

HOME GROUP BIBLE STUDIES: JESUS' COMING INTO THE WORLD

1. The Prophecies of His Coming

Intro: *As we approach another Christmas, what do you observe our society emphasising? [Discuss] What about you personally? What fills your heart and mind as you approach Christmas? [Discuss]*

In this two-part series, we are going to consider the prophecies of Christ's coming, and the preparations for His first coming – taking the time to glory in the coming of God's one and only Son into our fallen world to be our Saviour.

The First Prophecy and Picture of Christ

The first prophecy and picture of Jesus coming into our world are found in Genesis 3. What's the setting of Genesis 3? (Gen 3:1-7)

The setting is the fall of mankind; when Adam & Eve sinned against God after Satan's temptation.

What was so serious about what happened? (Isa 59:2; Rom 5:12; Rev 20:11-15)

It plunged the whole human race into a state of separation from God and into physical mortality and spiritual death; as well as facing judgment and eternal death after our life ends.

When Adam and Eve sinned, what do we observe about the heart of God? (Gen 3:9-13)

God came down and sought them – not to destroy them but to call them to Himself that they might own up to their sin. What a picture of the heart of God! He is the God who pursues us and seeks after us.

In Gen 3:14-15 we read of God's judgment on Satan. Satan is cursed (unlike Adam and Eve who are not cursed - but punished). But what is so incredible in v.14?

We have the very first prophecy of God promising to send someone to rescue us from Satan's hold on us (ie, of the Lord Jesus coming into our world). He would be born of a woman (be a human), and He would crush Satan, but in the process be bruised by Satan. This happened at the cross (Col 1:13; Col 2:13-15).

We also have our first picture of what Christ would do for us in Gen 3:21. What is it?

Adam and Eve clothed themselves with fig leaves (Gen 3:7), but God killed an animal for Adam and Eve (the first killing) in order to provide permanent clothing for them from the animal's skin – what a picture of how Christ would die for us in order for God to clothe us with Christ's righteousness (Rev 3:18).

Further Prophecies and Promises of Christ's Coming

From Genesis 3, we learn that Christ's coming into our world was planned by God long ago – well before Jesus came. And after the first prophecy and picture, throughout the next 4000 years before Jesus came, God continued to remind people that one day Christ would come into our world to rescue us.

What do we learn from the following prophecies about Jesus?

Gen 22:15-18 From Abraham's descendants, one would arise through whom God would bless all people groups; all because Abraham did not withhold offering up his one and only son to God. What a picture we have in Gen 22 of what Abraham was prepared to do in offering up his Son on Mt Moriah, and what God would eventually do in offering up His one and only Son for us at Golgotha (Mt Moriah).

1 Chron 17:11-14 From David's descendants one would arise who would establish God's kingdom and house and He would rule over God's kingdom forever; and His throne would be eternal.

Isa 7:14 The Christ would be born of a virgin and be called Emmanuel – "God with us".

Isa 9:6-7 The Christ would be given by God and born as a child, and He would be God's ruler for us. His identity is revealed – He would be divine; Wonderful Counsellor, mighty God, eternal Father, and the Prince of Peace. His rule would be eternal, bringing in justice, righteousness and peace.

Isa 53:1-6 Jesus would come into the world plainly (v.2). He would be rejected and despised (v.3). But He would come to save us, by bearing the punishment of our sins (vv.4-6).

Jer 23:5-6 Jesus would be of the line of David and be our king, reigning with justice and righteousness. His name would be "the Lord our righteousness"; ie, He would make us righteous.

Dan 9:24-26 Jesus would come at God's perfect timing – 69 weeks (483 years) after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem. He would come and make atonement for sin and bring in everlasting righteousness.

Micah 5:2 The Christ would be born in Bethlehem, and again, we read of one who is so unique and divine – "His origins are from long ago, from days of eternity".

Mal 4:1-2 Jesus, the sun of righteousness, would come and bring healing and great joy.

Summary: God planned and continually spoke about His Son coming into our world to save us.