

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 27

Five Prophecies

In our last article we discussed two books, two sons, four women, four dreams, and three generations all pertaining to the birth of Christ. In this article we will look at five prophecies.

1. The Prophecy Concerning The Birth of Christ (Ch.1:22).
2. The Prophecy Concerning Bethlehem (Ch.2:22).
3. The Prophecy Concerning Egypt (Ch.2:5).
4. The Prophecy Concerning Israel (Ch.2:5).
5. The Prophecy Concerning Rama (Ch.2:5)..
6. The Prophecy Concerning Nazareth (Ch.2:5).

Isaiah's Prophecy Concerning His Birth

Matthew 1:18-23,

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. 19 Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. 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. 21 And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. 22 **Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet,** saying, 23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”



Matthew quoted 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 Context of Isaiah's Prophecy

Isaiah's message was one of warning of Israel's condition before God.

Continued on page two

FREE OF CHARGE!

All Materials Including Books
Are Available To Download



Audio

Christmas Series B. Kirkland



Message

Joy Born at Bethlehem C.H. Spurgeon



Audio

The Theology of Christmas

A.W. Tozer

“Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
(Matthew 1:23)



Continued from page one

Isaiah Chapter One

Verse 2,

"They have rebelled."

Verse 4,

"A sinful nation...laden with iniquity...evildoers...corrupters."

Verse 5,

"The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint."

Verse 9,

"Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah."

Verse 19,

"**If ye be willing** and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land."

Verse 20,

"**But if ye refuse** and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it."

Verse 21,

"How is the faithful city become an harlot!"

A Serious Leadership Problem

Isaiah 1:23,

Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards."

Isaiah 3:4,

"And I will give children to be their princes, and babes shall rule over them."

Isaiah 3:14,

"The LORD will enter into judgment with the ancients (Translated "elders" 115) of his people, and the princes thereof."

Isaiah 43:28,

"Therefore I have profaned the princes of the sanctuary, and have given Jacob to the curse, and Israel to reproaches."

The Love And Mercy of God

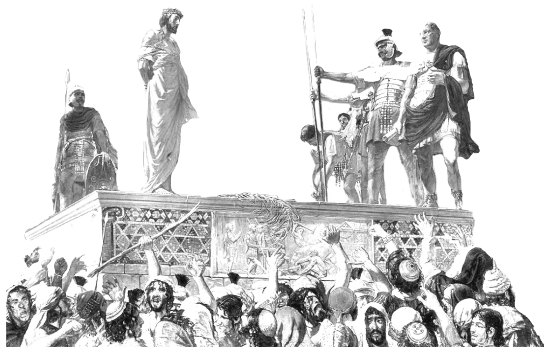
Isaiah 7:14,

"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

God would send them a Ruler who was perfect.

Matthew 2:6,

"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall **rule** my people Israel."



Israel's Response...

Luke 19:14,

"We will not have this man to reign over us."

Mark 15:14,

"Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him."

Continued on page three

Christmas Day - 1908



One hundred and five years ago this Christmas day, Billy Sunday arrived in Spokane to launch a crusade.

Eight thousand people showed up for the first meeting. The meetings continued everyday for six weeks.

It is said that he saw a fertile field in Spokane for at least three of his favorite topics: drinking, gambling and sexual immorality. Spokane in 1908 had about 101 churches and about 211 saloons.

The lead story in The Spokesman-Review the next day was, "**Billy Sunday Smites the Devil; 8000 Listen.**"

In this series of meetings Billy Sunday spoke concerning the following subjects.

On Dancing:

"The dance is the hotbed of immorality. Dancing is one of the greatest evils on the face of this earth. Dancing is simply a hugging match set to music. Dancing is a sexual love feast."

On Theater:

"It is almost impossible to find decency or purity in the play. Crude melodrama, foolish musical comedies and plays of literary tommyrot form the staple of the productions of the average theater today... t's the leg show that attracts, not the drama."

On Card-playing:

"Somebody says: 'What's the difference between a game of checkers and a game of cards?' Just as much difference as heaven and hell. And from the day a pack

Continued on page three

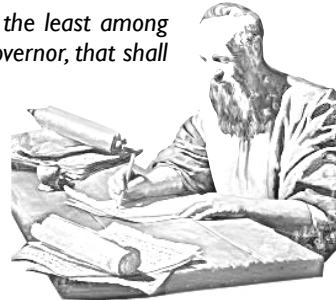
Continued from page two

Micah's Prophecy Concerning Bethlehem

Matthew 2:6,

"And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."

Bethlehem is mentioned five times in the Book of Matthew, all of which are in chapter two. (See v.1, v.5, v.6, v.8, v.16).



The Context of Micah's Prophecy

Micah 2:1,

"Woe to them that devise iniquity, and work evil upon their beds!"

Micah 2:12,

"I will surely gather the remnant of Israel."

A Serious Leadership Problem

Micah 3:1,2,

"Hear, I pray you, O heads of Jacob, and ye princes of the house of Israel; Is it not for you to know judgment? Who hate the good, and love the evil."

Micah 3:4,

"Then shall they cry unto the Lord, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings."

Micah 3:5,

"Thus saith the Lord concerning the prophets that make my people err."

Micah 3:9,

"Hear this, I pray you, ye heads of the house of Jacob, and princes of the house of Israel, that abhor judgment, and pervert all equity."

Micah 3:11,

"The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire."

The Love And Mercy of God

Micah 3:11,

"But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, 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."

Bethlehem's Response, Luke 19:14,

"We will not have this man to reign over us."

Hosea's Prophecy Concerning Egypt

Matthew 2:15,

"And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son."

Continued on page four

Continued from page two

of cards were invented to satisfy the whims of an idiotic king, down until now, they haven't been used for much but gambling."

On The Ways Young People Are Corrupted:

"Many a boy and girl trained in their home by their mother to abhor cards have been ruined by going to board in some good-for-nothing, no account, beer-drinking, card-playing, dancing Presbyterian family."

On The Need For A Moral Rebirth In The Country:

"Why do we need a revival? Because this is a busy age. Men are feeding their muscles and bone and sinew into the commercial mill that grinds out dividends. And the men who get the dividends sit by and watch it – the big, fat, hog-jowled, weasel-eyed pussy lobsters."

On His Critics:

"If I can succeed tonight in stopping one man from being a gambler or one girl from being a prostitute, I will thank God for all of the vituperations and malignant epithets that you can belch and peck out against what I have asserted."

On God's Wrath:

"No wonder God shook that old town (San Francisco) with an earthquake and swept their cussedness with fire. There wasn't a rottener city on the continent."

On Booze:

"Who makes the money? The dirty gangs of saloon keepers and the brewers and the distillers, and that is the gang that fills the land with misery and poverty and wretchedness."

Things Have Changed

First, in our day if someone started a series of meetings on Christmas day he would be fortunate if eight people showed up.

Continued on page four

Continued from page three

Egypt is mentioned four times in Matthew, all of which are in chapter two. (See v.13, v. 14, v.15, v.19).

The Old Testament deals with two basic kinds of prophecies.

One is a prophecy that is spoken and the other is presented in type. Hosea's prophecy was presented as a type or something that represents something or someone.

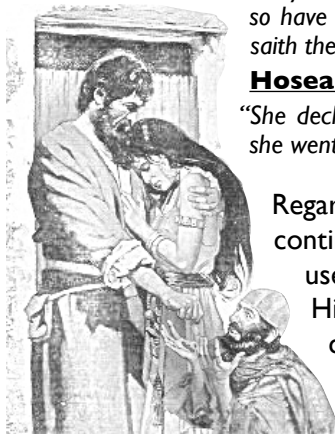
Hosea was married to a prostitute. This was a type of Israel who is mentioned in Scripture as the unfaithful wife of God.

Jeremiah 3:20,

"Surely as a wife treacherously departeth from her husband, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD."

Hosea 2:13,

"She decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord."



Regardless of the unfaithfulness of Hosea's wife he continued to love her. Hosea's marriage to Gomer is used as a type of His never ending love for Israel and His willingness to gather Israel back even after her constant betrayal of Him.

Hosea 3:2,3,

"So I bought her to me for fifteen pieces of silver, and for an homer of barley, and an half homer of barley: And I said unto her, Thou shalt abide for me many days; thou shalt not play the harlot."

Understanding Types In The Old Testament

There are many "types" in the Old Testament; however, if they are a "type" of something they are always explained somewhere in the New Testament. Much has been written about types in the Old Testament that is nothing more than someone's speculation. One commentary will tell you something in the tabernacle is a type of Christ and another commentary will tell us that it means something else. **A genuine type in the Old Testament will always be explained in the New Testament.** The Bible always explains itself. This is very important.

Second Peter 1:20,

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

We know that Hosea's prophecy is a type of Christ because Matthew 2: tells us it is.



Jeremiah's Prophecy Concerning Rama

Matthew 2:16-18,

"Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that

Continued on page five

Continued from page three

Second, our present day meetings are scheduled for two or three days. Meetings planned for six weeks in length would be considered ridiculous. Can we really expect our people to miss that many of their favourite television shows?

Third, the content of today's preaching must be non-offensive. Much of our so-called fundamental movement has even dropped the doctrine of repentance. It is far too offensive to suggest someone needed to repent of something.

Fourth, we dare not preach about controversial things like Billy Sunday did. We must be seeker-sensitive and then try to sneak in a little bit about being saved without actually using the word "saved." That too might be offensive.

Much Has Changed

Things have changed since preachers began focusing on getting crowds to come rather than simply preaching the whole counsel of God and letting God take care of who shows up.

The first meeting on Christmas day 1908 saw 8000 people attend. Before the six weeks was over they had more than 35,000 come on one day.

Things changed when we changed our straightforward preaching.





Continued from page four

were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet, saying, In Rama was there a voice heard, lamentation, and weeping, and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not."

The Context of Jeremiah's Prophecy

Once again Israel had rebelled against God.

Jeremiah 2:8,9,

"The priests said not, Where is the Lord? and they that handle the law knew me not: the pastors also transgressed against me."

Jeremiah 2:13,

"They have forsaken me."

Jeremiah 2:11,

"My people have changed."

Jeremiah 3:7,

"I said...turn thou unto me. But she returned not."

Jeremiah 5:31,

"The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?"

Jeremiah 6:16,17,

"Thus saith the Lord, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken."

Jeremiah's message was a warning of captivity; however, God's people refused to listen. As a result both the northern kingdom and the southern kingdom ended up in bondage.

Rama was on the border between the two kingdoms and when both captivities took place it was the assembly place for their deportation. Rachel was the mother of boys who were taken captive in both captivities. Therefore we read, "Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted, because they are not" (Matthew 2:18).

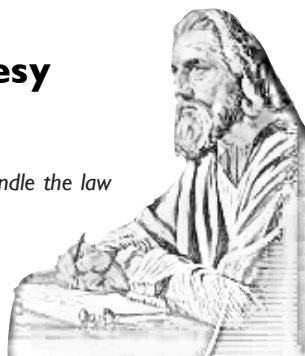
Jeremiah's prophecy had a twofold message, One referring to the captivity of God's people in Jeremiah's day. The other, referring to the slaughter of the children in Matthew 2:16-18.

The Prophecy Concerning Nazareth

Matthew 2:19-23,

"19 But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, 20 Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. 21 And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. 22 But when he heard that Archelaus did reign in Judaea in the room of his father Herod, he was afraid to go thither: notwithstanding, being warned of God in a dream, he turned aside into the parts of Galilee: 23 And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene."

There is no specific Scripture in the Old Testament of a prophet referring to Jesus living in Nazareth. Matthew 2:23 tells us that prophets, **plural**, prophesied



Joseph The Forgotten Man In The Story

Matthew 1:18-25

The Conception

Vs. 18

Mary was engaged to Joseph. Engagement in that culture, was considered married, even though the marriage had not been consummated. During this time of engagement, Mary was impregnated by the Holy Spirit.

The Confusion

Vs.19

You can only imagine Joseph's disappointment. Because he was a just man, he decided to privately divorce Mary. He loved her too much, to bring her public embarrassment.

The Comfort

Vs. 20-23

Joseph was told that Mary was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. He received the comfort of God in a dream.

The Commitment

Vs. 24-25

Joseph, by faith, made a commitment to God and to Mary, concerning his willingness to completely obey the will of God for his life.



Ephesians 4:1,

"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called."

Continued on page six



Continued from page five

concerning Christ being "called a Nazarene." The word "prophets" occurs seventeen times in Matthew and the phrase "Jesus of Nazareth" occurs seventeen times in the New Testament.



"Joseph Her Husband"

Matthew 1:19,

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily."

I want to conclude this article with a focus on Joseph. In our last article we were discussing the character of Joseph. It seems he is the unsung hero in most Christmas plays. He just stands around in a robe and sandals and usually has no lines to memorize. What a shock it must have been when he found out his bride-to-be was pregnant.

He knew the quality of her character, and the righteous standard she lived by. He knew she was a godly person. This just did not make any sense. He also knew that Deuteronomy chapter 22 said she was to be stoned to death.

Deuteronomy 22:21 says, "Then they shall bring out the damsel to the door of her father's house, and the men of the city shall stone her with stones that she die, because she's wrought folly in Israel, to play the harlot."

This was a very trying day for Joseph; however, he passed the greatest trial of his life with flying colours. Joseph loved Mary and it is obvious that he was more concerned about her than he was about what a bad day he was having.

Matthew 1:19-21,

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

We read that Joseph was "a just man." This means he was a righteous Jew, who was true to the Old Testament law. As a just man he could not marry a woman in Mary's condition. He must do what is required by law. The Bible says that Zacharias was a just man and he was, "righteous before God, walking in all His commandments and ordinances, blameless." How could

Joseph be a just man and protect Mary from being stoned without violating the law? He was not willing to make her a public example.

Joseph Thought He Had Another Choice

If he had been living in the day when Deuteronomy was written he would have had no other choice. She must die; however, the laxness of Jewish laws of God had brought this situation to the place where Joseph could legally "put her away privily" (Matthew 1:19).

To do it secretly the two parties could get together before two or three witnesses and write out a private bill of divorcement. There would be no public procedure, there would be no open disgrace. They could divorce, she could go away privately avoiding any public embarrassment. Joseph was considering the second option because of his love for Mary.

God Had A Better Plan

Probably from total exhaustion, Joseph fell asleep and he got a very important message from God.

Verse 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins."

Joseph was in the world for such a time as this. He was told to take Mary as his wife. He would get to marry the woman he loved and have the tremendous responsibility of taking care of her and the Christ-child.



"And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

(Luke 2:7)