

## Hope from the beginning.

Good morning and again, welcome to Mercy Hill Church for those here in person and those online. If you don't have a Bible with you this morning, we will be reading a lot of scripture from both the Old and New Testaments, so you may want to have it open in your lap for reference, please feel free to take one from the back table. I know that we use the ESV, but please don't be confused by my reading. I will be reading from the New Living Translation this morning. One more thing, as we look at the Old Testament this morning, many people in our culture think that the Old Testament is only a book of rules, but far from that. As one of our friends who we have been discipling noted: "My gosh, its all about God's relationship with us and His desire to restore us to community."

I am Bob Durstenfeld. I am one of our deacons, and my wife Becky, and I lead the Global Outreach team here at Mercy Hill.

Welcome to Advent, the time of year when we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus.

As we lit the Advent Candle this morning, we are reminded of the hope, peace, and joy that we have in Jesus.

We sang "***O'Come, O'Come Emanuel.***" Have you thought about the words?

As you ponder them, let me open up our morning in God's word with prayer. Please bow with me.

PRAYER>>>

This Christmas carol, "***O'Come, O'Come Emanuel.***" is about the hope of Jesus, but from a Jewish perspective.

What does ransoming Israel have to do with Jesus and Christmas?

Today I want us to take a ***scriptural time machine*** first back 2,000 years and then even further back, to the beginning to try and understand the hope and expectation that the Jewish nation had at the birth of Jesus, we will of course be walking through the Old Testament, because that was all the Scripture that the Jews had.

Then we will look at why we should have a greater hope today.

So, let's start this morning in the Gospel of Luke, the Greek Doctor, turned author and investigative reporter of both the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts.

We will start in Luke chapter 1, verse 67. We find ourselves at the dedication of a baby, John the Baptist. If you remember the story, Zachariah, John's father goes into the Holy Place to burn incense, in the Temple in Jerusalem and encounters the Angel Gabriel.

His wife, Elizabeth, the cousin of Mary, the mother of Jesus, has been unable to bare children even into her "old age". In this culture, that was an insult.

So, Zachariah prays and comes out unable to speak until after John's birth, but when he does speak, he says this prayer:

### **Luke 1:67-79 (NLT2)**

<sup>67</sup> Then his father, Zechariah, was filled with the Holy Spirit and gave this prophecy:

<sup>68</sup> "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has visited and redeemed His people.

<sup>69</sup> He has sent us a mighty Savior from the royal line of his servant David,

<sup>70</sup> just as He promised through **His holy prophets long ago**.

<sup>71</sup> Now we will be saved from our enemies and from all who hate us.

<sup>72</sup> He has been merciful to our ancestors by remembering **His sacred covenant**—

<sup>73</sup> the covenant He swore with an oath to our ancestor Abraham.

<sup>74</sup> We have been rescued from our enemies so we can serve God without fear,

<sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness for as long as we live.

<sup>76</sup> "And you, my little son, will be called the prophet of the Most High, because you will prepare the way for the Lord.

<sup>77</sup> You will tell his people how to find salvation through forgiveness of their sins.

<sup>78</sup> Because of God's tender mercy, the morning light from heaven is about to break upon us,

<sup>79</sup> to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, and to guide us to the path of peace."

What does Zacharias mean when he refers to the "**Holy Prophets, long ago**"?

What was the "**Covenant with Abraham**"? Why was this relevant to the birth of his son John and the coming of Jesus?

It is clear to me from his prayer that Zacharias had **hope**.

Let's start that journey of hope with Genesis Chapter 3:15, turn with me there, if you are following along in your bibles or phone aps.

Before we get there I want to first remind you that hope is still lacking in our world. Just read your favorite news source, people are being laid off, COVID is still rampant, marriages are struggling, families are struggling. This morning I want to explore the foundation of that hope and show you that we have even greater hope and greater assurance of salvation.

### **Genesis 3:15 (NLT2)**

<sup>15</sup> 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 is God speaking to the serpent, just after the fall of man. Adam and Eve are being kicked out of the Garden of Eden for their sin, or disobedience. God is promising a redeemer, an individual, who will undo the curse of sin.

What does God mean by this, and was our friend Zacharias referring to this? Well, yes, this is the start of the covenant to restore our broken relationship with God. But it is hardly the only reminder that God provides of coming restoration. Even as God is kicking Adam and Eve out, He is establishing a promise that restoration of relationship is coming. Of course, it will be in God’s perfect time.

Our second hint of hope comes in Genesis, Chapter 12:1-3. Turn there with me and let’s read:

### **Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

Similar language to this “***blessed to be a blessing***” can also be found in Genesis 13:15, 22:18, 26:4 and 28:14.

We rarely consider these verses in the context of the hope of the Messiah, but in the Jewish context, as the “People of Abraham,” the last part of verse three, that “all families of the earth will be blessed through you,” points again to the hope that they held as a nation and as the chosen people of God. (We know from the New Testament, that because of our faith in Jesus, that we are now the adopted children of Abraham, through the new covenant). And certainly, if we read the

genealogy of Jesus that Matthew has recorded in Chapter one of his Gospel, we realize that he traces the lineage of Jesus all the way back to Abraham.

Now let's turn to Genesis Chapter 17:19, where we find that same word that Zacharias used in his prayer: "**Covenant.**"

### **Genesis 17:19 (NLT2)**

<sup>19</sup> But God replied, "No—Sarah, your wife, will give birth to a son for you. You will name him Isaac, and I will confirm my **covenant** with him and his descendants as an everlasting **covenant**."

Here we find ourselves in a conversation between Abraham and God, where God is promising a son to Abraham and Sarah, who are both beyond normal child-bearing age. God commands Abraham to call him Isaac, which translated means "**Son of the Promise**".

Our next hint of hope comes several generations later, in Genesis chapter 49 we find ourselves looking in at the death bed of Jacob, whom God also called Israel. Jacob was the son of Isaac, the one promised to Abraham and Sarah.

Jacob is praying a blessing over each of his twelve sons, the patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel. When Jacob gets to Judah in verse 9, Jacob says:

### **Genesis 49:9-10 (NLT2)**

<sup>9</sup> Judah, my son, is a young lion that has finished eating its prey. Like a lion he crouches and lies down; like a lioness—who dares to rouse him?

<sup>10</sup> The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from his descendants, until the coming of the one to whom it belongs, the one whom all nations will honor.

Jacob, sets the next step in our journey. He takes us from Abraham to now the tribe of Judah as the next in the line of hope for the Messiah.

Now, if you know the story of the nation of Israel, they get parked in Egypt for the next four hundred years, in the meantime these twelve families become a great nation, of over a million people. A people that the ruling Pharaoh realizes can overwhelm him, so he enslaves them. But the people did not lose sight of God's plan for redemption. Through more history, God raises up Moses, the first Prophet, to set His people free. We know the story of the plagues, the parting of the Red Sea and the then the journey into the wilderness, God providing mana

and a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day. I want to pick up the story near the end of Moses ministry.

In the book of Deuteronomy, Chapter 18: 13-19, Moses calls on the Nation of Israel to be Holy before the Lord and the other nations that they will encounter, and he extends a promise:

» **Deuteronomy 18:13-19 (NLT2)**

<sup>13</sup> But you must be blameless before the LORD your God. <sup>14</sup> The nations you are about to displace consult sorcerers and fortune-tellers, but the LORD your God forbids you to do such things.” <sup>15</sup> Moses continued, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. <sup>16</sup> For this is what you yourselves requested of the LORD your God when you were assembled at Mount Sinai. You said, ‘Don’t let us hear the voice of the LORD our God anymore or see this blazing fire, for we will die.’

<sup>17</sup> “Then the LORD said to me, ‘What they have said is right. <sup>18</sup> I will raise up a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites. I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell the people everything I command him. <sup>19</sup> I will personally deal with anyone who will **not** listen to the messages the prophet proclaims on my behalf.

Once again God provides a preview of His Son to come. But it was not to be for many generations. We also get a preview of Easter and God’s coming judgement in Deuteronomy 21:23.

Zooming forward to Israel’s second king, King David, God promises again, based on that earlier covenant that we read, in Second Samuel, turn with me to 2 Samuel 7:12-16:

» **2 Samuel 7:12-16 (NLT2)**

<sup>12</sup> For when you die and are buried with your ancestors, I will raise up one of your descendants, your own offspring, and I will make his kingdom strong. <sup>13</sup> He is the one who will build a house—a temple—for my name. And I will secure his royal throne forever. <sup>14</sup> I will be his father, and he will be my son. If he sins, I will correct and discipline him with the rod, like any father would do. <sup>15</sup> But my favor will not be taken from him as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from your sight. <sup>16</sup> Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.”

That kingdom that God speaks of here is the same Kingdom that Jesus speaks to us about in the Gospels. The temple for His Name is US. We are the temple of God, with the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. God tells David that His throne will be

forever, we know that we have eternal life in Jesus. We know too, that Jesus sits at the right hand of God forever. God was whispering these truths to David, that we as believers in Jesus know from His teachings. It is an example of what is spoken of in Paul's second letter to the Corinthian church, when Paul says that "though we see dimly now, we shall see clearly soon."

As Nick has often said, we can find Jesus on the pages of scripture.

The Psalms are full of references to the coming messiah. My time is too short this morning to go through all of them, but let's consider a few:

Turn with me to Psalm 2:7,

**Psalm 2:7 (NLT2)**

<sup>7</sup> The king proclaims the LORD's decree: "The LORD said to me, 'You are my son. Today I have become your Father. (Other translations read: *Today I reveal you as my Son*).

This should remind us of Jesus' baptism in Matthew chapter 3, when Jesus comes up out of the water and God says, "This is my dearly loved Son, who brings me great joy."

Turn with me now to Psalm 45, verses 6-7

**Psalm 45:6-7 (NLT2)**

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice.

<sup>7</sup> You love justice and hate evil. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you, pouring out the oil of joy on you more than on anyone else.

Now, if I were a first century Jew, these verses in Psalm 45 would have certainly brought hope, for us, they need a bit of context. We need to understand that in ancient middle eastern culture kings were anointed, or appointed by oil being poured on their heads, we can see scenes of this with the first two kings of Israel, Saul and David, both were anointed with oil being poured on their heads. But here in this Psalm, we see God pouring the "oil of Joy" on himself, but really God the Father is pouring the anointing oil on His Son, Jesus, part of the God-Head.

**Psalm 89** makes reference to the First-Born Son, let's turn there, I will read verses 19-27:

### **Psalm 89:19-27 (NLT2)**

<sup>19</sup> Long ago you spoke in a vision to your faithful people. You said, “I have raised up a warrior. I have selected him from the common people to be king. <sup>20</sup> I have found my servant David. I have anointed him with my holy oil. <sup>21</sup> I will steady him with my hand; with my powerful arm I will make him strong. <sup>22</sup> His enemies will not defeat him, nor will the wicked overpower him.

<sup>23</sup> I will beat down his adversaries before him and destroy those who hate him.

<sup>24</sup> My faithfulness and unfailing love will be with him, and by my authority he will grow in power.

<sup>25</sup> I will extend his rule over the sea, his dominion over the rivers. <sup>26</sup> And he will call out to me, ‘You are my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation.’ <sup>27</sup> I will make him my firstborn son, the mightiest king on earth.

Here the Psalmist is looking back, back to that early covenant, back to the fall of man, back to Abraham, back to David and the promises made to God’s chosen people. This last verse brings the greatest hope, God will make His first born son the mightiest king on earth. The mighty king is our Jesus, the one we celebrate at Christmas, the one born in a manger, so that we could have a restored relationship with God.

One of the things that gives us great hope is not only the birth of Jesus but also His death and resurrection. We now know that Jesus conquered death, but for our friends the Jews, this was only hinted at, lets flip over to Psalm 86, read with me, verses 11-13,

### **Psalm 86:11-13 (NLT2)**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your ways, O LORD, that I may live according to your truth! Grant me purity of heart, so that I may honor you. <sup>12</sup> With all my heart I will praise you, O Lord my God. I will give glory to your name forever, <sup>13</sup> for your love for me is very great. You have rescued me from the depths of death.

In Psalm 110 we get a verse that Jesus quoted to confound the priests and Pharisees of Jesus’ day:

### **Psalm 110:1 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit in the place of honor at my right hand until I humble your enemies, making them a footstool under your feet.”

Jesus asks the Teachers of the Law a question in Luke, Chapter 20 Starting with verse 41:

<sup>41</sup> Then Jesus presented them with a question. “Why is it,” he asked, “that the Messiah is said to be the son of David? <sup>42</sup> For David himself wrote in the book of Psalms:

‘The LORD said to my Lord,  
Sit in the place of honor at my right hand  
<sup>43</sup> until I humble your enemies,  
making them a footstool under your feet.’

<sup>44</sup> Since David called the Messiah ‘Lord,’ how can the Messiah be his son?”

<sup>45</sup> Then, with the crowds listening, he turned to his disciples and said,  
<sup>46</sup> “Beware of these teachers of religious law! For they like to parade around in flowing robes and love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. <sup>47</sup> Yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. Because of this, they will be severely punished.”

We know what the Jews and teachers of the Law did not, that Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, the one long awaited was to sit at the right hand of the Father.

Now we come to the verses that many of you have been waiting for, the ones that explicitly point to the birth of Jesus.

Isaiah was a prophet during the reign of King Ahaz. God sends a funny message to Ahaz, the King, ask me a question, make it hard.

Turn with me to Isaiah, Chapter 7, verse 10:

İ»¿ **Isaiah 7:10-14 (NLT2)**

<sup>10</sup> Later, the LORD sent this message to King Ahaz: <sup>11</sup> “Ask the LORD your God for a sign of confirmation, Ahaz. Make it as difficult as you want—as high as heaven or as deep as the place of the dead.”

<sup>12</sup> But the king refused. “No,” he said, “I will not test the LORD like that.”

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, “Listen well, you royal family of David! Isn’t it enough to exhaust human patience? Must you exhaust the patience of my God as well?”

<sup>14</sup> All right then, the Lord himself will give you the sign. Look! The virgin will

conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call him Immanuel (which means ‘God is with us’).

That is what we sang this morning, O Come, O Come Immanuel –God with us. This was the hope of Israel, that God would fulfill His covenant and send the long awaited Messiah.

Moving over to Isaiah Chapter 9, we find in Verse 6, one of the more famous Old Testament verses pointing to Christmas:

İ»¿ **Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT2)**

<sup>6</sup> For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup> His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the LORD of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

What a great hope this is, but a child? But a great child none the less, a Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. A gift to us from the Lord of Heaven’s Armies.

Isaiah reminds the people again a few pages later, in Chapter 11, turn with me there:

İ»¿ **Isaiah 11:1-5 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> Out of the stump of David’s family will grow a shoot— yes, a new Branch bearing fruit from the old root. <sup>2</sup> And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. <sup>4</sup> He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. <sup>5</sup> He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.

This is our Jesus, born out of the stump of the great oak, the line of David, a man after God’s own heart. The True Vine, Jesus.

But like all people, the Jews had a short memory. So, the Lord uses Isaiah to remind them again, turn with me now to Isaiah chapter 28, verse 16.

İ»¿ **Isaiah 28:16 (NLT2)**

<sup>16</sup> Therefore, this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “Look! I am placing a foundation stone in Jerusalem, a firm and tested stone. It is a precious cornerstone that is safe to build on. Whoever believes need never be shaken.

Now here is a verse that instills hope, a Messiah that would be a firm foundation, one on which we could depend on, one on which we could not be shaken.

Isaiah didn't just prophesy about Jesus, he foretold about John the Baptist too, let's turn to Isaiah Chapter 40, verse 3:

İ»¿ **Isaiah 40:3-5 (NLT2)**

<sup>3</sup> Listen! It's the voice of someone shouting, “Clear the way through the wilderness for the LORD! Make a straight highway through the wasteland for our God!

<sup>4</sup> Fill in the valleys, and level the mountains and hills. Straighten the curves, and smooth out the rough places. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, and all people will see it together. The LORD has spoken!”

Truly the Lord has spoken, but have we listened as well as the Old Testament believers? All four Gospel writers quote these verses in reference to John the Baptist.

By now, we might be thinking the God's plan for restoration was only for the Jews, but God did not forget us Gentiles. Turn now with me to Isaiah 49:6.

İ»¿ **Isaiah 49:6 (NLT2)**

<sup>6</sup> He says, “You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.”

So God, did not intend his hope only for his Jews, but us Gentiles too.

Now, we in our rearview mirrors can read through Isaiah and see many prophecies about the life of Jesus, His death and resurrection. But I think that God put these here not so much for the nation of Israel, but for us to be able to understand that the life of Jesus was planned.

Of course, one of the famous Scripture from Isaiah is in Chapter 61. This is the chapter that Jesus reads, Luke chapter 4, when He is in his home Synagogue when he starts His ministry.

### İ»¿ **Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT2)**

<sup>1</sup> The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is upon me, for the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.

<sup>2</sup> He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the LORD's favor has come, and with it, the day of God's anger against their enemies.

<sup>3</sup> To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the LORD has planted for his own glory.

One more snippet that the Jews had in the puzzle of prophesy is found in the minor prophet Micah. We know this prophesy is import and was known by the Jewish scholars, because when Jesus is born and the Wise Men come, the Roman King, Herod, asks the Jews, where will the King be born, and the Scribes reply with verses from the book of Micah, turn with me now to Micah, Chapter 3, I will read starting with verse 2:

### İ»¿ **Micah 5:2-5 (NLT2)**

<sup>2</sup> But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past. <sup>3</sup> The people of Israel will be abandoned to their enemies until the woman in labor gives birth. Then at last his fellow countrymen will return from exile to their own land. <sup>4</sup> And he will stand to lead his flock with the LORD's strength, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. Then his people will live there undisturbed, for he will be highly honored around the world. <sup>5</sup> And he will be the source of peace.

Now, the Prophets Isaiah and Micah are not the only ones to provide a preview of Immanuel, so do Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. If you would like a list of those prophesies, see me later and I will be glad to share a list.

Just to reinforce what I am doing this morning is only looking the prophesies that pointed to the coming Messiah. To be sure, the Old Testament does a glorious job of setting the stage for Jesus' ministry here on earth, His death on the cross, as well as His resurrection from the dead and His conquering of our sin and restoring our eternal relationship with God the Father. Our first scripture from Genesis this morning is an example; *The serpent takes out Jesus' heel, but Jesus gets the*

*Serpent's head and we get redemption to the fullest! This too was part of the hope of the Jewish nation, but I will save that for another time.*

*You might consider whether you explicitly connect to the cross here and how this child in fact becomes our hope (dying for our sin, rising for our justification, etc.). The redemption the Jews were expecting and longing for would be far exceeded by this child's accomplishments at Calvary! Honestly, this may have been in there and I missed it, but making clearer how Jesus is the way of salvation and life through the cross in particular would be important I think. The serpent takes out his heel, but he gets his head . . . and we get redemption to the fullest!*

I am almost to the end this morning. Let's go to the last book of the Old Testament. I think it is important to end here, because from the end of Malachi to the coming of Immanuel at Christmas will be 400 years. Imagine, no prophets, no direct word of God, just the OLD TESTAMENT to sustain your hope for 400 years.

Malachi does us the favor of reminding the Jews, who lived under the rule of first the Persians, then the Greeks, then in the hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the the Romans, that God's plan had not changed.

Turn with me to the last book in the Old Testament, the last of the minor Prophets, Malachi, just before the Gospel of Matthew, to Malachi Chapter 3:

» Malachi 3:1 (NLT2)

<sup>1</sup> "Look! I am sending my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. Then the Lord you are seeking will suddenly come to his Temple. The messenger of the **covenant**, whom you look for so eagerly, is surely coming," says the LORD of Heaven's Armies.

Here we have that Covenant again, the one that Zacharias referred to, the one that Abraham referred to, the one the Moses referred to, the one that David referred to and the one that Isaiah referred to.

As we begin to close our Old Testament tour this morning, let's look at the last verses of Malachi. The Gospel writers, Matthew, Mark, and Luke all quote these last verses. These verses again points to John the Baptist, who sets the way for Jesus. This will bring us back to where we started this morning, with Zachariah's prayer of dedication at the birth of John the Baptist and the Hope that awaited the Jews in the birth of Jesus.

ï»¿ **Malachi 4:5-6 (NLT2)**

<sup>5</sup> “Look, I am sending you the prophet Elijah before the great and dreadful day of the LORD arrives. <sup>6</sup> His preaching will turn the hearts of fathers to their children, and the hearts of children to their fathers. Otherwise, I will come and strike the land with a curse.”

But, you say, how does this bring hope and how was this supposed to sustain the Jews for the next 400 years? It was a promise from the Lord, the God of the Covenant.

In some sense we live in a similar time to the Jew, Jesus has come, He was born in a Manger, He taught us, He died for us and now we too are waiting for His return. Like the Jews, we are waiting for Jesus to come and establish His eternal kingdom.

Consider with me this morning, where is your hope?

Where might you be doubting like Zechariah did, or Abraham, the Jews in exile, or during the silent years 400

As we close this morning, I want us to go back to Luke Chapter 1, remember the scene that I described of Zachariah going into the Holy Place in the temple to burn incense and pray, I want to go there and show you that God has completed what He has planned. And this is the reason for Zachariah’s excitement and the hope of the Jews as he prayed at the dedication of John, his son:

ï»¿ **Luke 1:11-20 (NLT2)**

<sup>11</sup> While Zechariah was in the sanctuary, an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing to the right of the incense altar. <sup>12</sup> Zechariah was shaken and overwhelmed with fear when he saw him.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said, “Don’t be afraid, Zechariah! God has heard your prayer. Your wife, Elizabeth, will give you a son, and you are to name him John. <sup>14</sup> You will have great joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, <sup>15</sup> for he will be great in the eyes of the Lord. He must never touch wine or other alcoholic drinks. He will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even before his birth. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many Israelites to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will be a man with the spirit and power of Elijah. He will prepare the people for the coming of the Lord. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and he will cause those who are rebellious to accept the wisdom of the godly.”

<sup>18</sup> Zechariah said to the angel, “How can I be sure this will happen? I’m an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years.”

<sup>19</sup> Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news!

<sup>20</sup> But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly be fulfilled at the proper time.”

As with all things of God, they will be fulfilled in His proper time. This morning we have looked at some of the pieces of the jigsaw puzzle that the Jews had to work with, to try and ferret out the whole plan of God. We have a greater hope because we now have the greater picture. We can understand God’s great plan of salvation through a baby that was from the beginning.

Let me share a bit of my story of hope, and the hope of Christmas. In 2018 Becky and I were on vacation. We had rented a car and were driving through the British Isles. Each day we would find a place to hike, in a National Park, a Lake, along the cliffs. But as our vacation progressed my ability to keep up started getting harder. When we got home, I convinced my doctor that something was not right. After wrangling with insurance and primary care doctors I went for a heart work up. This was on a Friday afternoon in early November. I asked the technician if I could take a picture of the results. Some of you may know that my eldest son is a cardiologist. I texted him the picture and he almost immediately called back and said, “DO NOT GO HOME, GO STRAIGHT TO THE ER.” After the weekend in the hospital and a few more tests, the doctors found that I had several blockages. I spent that Wednesday on a Heart/Lung machine, while the doctors rebuilt my heart. When I awoke from the anesthesia, I had new hope. In essence a fresh start. I came back from the dead. That is the same hope that we have in Jesus. A fresh start from Sin.

How does Christmas and our God give you hope, even when your heart isn’t working just right (literally) and the next breath could be your last?

We look and think God has abandoned us, but he hasn’t! And Christmas proves it. O come O come Emanuel!!! God is with us.

Let’s Pray.

++++  
++++

| MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| PROPHECY                                  | OT REFERENCES  | NT FULFILLMENT   |
| Seed of the woman                         | <a href="#">Gen 3:15</a>   | <a href="#">Gal 4:4</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 2:14</a>   |
| Nations blessed through Abraham           | <a href="#">Gen 12:3</a> ; <a href="#">18:18</a> ; <a href="#">22:18</a> ; <a href="#">26:4</a> ; <a href="#">28:14</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 1:1</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 3:25</a> ; <a href="#">Gal 3:8</a>   |
| Seed of Abraham                           | <a href="#">Gen 12:7</a> ; <a href="#">13:15</a> ; <a href="#">15:18</a> ; <a href="#">17:7-10</a> ; <a href="#">23:7</a>  | <a href="#">Acts 7:5</a> ; <a href="#">Rom 4:13</a> , <a href="#">16</a> ; <a href="#">9:8</a> ; <a href="#">Gal 3:16</a> , <a href="#">29</a>   |
| Seed of Isaac                             | <a href="#">Gen 17:19</a> ; <a href="#">21:12</a> ; <a href="#">26:3-4</a>   | <a href="#">Rom 9:7</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 11:18</a>  |
| Of the tribe of Judah                     | <a href="#">Gen 49:10</a>  | <a href="#">Heb 7:14</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 5:5</a>   |
| Lamb slain for us                         | <a href="#">Exod 12:1-11</a> ; <a href="#">Isa 53:7</a>  | <a href="#">John 1:29-36</a> , <a href="#">19:36</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 5:7-8</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 5:6-14</a> , <a href="#">7:14</a> ; <a href="#">21:22-27</a> ; <a href="#">22:1-4</a>   |
| No bone broken                            | <a href="#">Exod 12:46</a> ; <a href="#">Num 9:12</a> ; <a href="#">Ps 34:20</a>   | <a href="#">John 19:36</a>   |
| Firstborn son sanctified                  | <a href="#">Exod 13:2</a> ; <a href="#">Num 3:13</a> ; <a href="#">8:17</a>  | <a href="#">Luke 2:23</a>  |
| Serpent in wilderness                     | <a href="#">Num 21:8-9</a>   | <a href="#">John 3:14-15</a>   |
| A star out of Jacob                       | <a href="#">Num 24:17-19</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 2:2</a>   |
| Prophet like Moses                        | <a href="#">Deut 18:15</a> , <a href="#">18-19</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 21:11</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 7:16</a> , <a href="#">39</a> ; <a href="#">24:19</a> ; <a href="#">John 1:21</a> , <a href="#">25</a> ; <a href="#">John 6:14</a> , <a href="#">7:40</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 3:22-23</a>   |
| Cursed on the tree                        | <a href="#">Deut 21:23</a>   | <a href="#">Gal 3:13</a>   |
| The throne of David established forever   | <a href="#">2 Sam 7:12-13</a> , <a href="#">16</a> , <a href="#">25-26</a> ; <a href="#">1 Kings 11:36</a> ; <a href="#">1 Chr 17:11-14</a> , <a href="#">23-27</a> ; <a href="#">2 Chr 21:7</a> ; <a href="#">Ps 89:3-4</a> , <a href="#">36-37</a> ; <a href="#">132:10-12</a> ; <a href="#">Isa 9:7</a> | <a href="#">Matt 19:28</a> ; <a href="#">25:31</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 1:32</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 2:30</a> ; <a href="#">13:23</a> ; <a href="#">Rom 1:3</a> ; <a href="#">2 Tim 2:8</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 1:8</a> ; <a href="#">8:1</a> ; <a href="#">12:2</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 22:1</a> |
| A promised Redeemer                       | <a href="#">Job 19:25-27</a>   | <a href="#">Gal 4:4-5</a>  |
| Raise Gentile opposition                  | <a href="#">Ps 2:1-2</a>   | <a href="#">Acts 4:25-26</a>   |
| Declared to be the Son of God             | <a href="#">Ps 2:7</a> ; <a href="#">Pro 30:4</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 3:17</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 1:11</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 1:35</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 13:33</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 1:5</a> ; <a href="#">5:5</a> ; <a href="#">2 Pet 1:17</a>  |
| Break Gentiles with rod                   | <a href="#">Ps 2:9</a>   | <a href="#">Rev 2:26-27</a> ; <a href="#">12:5</a> ; <a href="#">19:15-16</a>  |
| His resurrection                          | <a href="#">Ps 16:8-10</a> ; <a href="#">49:15</a> ; <a href="#">86:13</a>   | <a href="#">Acts 2:27</a> ; <a href="#">13:35</a>  |
| Felt forsaken by God                      | <a href="#">Ps 22:1</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 27:46</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:34</a>  |
| Mocked and insulted                       | <a href="#">Ps 22:7-8</a> , <a href="#">17</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 27:39-43</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:29-32</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:35-39</a>  |
| Thirsty                                   | <a href="#">Ps 22:15</a> ; <a href="#">69:21</a>   | <a href="#">John 19:28</a>   |
| Hands and feet pierced                    | <a href="#">Ps 22:16</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 27:31</a> , <a href="#">35-36</a>   |
| Soldiers cast lots for coat               | <a href="#">Ps 22:18</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 27:35</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:20</a> , <a href="#">24</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:34</a> ; <a href="#">John 19:23-24</a>  |

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Accused by false witnesses             | <a href="#">Ps 27:12</a> ; <a href="#">35:11</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 26:60-61</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:55-61</a>  |
| He commits His spirit                  | <a href="#">Ps 31:5</a>                            | <a href="#">Luke 23:46</a>   |
| No broken bone                         | <a href="#">Ps 34:20</a>                           | <a href="#">John 19:36</a>   |
| Hated without reason                   | <a href="#">Ps 35:19</a> ; <a href="#">69:4</a>    | <a href="#">John 15:24-25</a>  |
| Friends stand afar off                 | <a href="#">Ps 38:11</a> ; <a href="#">88:18</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 27:55</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:40</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:49</a>   |
| "I come to do Thy will"                | <a href="#">Ps 40:6-8</a>                          | <a href="#">Heb 10:5-9</a>   |
| Betrayed by a friend                   | <a href="#">Ps 41:9</a> ; <a href="#">55:12-14</a> | <a href="#">Matt 26:14-16</a> , <a href="#">23:47-50</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:17-21</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 22:19-23</a> ; <a href="#">John 13:18-19</a>   |
| King known for righteousness           | <a href="#">Ps 45:1-7</a>                          | <a href="#">Heb 1:8-9</a>  |
| Blessed by nations                     | <a href="#">Ps 72:17</a>                           | <a href="#">Luke 1:48</a>  |
| His ascension                          | <a href="#">Ps 68:18</a>                           | <a href="#">Eph 4:8</a>  |
| Stung by reproaches                    | <a href="#">Ps 69:9</a>                            | <a href="#">Rom 15:3</a>   |
| Zeal for God's house                   | <a href="#">Ps 69:9</a>                            | <a href="#">John 2:17</a>  |
| Given gall and vinegar                 | <a href="#">Ps 69:21</a>                           | <a href="#">Matt 27:34</a> , <a href="#">48</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:23</a> , <a href="#">36</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:36</a> ; <a href="#">John 19:29</a>  |
| Care for needy                         | <a href="#">Ps 72:13</a>                           | <a href="#">Luke 10:33</a>   |
| He speaks in parables                  | <a href="#">Ps 78:2</a>                            | <a href="#">Matt 13:34-35</a>  |
| Make Him my firstborn                  | <a href="#">Ps 89:27</a>                           | <a href="#">Rom 8:29</a> ; <a href="#">Col 1:15</a> , <a href="#">18</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 1:6</a>   |
| "Thou remainest"                       | <a href="#">Ps 102:24-27</a>                       | <a href="#">Heb 1:10-12</a>  |
| Prays for His enemies                  | <a href="#">Ps 109:4</a>                           | <a href="#">Matt 5:44</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:34</a>   |
| Another to succeed Judas               | <a href="#">Ps 109:7-8</a>                         | <a href="#">Acts 1:16-20</a>   |
| David's Lord at God's right hand       | <a href="#">Ps 110:1</a>                           | <a href="#">Matt 22:41-45</a> ; <a href="#">26:64</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 12:35-37</a> ; <a href="#">16:19</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 7:56</a> ; <a href="#">Eph 1:20</a> ; <a href="#">Col 3:1</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 1:3</a> , <a href="#">13</a> ; <a href="#">8:1</a> ; <a href="#">10:12</a> ; <a href="#">12:2</a> |
| A priest like Melchizedek              | <a href="#">Ps 110:4</a>                           | <a href="#">Heb 5:6</a> , <a href="#">10</a> ; <a href="#">6:20</a> ; <a href="#">7:1-22</a> ; <a href="#">8:1</a> ; <a href="#">10:11-13</a>  |
| The chief cornerstone                  | <a href="#">Ps 118:22-23</a>                       | <a href="#">Matt 21:42</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 12:10-11</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 20:17</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 4:11</a> ; <a href="#">Eph 2:20</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:4-7</a>   |
| The King comes in the name of the Lord | <a href="#">Ps 118:26</a>                          | <a href="#">Matt 21:9</a> ; <a href="#">23:39</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 11:9</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 13:35</a> ; <a href="#">19:38</a> ; <a href="#">John 12:13</a>  |
| Repentance for the nations             | <a href="#">Isa 2:2-4</a>                          | <a href="#">Luke 24:47</a>   |
| Hearts are hardened                    | <a href="#">Isa 6:9-10</a>                         | <a href="#">Matt 13:14-15</a> ; <a href="#">John 12:39-40</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 28:25-27</a>  |
| Born of a virgin                       | <a href="#">Isa 7:14</a>                           | <a href="#">Matt 1:22-23</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 1:27-35</a>  |
| A rock of offense                      | <a href="#">Isa 8:14</a> , <a href="#">15</a>      | <a href="#">Rom 9:33</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:8</a>   |
| Light out of darkness                  | <a href="#">Isa 9:1-2</a>                          | <a href="#">Matt 4:14-16</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 2:32</a>   |

| Immanuel, God with us                     | <a href="#">Isa 7:14</a> ; <a href="#">8:8</a> , <a href="#">10</a> | <a href="#">Matt 1:21</a> , <a href="#">23</a> ; <a href="#">John 14:8-10</a> ; <a href="#">14:19</a> ; <a href="#">Col 2:9</a>   |
|---|---|---|
| Son to be given                           | <a href="#">Isa 9:6</a>   | <a href="#">John 3:16</a>   |
| Government on His shoulders               | <a href="#">Isa 9:6</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 28:18</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 15:24-25</a>   |
| MESSIANIC PROPHECIES OF THE OLD TESTAMENT |   |   |
| PROPHECY                                  | OT REFERENCES   | NT FULFILLMENT  |
| Spirit of the Lord on Him                 | <a href="#">Isa 11:2</a> ; <a href="#">42:1</a>                     | <a href="#">Matt 3:16</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 1:10</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 3:22</a> ; <a href="#">John 1:32</a> ; <a href="#">3:34</a>  |
| Full of wisdom and power                  | <a href="#">Isa 11:1-10</a>   | <a href="#">Rom 15:12</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 1:30</a> ; <a href="#">Eph 1:17</a> ; <a href="#">Col 2:3</a>   |
| Reigning in mercy                         | <a href="#">Isa 16:4-5</a>  | <a href="#">Luke 1:31-33</a>  |
| Key of David                              | <a href="#">Isa 22:21-25</a>  | <a href="#">Rev 3:7</a>   |
| Death swallowed up in victory             | <a href="#">Isa 25:6-12</a>   | <a href="#">1 Cor 15:54</a>   |
| A stone in Zion                           | <a href="#">Isa 28:16</a>   | <a href="#">Rom 9:33</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:6</a>  |
| The deaf hear, the blind see              | <a href="#">Isa 29:18-19</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 11:5</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 7:37</a> ; <a href="#">John 9:39</a>   |
| Healing for the needy                     | <a href="#">Isa 35:4-10</a>   | <a href="#">Matt 9:30</a> ; <a href="#">11:5</a> ; <a href="#">12:22</a> ; <a href="#">20:34</a> ; <a href="#">21:14</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 7:31-35</a> ; <a href="#">John 9:1-7</a>                          |
| Make ready the way of the Lord            | <a href="#">Isa 40:3-5</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 3:3</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 1:3</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 3:4-5</a> ; <a href="#">John 1:23</a>  |
| The Shepherd tends His sheep              | <a href="#">Isa 40:10-11</a>  | <a href="#">John 10:11</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 13:20</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:25</a>   |
| The meek Servant                          | <a href="#">Isa 42:1-4</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 12:17-21</a> ; <a href="#">Phil 2:7</a>  |
| A light to the Gentiles                   | <a href="#">Isa 49:6</a>  | <a href="#">Luke 2:32</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 13:47</a> ; <a href="#">26:23</a>  |
| Scourged and spat upon                    | <a href="#">Isa 50:6</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 26:67</a> ; <a href="#">27:26</a> , <a href="#">30</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:65</a> ; <a href="#">15:15</a> , <a href="#">19</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 22:63-65</a> ; <a href="#">John 19:1</a> |
| Rejected and insulted                     | <a href="#">Isa 53:3</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 27:1-2</a> , <a href="#">12-14</a> , <a href="#">39</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 18:31-33</a> ; <a href="#">John 1:10-11</a>   |
| Suffered vicariously                      | <a href="#">Isa 53:4-5</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 8:17</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 15:3-4</a> , <a href="#">27-28</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:1-25</a> , <a href="#">32-34</a>  |
| Pierced for our transgressions            | <a href="#">Isa 53:5</a>  | <a href="#">Rom 4:25</a> ; <a href="#">5:6</a> , <a href="#">8</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 15:3</a> ; <a href="#">2 Cor 5:21</a>  |
| Lamb slaughtered for us                   | <a href="#">Isa 53:7</a>  | <a href="#">John 1:29</a> , <a href="#">36</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 8:28-35</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 1:19</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 5:6</a> ; <a href="#">13:8</a>   |
| Silent when accused                       | <a href="#">Isa 53:7</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 26:63</a> ; <a href="#">27:12</a> , <a href="#">14</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:61</a> ; <a href="#">15:5</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 23:9</a> ; <a href="#">John 19:9</a>                           |
| Buried with the rich                      | <a href="#">Isa 53:9</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 27:57-60</a>   |
| Bear Iniquities and give forgiveness      | <a href="#">Isa 53:11</a>   | <a href="#">Acts 10:43</a> ; <a href="#">13:38-39</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 15:3</a> ; <a href="#">Eph 1:7</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:21-25</a> ; <a href="#">1 John 1:7</a> , <a href="#">9</a>                 |
| Crucified with transgressors              | <a href="#">Isa 53:12</a>   | <a href="#">Mark 15:27-28</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 22:37</a>  |

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| Calling of Gentiles                                  | <a href="#">Isa 55:4-5</a>                             | <a href="#">Rom 9:25-26</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 1:5</a>   |
| Deliver out of Zion                                  | <a href="#">Isa 59:16-20</a>                           | <a href="#">Rom 11:26-27</a>  |
| Nations walk in the light                            | <a href="#">Isa 60:1-3</a>                             | <a href="#">Luke 2:32</a>   |
| Anointed to preach liberty                           | <a href="#">Isa 61:1-3</a>                             | <a href="#">Luke 4:17-19</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 10:38</a>   |
| Called by a new name                                 | <a href="#">Isa 62:1-2</a>                             | <a href="#">Rev 2:17</a> ; <a href="#">3:12</a>   |
| The King cometh                                      | <a href="#">Isa 62:11</a>                              | <a href="#">Matt 21:5</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 22:12</a>   |
| A vesture dipped in blood                            | <a href="#">Isa 63:1-3</a>                             | <a href="#">Rev 19:13</a>   |
| Afflicted with the afflicted                         | <a href="#">Isa 63:8-9</a>                             | <a href="#">Matt 25:34-40</a>   |
| New heavens and a new earth                          | <a href="#">Isa 65:17-25</a>                           | <a href="#">2 Pet 3:13</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 21:1</a>   |
| The Lord our righteousness                           | <a href="#">Jer 23:5-6</a> ; <a href="#">33:16</a>     | <a href="#">Rom 3:22</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 1:30</a> ; <a href="#">2 Cor 5:21</a> ; <a href="#">Phil 3:9</a>   |
| Born a King  | <a href="#">Jer 30:9</a>                               | <a href="#">Luke 1:69</a> ; <a href="#">John 18:37</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 13:23</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 1:5</a>   |
| Massacre of infants                                  | <a href="#">Jer 31:15</a>                              | <a href="#">Matt 2:17-18</a>  |
| A New Covenant                                       | <a href="#">Jer 31:31-34</a>                           | <a href="#">Matt 26:27-29</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 14:22-24</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 22:15-20</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 11:25</a> ; <a href="#">Heb 8:8-12</a> ; <a href="#">10:15-17</a> ; <a href="#">12:24</a> ; <a href="#">13:20</a> |
| A tree planted by God                                | <a href="#">Ezek 17:22-24</a>                          | <a href="#">Matt 13:31-32</a>   |
| The humble exalted                                   | <a href="#">Ezek 21:26-27</a>                          | <a href="#">Luke 1:52</a>   |
| The good Shepherd                                    | <a href="#">Ezek 34:23-24</a>                          | <a href="#">John 10:11</a>  |
| His kingdom triumphant                               | <a href="#">Dan 2:44-45</a>                            | <a href="#">Luke 1:33</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 15:24</a> ; <a href="#">2 Pet 1:11</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 11:15</a>  |
| Son of Man in power                                  | <a href="#">Dan 7:13-14</a>                            | <a href="#">Matt 24:30</a> ; <a href="#">25:31</a> ; <a href="#">26:64</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 13:26</a> ; <a href="#">14:61-62</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 21:27</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 1:9-11</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 1:7</a>             |
| Kingdom for the saints                               | <a href="#">Dan 7:27</a>                               | <a href="#">Luke 1:33</a> ; <a href="#">1 Cor 15:24</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 11:15</a> ; <a href="#">20:4</a> ; <a href="#">22:5</a>   |
| Israel restored                                      | <a href="#">Hos 3:5</a>                                | <a href="#">Rom 11:25-27</a>  |
| Flight into Egypt                                    | <a href="#">Hos 11:1</a>                               | <a href="#">Matt 2:15</a>   |
| Promise of the Spirit                                | <a href="#">Joel 2:28-32</a>                           | <a href="#">Acts 2:17-21</a> ;  |
| The sun darkened                                     | <a href="#">Amos 8:9</a>                               | <a href="#">Matt 24:29</a> ; <a href="#">Acts 2:20</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 6:12</a>   |
| Restoration of David's house                         | <a href="#">Amos 9:11-12</a>                           | <a href="#">Acts 15:16-18</a>   |
| The kingdom established                              | <a href="#">Isa. 2:1-4</a> ; <a href="#">Mic 4:1-8</a> | <a href="#">Luke 1:33</a>   |
| Born in Bethlehem                                    | <a href="#">Mic 5:1-5</a>                              | <a href="#">Matt 2:1-6</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 2:4</a> , <a href="#">10-11</a>   |
| Earth filled with knowledge of the glory of the Lord | <a href="#">Hab 2:14</a>                               | <a href="#">Rev 21:23-26</a>  |
| God living among His people                          | <a href="#">Zech 2:10-13</a>                           | <a href="#">Rev 21:3</a> , <a href="#">24</a>   |

|                                  |                                |   |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| A new priesthood                 | <a href="#">Zech 3:8</a>       | <a href="#">Eph 2:20-21</a> ; <a href="#">1 Pet 2:5</a>   |
| Enthroned High Priest            | <a href="#">Zech 6:12-13</a>   | <a href="#">Heb 5:5-10</a> ; <a href="#">7:11-28</a> ; <a href="#">8:1, 2</a>   |
| Triumphal entry                  | <a href="#">Zech 9:9-10</a>    | <a href="#">Matt 21:4-5</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 11:1-10</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 19:28-38</a> ; <a href="#">John 12:13-15</a>                                      |
| Sold for thirty pieces of silver | <a href="#">Zech 11:12-13</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 26:14-15</a>   |
| Money buys potter's field        | <a href="#">Zech 11:12-13</a>  | <a href="#">Matt 27:9-10</a>  |
| Piercing of His body             | <a href="#">Zech 12:10</a>     | <a href="#">John 19:34, 37</a>  |
| Shepherd smitten—sheep scattered | <a href="#">Zech 13:1, 6-7</a> | <a href="#">Matt 26:31</a> ; <a href="#">John 16:32</a>   |
| Preceded by Forerunner           | <a href="#">Mal 3:1</a>        | <a href="#">Matt 11:10</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 1:2</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 7:27</a>   |
| The sun of righteousness         | <a href="#">Mal 4:2-3</a>      | <a href="#">Luke 1:78</a> ; <a href="#">Eph 5:14</a> ; <a href="#">2 Pet 1:19</a> ; <a href="#">Rev 2:28</a> ; <a href="#">19:11-12</a> ; <a href="#">22:16</a> |
| The coming of Elijah             | <a href="#">Mal 4:5-6</a>      | <a href="#">Matt 11:14</a> ; <a href="#">17:10-12</a> ; <a href="#">Mark 9:11-13</a> ; <a href="#">Luke 1:17</a>  |