



The Spirit of Christmas
The Spirit of Christmas Past—Isaiah 7:14
From Sermon 12.3.23

Read *Isaiah 7:14 & Matthew 1:18-23*

Overview from Sunday's sermon: Every year, most of us vow to not let the true meaning and feeling of Christmas escape us. But when we do take the time to praise God for the incarnation, do we also acknowledge and appreciate the redemptive plan from eternity past? Christmas is just the 2nd of 3 physical communions of Holy God with sinful man. For a complete and accurate Christmas, we need to see Jesus before the New Testament and His glorious Return.

1. When was Christmas planned? Circle your answer.

- After Adam's Fall
- After Satan's Fall
- After Creation
- Before Creation/Before the Foundation of the World

See *1 Peter 1:20 & Revelation 13:8*

2. If both Christmas and Easter were planned before the foundation of the world, what does that say about you and me (believers)? We were chosen and secured also before the foundation of the world. Jesus coming was not Plan B and neither are the elect of God.

3. Is Matthew chapter 1 the first time we see Jesus in the Bible? Not at all

Read and discuss the following examples:

Genesis 1:26—Plural pronouns. God is a Trinity = Jesus is eternal.

Genesis 3:15—Jesus Himself promises to come, through the seed of the woman, and crush Satan.

Exodus 3:13-14—Jesus gives Moses His formal Name: I AM.

Exodus 17:5-6 & 1 Corinthians 10:4—Jesus was the rock and sustaining water. (manna & quail).

Daniel 3:23-25—Jesus shows up to save and preserve the three faithful teenagers.

4. How long, prior to Jesus' birth, did Isaiah write his inspired prophecy? 700 Years

Put that in perspective: Columbus: 1492 = 531 years ago, America founded = 247 years ago. 700 years ago, for us, is the 1300's = William Wallace in Scotland, Ottoman Empire established in Turkey, The Black Death (plague), Portugal becomes a nation, Marco Polo dies, the mechanical clock & cannons are invented.

5. What was the significance of Bethlehem long before that first Christmas? Has always been an important place in the redemptive story. Burial site of Rachel, Jacob's wife. Home to Boaz (Ruth). Home of David.

6. What is the beautiful significance of Jesus' title as Immanuel [*God with us*]? After Adam's fall, God did not physically commune with man any longer. He still communicated, but through agents. With Jesus' coming, He lived and walked and ate and fellowshiped with man in a relatable, tangible way. While He's gone back to glory now, He will one day soon return and fellowship with the elect forever.

7. What part of the Christmas story most fascinates you? Various Personal Answers.