

Tract Number One  
"The Bible in History"

NOTES FROM THE TEXTBOOK



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Matthew 1:22 Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet.

**T**he narrative by the apostle Matthew regarding the birth of Jesus the Christ reveals the fulfillment of things foretold in the Old Testament. It was no accident that Joseph should not put away his expectant bride; that the wise men from the east should not return to Herod; that Joseph should escape the decree of Herod and flee into Egypt, then return safely to settle in Galilee. However, these and more were demonstrations that God is the supreme mover, not only in Prophecy, but also in History.

Three specific things point out the prophetic accuracy of the Bible account of the birth of Jesus: At a Specific Place, To a Specific Person and For a Specific Purpose.

**A**t a Specific Place. Of the many towns and villages surrounding Jerusalem, it was Bethlehem the chosen place of his birth – A city that was the least among the cities of Judah. The environment in which he was born, depict a manger or feeding trough for cattle. Joseph and Mary, with the baby Jesus may have taken shelter in a stable, or in a cave in the hillside, for there was no room for them in the inn.

Although God in His sovereignty could have chosen a city of prominence, and an environment suitable for royalty, yet, it pleased Him that Christ should come into the world and be without reputation, humble and taking upon himself the form of a servant. The birth place of Jesus may seem irrelevant; nevertheless, the predictions by the prophets stand to prove the inspiration of their writings.

**T**o a Specific Person. The announcement, for thou hast found favor with God, by the angel Gabriel to Mary is worth consideration. Perhaps, from the early days of the prophetic predictions concerning the coming Messiah, the Hebrew women looked forward to being the chosen vessel, whereby the Anointed One would come. However, the sign of the LORD would be, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. There are many speculations and opinions regarding the pre-eminence of the Virgin Mary. Nevertheless, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son and another account in scripture was proven to be accurate.

**F**or a Specific Purpose. The work of Expiation (to pay the penalty for sin) without question, is the ultimate purpose of Christ coming into the world. His teaching ability, life without sin and mighty miracles, certainly has their place within the plan of God; but as the name Jesus implies, he shall save his people from their sins. Even, two of the gifts from the wise men suggest that the Christ-child was born to die (frankincense and myrrh were used to anoint the body after his death).

Over 300 Messianic Prophecies were fulfilled during the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Beloved, in light of all this, what is your responsibility? Since God was specific concerning the place of Jesus birth; the person to whom He was born; and the purpose of His coming; these truths stand to mark the way to personal salvation, in Christ, to those who believe. Why not consider these truths today, and believe the record that God has given concerning His Son.