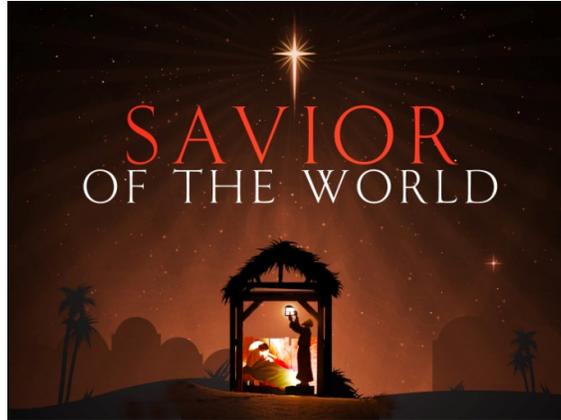


21 Days
Until Christmas
Christmas Readings



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1. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit together agree, before They ever create the world, that God the Son will be the Savior who will be born as a baby, grow to manhood, and die on a cross to pay for the sin which will be committed by the people They are about to create.

Acts 2:23 I Peter 1:20 Rev. 13:8

2. 4,000 years of prophecies which will help identify the Savior when He comes.

Genesis through Malachi

3. In about 4 BC, a priest named Zacharias takes his turn supplying the incense and oil to burn in the Holy Place. As he keeps the oil burning, he silently prays, pouring out his heart to the Lord for his own deep needs, and the same deep needs of the people he represents. He and his wife are childless...and the nation of Israel is also childless...the long-awaited Savior has not come.

Luke 1:5-22

4. Soon after this prayer, Zacharias' wife, Elizabeth, gets pregnant.

Luke 1:23-25

5. When Elizabeth is six months pregnant, the angel Gabriel comes to a young girl named Mary, telling her she has been chosen to bear the Savior of the world in her womb. Mary accepts the unbelievable gift.

Luke 1:26-38

6. Mary immediately goes to visit her relative, Elizabeth. Both Elizabeth and her yet-to-be-born baby realize the Savior is within Mary. Mary stays three months.

Luke 1:39-56

7. Elizabeth and Zacharias' son is born. They name him John. He is raised in the desert. (He will be known later as John the Baptist)

Luke 1:57-79

8. It becomes known that Mary is pregnant, though not yet married to Joseph.

Matthew 1:18

9. Joseph, believing Mary has been unfaithful to him, does not want to humiliate Mary, but he doesn't think he can marry her, either. He just wants to put her away somewhere privately to have the baby.

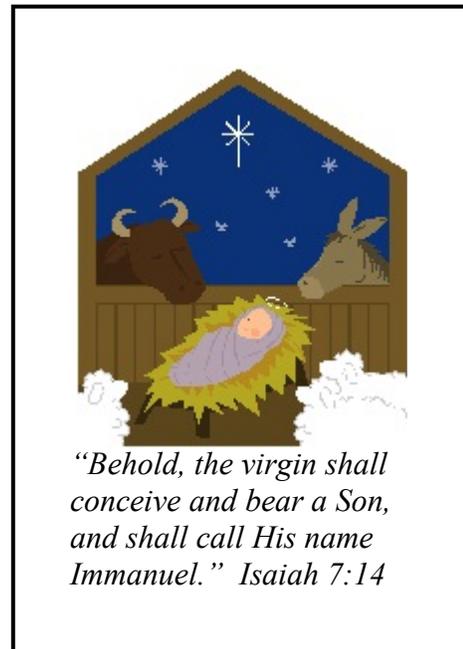
Matthew 1:19

10. But before Joseph can put that plan into action, an angel of the Lord appears to him in a dream and tells him what has happened – that Mary is carrying the Son of God within her, and has not been unfaithful to Joseph. He is told to marry her, take care of her until the Savior is born, and then live with her as husband and wife after that. He is told to name the baby Jesus. Joseph obeys.

Matthew 1:20-25

11. Just before Mary is ready to deliver her baby, Caesar orders that all Jews return to the city of their birth to be registered in a census. Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem.

Luke 2:1-5

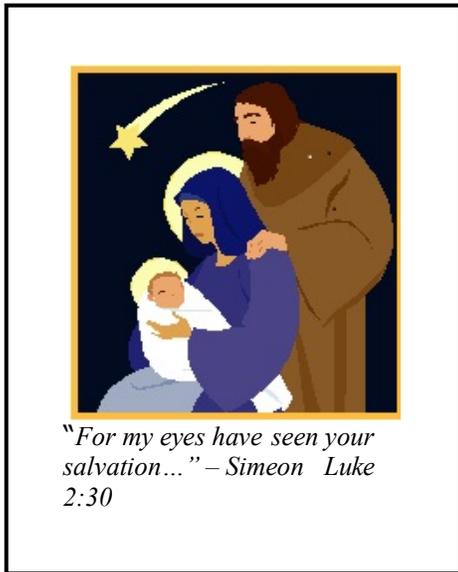


12. The baby is born in Bethlehem, in a stable.

Luke 2:6-7

13. Shepherds near Bethlehem see a bright star, and hear a whole sky full of angels saying the Savior has been born. They go to Bethlehem and find Mary, Joseph, and Jesus, then leave and tell everyone about it. They are filled with joy.

Luke 2:8-20



"For my eyes have seen your salvation..." – Simeon Luke 2:30

14. Eight days later, Mary and Joseph take Jesus to Jerusalem, to the temple, where Jesus is circumcised and named.

Luke 2:21 Matthew 1:25b

15. Thirty-two days after that, Mary and Joseph, because Jesus is their first-born, present their baby boy to the Lord in Jerusalem, again at the temple, offering the traditional sacrifice.

Luke 2:22-24

16. During this visit to Jerusalem, a faith-filled man named Simeon sees Mary and Joseph with Jesus in the temple, and confirms that this baby is, indeed, the promised Savior of the world, who had been promised for 4,000 years with prophecies, pictures, and progeny. He also warns Mary of what is to come.

Luke 2:25-35

17. After Simeon makes this proclamation, another Godly person, Anna, who lives at the temple, also confirms that this is the coming Savior.

Luke 2:36-38

18. Mary and Joseph return to Bethlehem to live, perhaps for two or three more years. Then some wise men from Gentile countries in the east make the trip to Israel to see this Savior of the world,



*"They saw the young child with
Mary, his mother, and fell
down and worshipped Him."
Matthew 2:11*

having seen His sign in the stars. Herod is filled with jealousy and hatred for this child and orders the wise men to find the child in Bethlehem and then return to Jerusalem to let him know where the child and his parents live. After they find and worship the young child Jesus, they are warned of God in a dream not to return to Herod. They flee secretly another way.

Matthew 2:1-12

19. Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream to take Jesus and Mary away to Egypt until it is safe to return. He obeys.

Matthew 2:13-15

20. Herod, furious that he has been tricked by the wise men, orders that all the male children two years old and under in the Bethlehem area, be killed.

Matthew 2:16-18

21. Once Herod dies, Joseph and Mary return to Israel, choosing to live far from Jerusalem, in the Galilee area, in Nazareth. This is where Jesus grows up.

Matthew 2:19-23 Luke 2:39-40





A Few Old Testament Promises of the Coming Savior of the World:

Prophecy	Where It's Found in the Old Testament	Where it Came True in the New Testament
He would be a man	Genesis 3:15	Galatians 4:4
He would be a Jew	Genesis 12:3 Genesis 18:18	Luke 3:34 Matt. 1:2 Acts 3:25 Galatians 3:16
He would be of the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33 Matthew 1:2
He would be a King (of the seed of David)	Psalms 132:11,12 Jeremiah 23:5,6 Psalms 2:6-9	Matthew 1:6 Romans 1:3 Acts 2:30
He would be a prophet like Moses	Deuteronomy 18:15, 19	Matt. 21:11 John 1:45 John 6:14 Acts 3:22-23
He would be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7 Proverbs 30:4	Luke 1:32 Matthew 3:17
He would be God	Jeremiah 23:5,6	Acts 2:36
Homage would be given Him by great Kings	Psalms 72:10,11	Matt. 2:1-11
He would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18-25 Luke 1:26-35
He would be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:1	Matt 2:1, 5, 6 Luke 2:4-6

Prophecy	Where It's Found in the Old Testament	Where it Came True in the New Testament
He would perform miracles	Isaiah 35:5,6	John 11:47 Matthew 11:3-6
He would come before the 2 nd temple in Jerusalem was destroyed (70 A.D.)	Daniel 9:24-26	Historical fact
He would be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18,21
He would be rejected	Psalms 118:22,23 Isaiah 8:14, 15 Isaiah 28:16	Matt 21:42,43 Acts 4:11 Romans 9:32,33 Ephesians 2:20 I Peter 2:6-8
He would be meek & mild	Isaiah 42:2,3 Isaiah 53:7	Matt. 12:18-20 Matt 26:62,63
He would minister to Gentiles	Isaiah 42:1 Isaiah 49:1,8	Matt. 12:21
He would be smitten	Isaiah 50:6	Matt. 26:67 Matt 27:26,30
He would suffer & bring salvation	Isaiah 53	The 4 Gospels
He would be pierced	Zechariah 12:10 Psalm 22:16	John 19:34,37
He would be forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:31,56
He would be crucified	Psalm 22 Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34-50 John 19:28-30
He would have his garments parted & cast lots for	Psalm 22:19	Luke 23:34
He would ascend to heaven	Psalm 68:18	Luke 24:51 Acts 1:9
He would have victory over death	Isaiah 25:8	John 20:1-10, 19-25
Gentiles would seek the Messiah of Israel	Isaiah 11:10	Romans 11:25
Died for the sins of the Jewish people and the whole world	Isaiah 53:8	John 3:16