He is so rich in kindness and grace that he purchased our freedom with the blood of his Son and forgave our sins. He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and

understanding. And this is the plan: At the right time he will bring everything together under the authority of Christ - everything in heaven and on earth. Furthermore, because we are united with Christ, we have an inheritance from God, for he chose us in advance and he makes everything work out according to his plan."

As we spend time with family and friends, opening gifts, eating great food and desserts, let us not forget to invite the Lord of Hosts and give him room in our home and hearts. What a gift we have been given! May you all have a most blessed Christmas rejoicing as Mary did in her Magnificat song of praise in Luke 1:46-55 - v.46-47 - "Mary responded, "Oh how my soul praises the Lord. How my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!

Let me finish by highlighting Mary's words in her magnificat. Mary had an awesome purpose to give birth to God in the flesh, the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Her very own declaration about the Christ child to be born was, that He, the coming Messiah would be her personal God and Savior! Signifying what? That she herself was a sinner in need of a Savior. Mary understood that about herself and her song of praise reveals that out to us. Mary is not only rightly to be blessed by all generations but doubly blessed to be redeemed by the Savior to whom she gave birth!

MARY DID YOU KNOW? - MARK LOWRY



**CHRISTMAS GOSPEL SONG - LIVING
STONES QUARTET**



**COME BE BORN AGAIN - LIVING STONES
QUARTET**



A FEW OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES & HISTORY OF THE COMING MESSIAH!

1. GENESIS

1:14-
19

-
Fourth
day
of
creation
we
see
the
sun,
moon
and
stars
created.
v.17

-
"God
set
these
lights
in

the
sky
to
light
the
earth."
Later
on
with
the
star
of
Bethlehem
it
led
the
wisemen
to
the
Christ
child.
WOW!!!

2. GENESIS

3:15

-

Satan
vs
the
promise
of
the
woman
who
would
give
birth
to
the
Messiah.

3. GENESIS

9:26

-

Messiah
would
come
through
the
line
of
Shem
and
the
Shemites.

4. GENESIS

12:2-

3

-

God
promises
Abram
he
would
bless
him
into
a
great
nation.
Messiah
through
line
of
Abraham,
Issac
and
Jacob.

5. GENESIS

14:17-

20

-

Melchizedek,
king
of
Salem
(Jerusalem)
and
priest
of
God
Most
High

-
foreshadow
of
Christ.

6. GENESIS
Chapters
15-
22

-
The
Abrahamic
Covenant
and
God's
promises
through
Issac,
which
is
an
everlasting
covenant

Genesis
17:19,
17:21,
21:12,

7. GENESIS
28:14

-

The
blessing
of
Jacob

8. GENESIS

32:24-

32

-

Jacob
(Israel)
wrestles
with
God

9. GENESIS

49:8-

11

-

The
scepter
will
not
depart
from
Judah

-

the
messianic
line.

10. NUMBERS

24:17

-

A
star
will
rise
from
Jacob,
a
scepter
will

emerge
from
Israel

-
messianic
prophecy

11. DEUTERONOMY
18:15-
22

-
prophecy
concerning
Christ

12. PSALM
72:10-
11

-
Messianic
Psalm

13. ISAIAH
7:10-
16

-
Sign
of
Immanuel

14. ISAIAH
9:6

-
only
part
of
this
prophecy
has
been
fulfilled,
the
other
part

is
yet
to
happen
in
the
Millennial
Kingdom

15. ISAIAH
11:1

-
Messiah
to
come
from
the
line
of
David

16. ISAIAH
53:2

-
Messiah's
birth
was
humble,
obviously
this
is
about
his
life,
and
how
he
would
die.

17. JEREMIAH
23:5

-

promise
of
the
Messiah
will
come
from
King
David's
line.

18. JEREMIAH

31:15

-

Prophecy
fulfilled
in
Matthew
2:12-
18

19. MICAH

5:2

-

A
ruler
from
Bethlehem

-

Jesus,
from
whose
origins
are
in
the
distant
past,
proving
he
always
existed.



**In His Grip,
Max and Mariana Erickson,
Thank you for partnering with us!**

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"Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near. Let the wicked change their ways and banish the very thought of doing wrong. Let them turn to the Lord that he may have mercy on them. Yes, turn to our God, for he will forgive generously. "My thoughts are nothing like your thoughts," says the Lord. "And my ways are far beyond anything you could imagine. For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways

and my thoughts higher than your thoughts. "The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it." (Isaiah 55:6-11)



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