

Episode #1050 Christmas 2024 1: The Prophesied Savior

I. The birth of Christ was a miraculous event that prepared the way for all that He would accomplish in His death, burial, and resurrection. At this time of year we remember that birth and the glorious salvation that God gave us as a result.

II. The Jewish audience who originally read the Old Testament quotations in the Christmas story would have immediately been able to call to mind the passages that were referred to. They would have known the context and what the passage was saying. We often do not have that level of knowledge of the Old Testament, however, so we need to review these passages and see what they were all about. Today we will be doing this with the quotations in the story of Christ's birth.

III. Luke 1:17 quoting Malachi 4:5-6

A. Luke 1:10-17. The angel's message to the Godly priest Zacharias.

B. It should not surprise us that one would have the spirit and power of Elijah. II Kings 2:9-11. Elisha must have felt inadequate next to the powerful Elijah. II Kings 1:8, compare II Kings 2:23. Yet his request was granted, and if we would count his miracles, they were double Elijah's. Now John will go in that spirit and power.

C. Malachi 4:5-6. Elijah will have a second coming, just like Jesus Christ. John the Identifier prepares the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, whereas Elijah the prophet will prepare the way for the day of the LORD.

D. The baptism of submission prepared a childlike heart in the fathers of Israel. Mark 10:15. Also a wise heart in children. Notice this is the spirit and power of Elijah in his second coming. He never did such a work in his first coming. John did this; Mark 1:2-4.

IV. Luke 2:23 quoting Exodus 13:2, 12, 15.

A. Luke 2:21-23. The Lord was brought up in the Israelite religion.

B. Exodus 13:1-2. The firstborn was not just your child born first, but was the male child who was going to be the next patriarch of the family. The firstborn of man and beast belonged to the LORD. Yet this firstborn WAS the LORD.

C. Exodus 13:11-16. The firstborn animals were sacrificed, but the firstborn sons were redeemed. The One born this day, however, was both the Sacrifice and the Redeemer.

V. Luke 2:24 quoting Leviticus 12:8.

A. Luke 2:24. They brought this sacrifice according to the law.

B. Leviticus 12:1-8. The alternate sacrifice. The Lord was born to a poor family who were not able to bring the regular sacrifice.

C. Sacrifice indicated purification and atonement, in this case offered for the One Who would bring both.

VII. We can learn much about the story of Christ's birth by not just reading the Old Testament quotations, but by actually going back and reading the passages these come from to learn what they are talking about. We learn that John was like Elijah in the future, not the past. The Lord, as the firstborn, belonged to the Lord, yet ultimately He is the Lord. We learn Mary and Joseph were a poor family. We will find what more we can learn of the prophesied Savior in our next message.