

Prophecies of

Christmas

in the

Old Testament

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For He has visited and redeemed His people,
69 And has raised up a horn of salvation for us
In the house of His servant David,
70 As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets,
Who have been since the world began,
71 That we should be saved from our enemies
And from the hand of all who hate us,
72 To perform the mercy promised to our fathers
And to remember His holy covenant,
73 The oath which He swore to our father Abraham:
74 To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies,
Might serve Him without fear,
75 In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life.
76 And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest;
For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways,
77 To give knowledge of salvation to His people
By the remission of their sins,
78 Through the tender mercy of our God,
With which the Dayspring from on high has visited us;
79 To give light to those who sit in darkness and the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace.”
80 So the child grew and became strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his manifestation to Israel.

Christ Born of Mary
2 And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.
2 This census first took place when Quirinius was governing Syria
3 So all went to be registered

and wrapped Him in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for Him in the inn.
Now there were shepherds living out in the fields, watching over their flock.
And behold, an angel stood before them, and the glory shone around them, and they were greatly afraid.
Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.
For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.
And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger."
And suddenly in a multitude there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:
"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men!"
So it was, when the angels had gone from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."
And they came with haste and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger.
Now when they had seen Him, they told them concerning the saying which the angels had said to them, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us."
But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart.
Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things which they had heard and seen, as it was told them.
Circumcision of Jesus
And when eight days were fulfilled, Jesus was circumcised, and His name was called Jesus, as it was written by the prophet, saying, "The firstborn son of Mary."



Pre-Christmas

Prophecies

in the
Old Testament

*compiled
by Tresta Neil*

Old Testament Names for Jesus, The Christ

The Old Testament sets the stage, prophesies, and foretells the events of that special occasion of Jesus' birth.

Here are a few definitions to understand the context of the Old Testament.

Emanuel - עִמָּנוּאֵל, means _____ (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:22-23)

YHWH - Yahway, the Hebrew word for Jesus, it is interpreted as _____ in the King James Version of the Bible.

Jesus - Comes from the Latin form of the Greek name Ἰησοῦς (Iēsous), a rendition of the Hebrew Yeshua (יֵשׁוּעַ), related to the name Joshua. The word means _____

Jehovah is translated as _____. Paul declares Jesus Christ as the God of Ancient Israel (1 Corinthians 10).

Christ - Greek and English word meaning _____. Christ is Jesus' title not his name, Jesus, *The Christ*

Messiah - Hebrew and Aramaic word meaning _____. See [Ps. 2:2](#); [Isa. 61:1-3](#); [Luke 4:16-32](#); [Acts 4:23-30](#); [10:38](#).

Anointed One - _____. Jesus is the one anointed of the Father to be *His personal representative in all things pertaining to the salvation of mankind*. Anointed literally means to be smeared with oil as part of a ceremonial ritual. Christ was [spiritually and/or physically] smeared with oil or the Holy Ghost to help him fulfill his mission.

Christmas -

Christ - _____

Mass - Latin meaning _____ (like the word dismiss)

Christmas means _____

God sent Jehovah to help us, let's help all recognize this gift

What questions come to mind when you ponder the events around Christ's birth?

Here are some questions the Old Testament answers about this Narrative story:

What tribe of Israel will Christ be from? What is his Lineage?

What will the Savior's name be?

How old will he be when he comes?

Who will be his mother? What are some of her traits?

Where will he be born?

What will he be wearing?

Who will witness his coming? birth?

What will his social and financial status be?

What will the angels in heaven do?

How will the world know he is coming?

Will people bring him gifts?

Why will he be "called out of Egypt?"

Where will he live?

Why were the shepherds out at night?

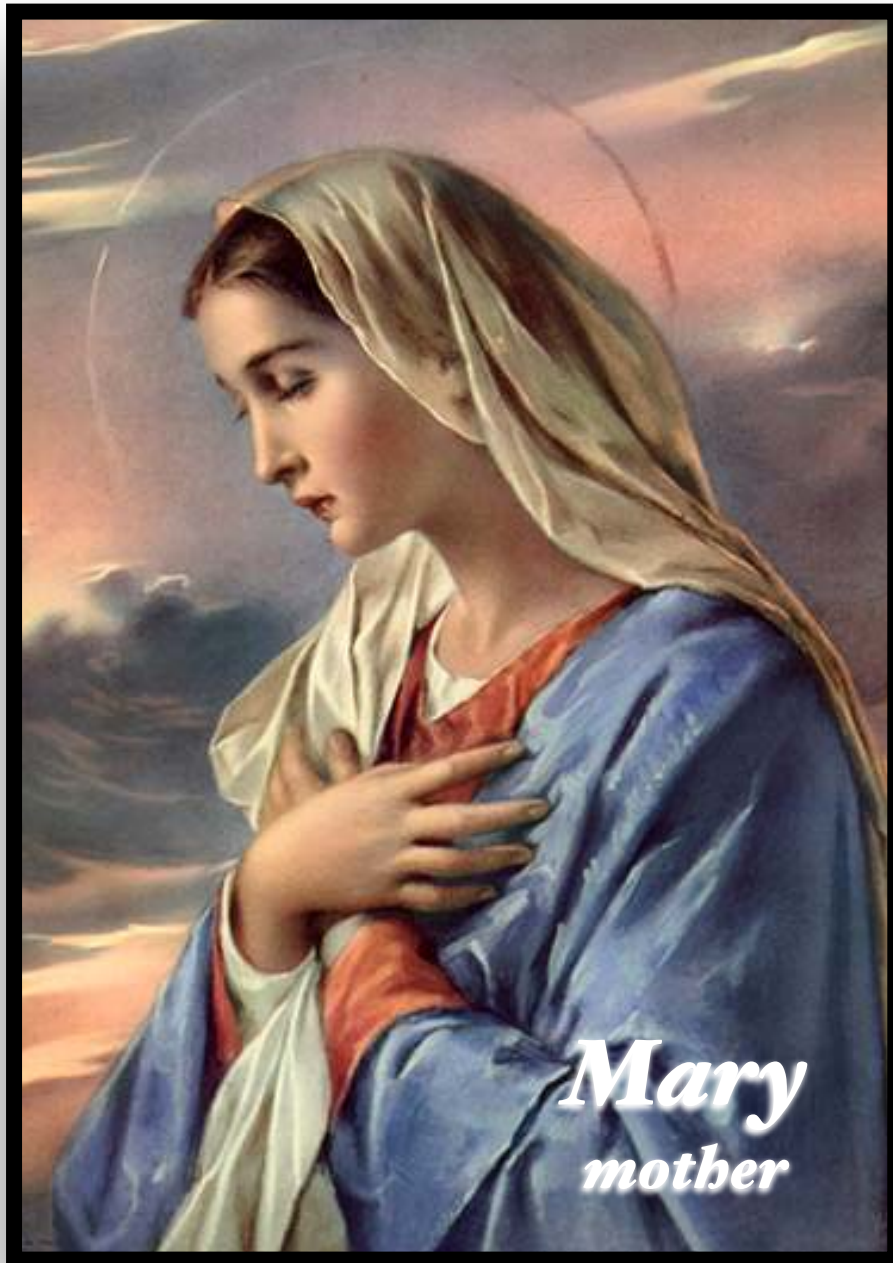
How do we know animals were at the birth?

How did the wisemen know to watch for a star?

How did they know to go to Bethlehem?

What did it mean to "follow" the star when stars move across the sky each night?

Why did the wisemen bring those three specific gifts?



Jesus was born the son of God and the son of a virgin mother, as foretold by Isaiah (Isa. 7:14) and other prophets (1 Ne 11:13-21; Alma 7:9-10) We also learn that her name would be Mary.

Hannah wrote a song (1 Samuel 2) that Mary may have often read for Mary writes a similar song called the magnificat or *Song of Mary* where she rejoices in the Salvation (Jesus). We learn she knew the scriptures well at a time when females didn't have to know the scriptures. When Mary finds out she's having God's baby she turned to her hero, Hannah, that gave her baby to God. Later, Mary gave Jesus to God when he completed his sacrifice on the cross.

Mary was foreordained, understood and heeded her call - symbolic and as an example of how we can heed and accept our calling! 😊



Christ could have been born in any of the beautiful places on earth and yet he chose a desert. Why? He took advantage of the setting so he could teach us with geographical visual aids and it fulfill scriptural prophesy.

He chose to be born in a city close to Jerusalem called *Bethlehem*, meaning “*house of bread.*” How appropriate that Christ, who called himself “*The Bread of Life*” (John 6:48) came from the “*house of bread.*”

The Old Testament prophets predicted that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

But thou, Beth-lehem, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.
(Micah 5:2)

There are several examples of “bread” in the scriptures. The Lord asked the Israelites to eat unleavened bread to *remember* the day when the Lord *delivered* them out of the land of Egypt (Deuteronomy 16:3). They were also given manna, sent by God from heaven to *nourish* them in the wilderness. The sacrament is given to us to partake weekly and to help us *remember* Christ’s physical life and example as well as our covenants made with God and to be spiritually *nourished* and receive the promise of *deliverance*.

Jesus came forth from the house of bread symbolic of him being the Bread of Life providing spiritual life to all living things. 😊



The manger and swaddling clothes were the sign for the shepherds. It is like us saying the babe will be in a diaper.

Job compares the creation to giving birth and describes the clouds as swaddling clothes for the earth. "Or who shut up the sea with doors, when it brake forth, as if it had issued out of the womb? When I made the cloud the garment thereof, and thick darkness a swaddling band for it," (Job 38:8-9)

The Israelites were given "a cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night," for protection from the heat during the day and warm during the nights. The clouds brought rain - life!

Jesus was wrapped in swaddling clothes for warmth and protection and life - symbolic of him giving us warmth, protection and eternal life! 😊



Yes, there were animals at the birth of the Savior. A few years ago the Pope wrote a letter about how there were no animals at the manger scene, this is simply not true! We know from the Old Testament that there were **doves**, “Who are these that fly as a cloud, and as the doves to their windows?”(Isaiah 60:8); **camels**, “The multitude of camels shall cover thee” (Isaiah 60:6) and the **ox & ass**, “The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master’s crib” (Isaiah 1:3).

Jesus described himself as an animal, the Lamb of God.

Jesus had animals witness his birth as a symbol that he would be brought low. 😊



At the birth of Him who is called the “**good shepherd**” (John 10;14), shepherds were the first to receive the announcement of His holy birth. (Luke 2: 8-16) These were the shepherds that were in the temple fields. It was their duty to tend the sheep and the lambs. They were probably priesthood holders. Their job that night and other nights was to witness the birth of the lambs! Many gave birth to two lambs and they needed to know the first born. They would mark the first born male with a red cord around the neck so it now belonged to the temple. This special night they got to witness the first born son of God - the **Lamb of God**.

Jesus Christ is the Good Shepherd who leads and watches over his followers. Many prophets compared him to a shepherd. “The Lord is my shepherd.” (Ps. 23:1) “He shall feed his flock like a shepherd.” (Isa. 40:11) “I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep...I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.” (John 10:11,14)

Jesus’ birth was witnessed and visited by shepherds - symbolic of him becoming our “Good Shepherd” keeping us safe as he leads us back home! 😊



At the temple Joseph and Mary bought two turtle doves for their sacrifice. Before Jesus fulfilled to law of sacrifice by the killing of animals, all first born males belonged to God. "Sanctify unto me all the firstborn, whatsoever openeth the womb among the children of Israel, both of man and of beast: it is mine." (Exodus 13:2)

They paid the sacrifice so Jesus would not to have to serve in the temple. The ancient prophet knew they would offer a sacrifice of "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." (Lev. 1:14; 5:7) Doves were used as substitutes for those who could not afford the larger animals.

The smallest price was paid for the redemption of Jesus - symbolic of him becoming the ultimate sacrifice for us all! 😊



At the birth of him who once identified himself the “bright and morning star” (Rev 22:16), a new star appeared in the heavens. (Matt 2:2; 3 Ne 1:21) Shining brightly over Bethlehem, that star had been placed in orbit far in advance of the foretold event in order that its light could be at the same time and place as his blessed birth.

The Jews quoted Balaam, the non-Israelite Prophet and man of integrity, daily by saying, “I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: there shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre [king] shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners [boarders] of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth [tumult or evil].” (Number 24:17)

- “out of Jacob” = out of the constellation of Judah or “the Lion [Leo] or the tribe of Judah” (Revelations 5:5). Each of the twelve Zodiac constellation tell of a mission of Jesus Christ, in this constellation, he is the King of Kings.
- “sceptre” = Greek meaning to send or thrust [Christ was sent forth]; Latin meaning a shoot or rod. 1828 Dictionary: a constellation. May be a Hebrew word for comet.
- “Follow the Star” - follow the star through the constellation

At the birth of Jesus a star appeared to guide the wisemen and as a sign of his birth - symbolic of him giving us guidance, light, an example to follow, a path! 😊



Specific Gifts symbols

How did the wise men know what gifts to bring?
Isaiah told them what to bring "... all they from Sheba shall come: they shall bring **gold** and **incense** [Frankincense and Myrrh are made from the sap of a tree and used as incense]; and they shall shew forth the praises of the Lord." (Isaiah 60:8)

Gold - representing his **KINGSHIP**

Frankincense - representing him as the **HIGH PRIEST** This oil was used in the temple at the prayer alter.

Myrrh - representing his **ANOINTING**, this oil was used in the temple for anointing and for burial, his **SACRIFICE**.

Gifts are given - symbolic of the God giving us of His son, Jesus, the Christ and Christ's ultimate gift to us of Eternal Life. 😊

God's Gifts by Ty Garrett

God's gifts are many and great
And they're all addressed to you
Here's a little list of eight
just to name a few:

- His Son Jesus Christ
- Peace that surpasses understanding
- Unconditional Love
- His Holy Spirit
- Undivided Attention
- Sweet Forgiveness
- Unending Patience
- Amazing Grace



The place of his birth was to be in close proximity to Egypt as prophesied: “[Joseph] took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: ... that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of by the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt [Hosea 11:1] have I called my son” (Matt. 2:14-15)

Jesus escaped his own country and was brought back out of Egypt once the danger was over - symbolic of the times he was not accepted by his own friends and how we can be rejected but also can be brought out darkness.



After Egypt Jesus was brought to the village of Nazareth. some scholars suggest that the word Nazareth is derived from the Hebrew word berserk which means “branch.” Jesus, the divine Branch, was to be reared in the place with the name meaning “branch.” Jeremiah further prophesied that the Lord would “cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land” (Jer. 33:15)

The prophecy that he would dwell in Nazareth and “be called a Nazarene” (Matthew 2:23). This is found in the Book of Mormon. “And it came to pass that I looked and beheld the great city of Jerusalem, and also other cities. And I beheld the city of Nazareth...” (1 Nephi 11:13) It is also found in Isaiah 11:1, but through the word “Branch”, Nazareth means branch (Branchville). Jesus is known as the Branch out of the History of David.

Jesus was brought up in Nazareth symbolic of Jesus being the divine branch who will execute judgment and righteousness. 😊

References

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Pre-Christmas Prophecies

Prophecy	Speaker/Writer	Scripture Reference
HIS COMING		
• The Creator, Jehovah, would be born with a mortal body in order to redeem mankind.	The brother of Jared, Isaiah, Nephi, Zenos, Jacob, King Benjamin, Abinadi, Ammon, Lamoni, John the Baptist	<u>Ether 3:6–16</u> ; <u>Isa. 44:24</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 19:7–12</u> ; <u>2 Ne. 9:5</u> ; <u>Mosiah 3:5</u> ; <u>Mosiah 7:27</u> ; <u>Mosiah 13:34</u> ; <u>Mosiah 15:1</u> ; <u>Alma 19:13</u> ; <u>D&C 93:6–11</u>
• He would be the God of Israel, the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh.	Adam, Enoch, Moses, Isaiah, Nephi, Jacob, Abinadi, Alma, John the Baptist	<u>Moses 1:6, 33</u> ; <u>Moses 2:1, 26</u> ; <u>Moses 6:52</u> ; <u>Isa. 9:6–7</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 11:20–21</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 22:12</u> ; <u>2 Ne. 25:12</u> ; <u>Jacob 4:5</u> ; <u>Mosiah 15:2–5</u> ; <u>Alma 5:48</u> ; <u>D&C 93:11–14</u>
• His mother would be a virgin, a descendant of King David; she would be from Nazareth; her name would be Mary.	Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Nephi, King Benjamin, Alma	<u>Gen. 49:24</u> ; <u>Isa. 7:14</u> ; <u>Isa. 11:1</u> ; <u>Jer. 23:5–6</u> ; <u>Jer. 33:15–16</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 11:13–21</u> ; <u>Mosiah 3:8</u> ; <u>Alma 7:10</u>
• Signs would attend his birth.	Samuel the Lamanite	<u>Hel. 14:3–7</u>
HIS NAME		
• The Messiah would be called “Salvation” (in Hebrew, Yeshua; in English, Jesus).	Moses, Isaiah	<u>Ex. 15:2</u> ; <u>Isa. 12:2–6</u>
• His name would be Jesus, the Christ.	Adam, Enoch, Noah, brother of Jared, Moses, Nephi, Jacob, King Benjamin, Abinadi, Alma	<u>Moses 6:52, 57</u> ; <u>Moses 8:23–24</u> ; <u>Ether 3:14–16</u> ; <u>2 Ne. 25:19</u> ; <u>Jacob 4:4–6</u> ; <u>Mosiah 3:8, 17</u> ; <u>Mosiah 15:21</u> ; <u>Alma 5:48</u>
HIS TIME OF BIRTH		
• Jesus would be born in the meridian of time, 600 years after Lehi left Jerusalem and 5 years after Samuel’s prophecy.	Adam, Enoch, Moses, Lehi, Nephi, Samuel the Lamanite	<u>Moses 5:57</u> ; <u>Moses 6:57, 62</u> ; <u>Moses 7:45–46</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 10:4</u> ; <u>1 Ne. 19:8</u> ; <u>2 Ne. 25:19</u> ; <u>Hel. 14:2</u>
* the coming Messiah would come as a child		
* he. will be identified wearing swaddling clothes.		
There will be those that bring him gifts		
HIS PLACE OF COMING		
• Christ would be born near Jerusalem at Bethlehem.	Micah, Jacob, Alma	<u>Micah 5:2</u> ; <u>2 Ne. 10:3</u> ; <u>Alma 7:10</u>