

THINKING ABOUT CHRISTMAS

Part 2: WHY THERE?

December 10, 2017

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

Galatians 4:4-5 (NIV)

JESUS' BIRTH IN BETHLEHEM ...

1. FULFILLED A _____.

"The LORD said to Samuel, '... Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.'"

I Samuel 16:1 (NIV)

"... the word of the LORD came to Nathan, saying: 'Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the LORD says: ... Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.'"

II Samuel 7:4-5,16 (NIV)

"Of the greatness of His government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this."

Isaiah 9:7 (NIV)

"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land ... This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior."

Jeremiah 23:5-6 (NIV)

- I can _____ to keep His _____.

"Let us hold tightly without wavering to the hope we affirm, for God can be trusted to keep His promise."

Hebrews 11:23 (NLT)

2. FULFILLED A _____.

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah ... out of you will come for Me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

Micah 5:2 (NIV)

- I can _____ with my _____.

"... I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39 (NLT)

3. FORECASTED HIS _____.

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah ...”

Micah 5:2 (NIV)

BETHLEHEM = House of _____

EPHRATHAH = Fruitful – a reference to the fruit of the _____.

“And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is My body given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.’ In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is poured out for you.’” Luke 22:19-20 (NIV)

• **I can _____ for me.**

“God showed how much He loved us by sending His one and only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love—not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.” I John 4:9-10 (NLT)