

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of December 15, 2024**  
**THEME: "Old Testament Prophecies"**

**PROPHETS**

**Sunday..... Read Hebrews 1:1-5**

*"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets...."* Our God wants people to know His plans for His earth. He has used chosen writers to record His plans in what we call prophecies, revealing future events. He foretold much of what has already happened: fulfilled prophecy. A lot of that prophecy had to do with the first advent of Jesus. We celebrate that great event of the birth of Jesus in the Christmas season. There are quite a few references in the Old Testament giving details of that event! Sadly, the commercialization of the Christmas season has resulted in many not even knowing that Christmas really is all about the Savior of the world and the birth of the one who is to become the King of kings of the whole earth!

**SEED OF A WOMAN**

**Monday ..... Read Genesis 3:13-15**

*"And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life. And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."* The need for a Savior of humanity became apparent with the earth's first family. God had given just one restriction to Adam that is mentioned in Genesis 2:17: *"But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."* God's enemy the devil convinced Adam and Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit and they suffered spiritual death immediately and eventually physical death. Because of His love for people, God provided a way for believers to have restored spiritual life. That is the story of Christians. We read these words of the angel to the Shepherds in Luke 2:11: *"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."* Because of the miraculous birth of Jesus, born of a virgin, the world had a Savior, the one whose blood was shed to pay the penalty of sin for all mankind.

**ANGEL'S VISIT**

**Tuesday.....Read Luke 1:26-27**

*"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary."* God chose Mary to be the virgin who would fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14: *"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* The Savior of the world had to be virgin born because all babies born of man and woman are born with a sin nature of human beings. Mary could not believe that she could have a child because she was still a virgin. The angel explained that her baby would be a miraculous birth. The Holy Spirit, who was involved

in the creation of the world, would place a baby in her womb. Although Mary did not fully understand, she made this comment recorded in Luke 1:38: *"And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her."*

### **JOSEPH'S REACTION**

**Wednesday ..... Read Matthew 1:19-25**

*" Because Joseph her husband, was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly."* Mary obviously shared with her fiance Joseph what the angel had told her. Joseph reacted as any man would react when he heard that his fiancée was pregnant. He made the false assumption that she had been involved in an illicit relationship with another man. He was ready to break off his relationship with Mary. Realizing this and understanding Joseph's reaction, we read in Matthew 1:20: *"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost."* The baby Jesus would have a home and human family.

### **BETHLEHEM**

**Thursday ..... Read Micah 5:1-2**

*"But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* God used the prophet Micah to share an important detail about the one who would eventually be the Messiah for whom they would seek. God used other writers to give details of the one who would be the Great Deliverer and eternal King of kings. It is interesting that God chose a city that was not necessarily an important place in the world, an unlikely place for one who would rule the world. But God uses what the world may not think so important. That place of the birth of the Messiah would be Bethlehem.

### **GOD'S CHOSEN**

**Friday ..... Read I Corinthians 1:20-28**

*"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty."* The fact that God would choose what would be ordinary people in a rather ordinary place shows some important realities of God's chosen people and places. He does not look to celebrities or focal geographical locations. He could and probably has, but God often uses what the world may see as insignificant, surely not famous. God's chosen people are usually those who are humble people. Humility is a characteristic that qualifies a person to be a servant of God! That point is emphasized in Proverbs 16:18: *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."*

### **GOD'S WAYS**

**Saturday ..... Read Proverbs 3:5-6**

*"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* In those couple verses of Scripture there are three commands and one result. The first command is to put your complete faith in God. The second is not to try to figure things out by your own reasoning. The third command is to acknowledge God's sovereignty and power. The promise is that by having done those

three things, we can be assured God will direct our paths. He will do that as we read His Word and pray for knowledge and wisdom. That is the life of a Christian. No human being is omniscient, we are all limited to our own education and experiences. God has revealed how life came into existence and, through prophecy, where things are headed. To know the Holy Scriptures is to gain insight into God's plans and His accomplishments.