

Sermon Notes – 12.10.2023 – Prophecy and the Holy Birth

The Birth of Jesus in Matthew's Gospel – "IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."

Matthew 1:18-25 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. **19** And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. **20** But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21** "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22** Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: **23** "BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." **24** And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took *Mary* as his wife, **25** but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

- Matthew, the Gospel that Resonated most with the Jews – Many Prophets quoted.
 - The Writing Prophets Formed Much of the Core of the Jewish Faith

Luke's Gospel Introduces Prophecy that Arises from Contact with the Holy Spirit

Hearing Mary's Voice, Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and Spoke Prophetically

Elizabeth is the Voice of Confirmation

- **We Are Blessed if Believe What the Lord has Spoken to Us**

Luke 1:39-45 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah, **40** and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** And she cried out with a loud voice and said, "Blessed *are* you among women, and blessed *is* the fruit of your womb! **43** "And how has it *happened* to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me? **44** "For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy. **45** "And blessed *is* she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord."

Mary's Song of Praise was Prophetic: the Magnificat – The Holy Spirit had Come Upon Mary

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;" (Luke 1:35)

- **HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM**

Luke 1:46-55 And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, **47** And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. **48** "For He has had regard for the humble state of His bondservant; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. **49** "For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. **50** "AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. **51** "He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered *those who were* proud in the thoughts of their heart. **52** "He has brought down rulers from *their* thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. **53** "HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed. **54** "He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, **55** As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever."

Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied.

"...his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he began to speak in praise of God." Luke 1:64

Luke 1:67 And his father **Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied**, saying: **68** "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For He has visited us and accomplished redemption for His people, **69** And has raised up a horn of salvation for us In the house of David His servant— **70** As He spoke by the mouth of His holy prophets from of old— **71** Salvation FROM OUR ENEMIES, And FROM THE HAND OF ALL WHO HATE US; **72** To show mercy toward our fathers, And to remember His holy covenant, **73** The oath which He swore to Abraham our father, **74** To grant us that we, being rescued from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, **75** In holiness and righteousness before Him all our days. **76** "And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; For you will go on BEFORE THE LORD TO PREPARE HIS WAYS; **77** **To give to His people the knowledge of salvation By the forgiveness of their sins, 78 , With which the Sunrise from on high will visit us, 79 TO SHINE UPON THOSE WHO SIT IN DARKNESS AND THE SHADOW OF DEATH, To guide our feet into the way of peace."**

- **Knowledge of Salvation by the Forgiveness of Sins**
 - **Because of the tender mercy of our God**
- **The Sunrise from on High will Visit Us - He Will, "guide our feet into the way of peace."**

The First Three People Who Stepped into the Unfolding of the Coming of the Savior:

- **Were Godly Folk that God Chose**

Colossians 3:12-13 So, **as those who have been chosen of God**, holy and beloved, **put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience;** **13** bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you.
- **They Were Humble or Humbled**
- **The Holy Spirit Came Upon Them** – God Came and Communed with Them

THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US."
- **They Received the Lord with an Open Heart**

"God with Us" – We Are Not Alone - Filled with the Holy Spirit Who Cries out to the Father

Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, **God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"**

1 John 4:13-16 **By this we know that we abide in Him and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit.** **14** We have seen and testify that **the Father has sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.** **15** **Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.** **16** **We have come to know and have believed the love which God has for us. God is love, and the one who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.**