

For No word from God will ever fail (for sermon on 4th December-2022)

Before we begin, how would you describe Jesus?

Son of God, both God and man; Creator, sustainer and saviour of the World.

The only perfect human being to have lived. Eternal. King of Heaven and Earth; Judge.

Read Psalm 89:1-6

1. What do we learn about God's love and faithfulness?

[Note about Psalm 89: Maskil=musical term=song or poem of contemplation. Ethan the Ezrahite is mentioned in 1 Kings 4:31 for his wisdom; yet Solomon was wiser than him. Ethan is therefore most likely a contemporary of David and Solomon.]

God's love is sung about forever (v1). God's love stands firm forever (v2). God's love is incomparable (v6)

Note: The Hebrew word for love here is "hesed" which can mean: mercy, kindness, lovingkindness, goodness.

God's faithfulness is known through all generations (v1) and was established in Heaven itself (v2). God's love and faithfulness is demonstrated in His promise to David of establishing David's royal line forever (vv3-4).

God's faithfulness is praised in both Heaven and Earth (v5)

2. What covenant has God made? And with whom? (cf. 2 Samuel 7:12-16; 1 Kings 8:16; Psalm 132:11-12; Isaiah 9:7; Ezekiel 37:24-25; Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:33)

The covenant God has made is to have a continuous royal family line from the house of King David. This covenant was made with King David.

2 Samuel 7:12 -When your [David's] days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom

2 Samuel 7:16 -Your [David's] house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.

1 Kings 8:16 -Since the day I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city in any tribe of Israel to have a temple built so that my Name might be there, but I have chosen David to rule my people Israel

Psalm 132:11-12 - The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath he will not revoke: "One of your own descendants I will place on your throne. ¹² If your sons keep my covenant and the statutes I teach them, then their sons will sit on your throne for ever and ever."

Isaiah 9:7 -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.

Ezekiel 37:24-25 - ²⁴ "My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. ²⁵ They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children's children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

Matthew 1:1 -This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

Luke 1:33 -"...and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

3. How is the Lord described here? (cf. Psalm 18:31; 113:5)

Incomparable with anyone or anything.

Psalm 18:31: or who is God besides the Lord? And who is the Rock except our God?

Psalm 113:5: Who is like the Lord our God, the One who sits enthroned on high...

Read Isaiah 9:6-7

4. Who is the child to be born?

God's Promised Messiah, Jesus.

The Messiah could have come as a fully grown man, just like Adam was created. But for Jesus to fully identify with humanity – He was born by humble means in a stable in Bethlehem.

5. List the names assigned to the child and what they mean?

Wonderful – means miraculous, unusual, extraordinary

Counselor – adviser; someone who gives guidance and counsel;

Mighty God – Strong and powerful, God-like

Everlasting Father – continuing forever – God as Father of His people

Prince of Peace – Prince, ruler, chief, leader, captain – of Shalom = peace, completeness, safety, tranquility = peace in relationships not just peace in war times!

6. What throne is the child upon and what will His reign be like?

This child will reign on David's throne.

His reign will be of never-ending greatness and peace.

His reign will be upheld with justice and righteousness forever.

7. How is this all possible? (cf. v7b)

It is only possible by the zeal [literally a jealous and ardent love] of the Lord Almighty

Read Luke 1:26-38

8. Why are we told about Elizabeth in v26?

We are told that Elizabeth (relative of Mary as mentioned in v36) is in the sixth month of her pregnancy.

Note: King James Version says "in the sixth month" but the context and v36 shows that the sixth month refers to Elizabeth's pregnancy.

We are told this: a) To confirm to Mary that God has already performed a miracle with Elizabeth's pregnancy; b) Because Elizabeth and Mary are related.

9. Where does the angel appear?

The Angel (Gabriel) appears in the town of Nazareth; that's where Mary and Joseph are living at the time.

10. Why is it important for Mary to be a virgin (mentioned three times in this passage)? (cf. Isaiah 7:14;

Romans 5:12, 17, 19; 2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15; 7:26; 1 Peter 2:22, 24; and 1 John 3:5)

Virgin (Greek word for virgin used here is: Parthenos – means a) a marriageable maiden; b) a woman who has never had sexual intercourse with a man; c) someone's marriageable daughter.

Isaiah 7:14: Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. [Isaiah prophesies a virgin will give birth – i.e., a miracle!]

Romans 5:12: Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way, death came to all people, because all sinned [this is saying we are all born with sin]

Romans 5:17: For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ! [This verse is saying even though death comes to us through the sin of Adam; how great is it that God has given us the gift of righteousness in Jesus]

Romans 5:19: For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous. [This verse is saying that Jesus' sinless obedience counters the disobedience of all sinners]

2 Corinthians 5:21: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God [This verse is telling us Jesus was born without sin]

Hebrews 4:15: For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin [Again, this verse is telling us Jesus is without sin!]

Hebrews 7:26: Such a high priest truly meets our need—one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens [Again, this verse is telling us Jesus is without sin]

1 Peter 2:22: He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth. [ditto]

1 Peter 2:24: He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed [This verse is saying that the only way we can be healed of our sins; is for the SINLESS one, Jesus, to bear our sins on His body on the cross.

1 John 3:5: But you know that he appeared so that he might take away our sins. And in him is no sin [This verse is saying Jesus' whole purpose was to come and take away our sin; even though He was sinless. What a loving sacrifice!]

The virgin birth is important for the following reasons:

- a. It preserves the truth that Jesus is fully God and fully man. If Jesus was born like any other baby, He could not be God and eternal (John 1:1, 14)*
- b. It fulfils prophecy (Isaiah 7:14)*
- c. If Jesus was not born of the Holy Spirit – then He could not be born sinless [Rom 3:23; 6:23] – and therefore He could not purchase forgiveness of our sins – by being the once and for all perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 7:27-28) – and so we would still be dead in our sins – we would have no forgiveness and no hope of eternal life!*

If the conception of John the Baptist, as the Forerunner to Jesus, is miraculous, we shouldn't be surprised that Jesus' birth is more remarkable!

11. Why is it important for Joseph to be a descendant of David? (cf. Psalm 89:3-4; Isaiah 9:7; 2 Sam 7:12-16) In Luke's narrative of the birth of Jesus, we are given Mary's genealogy (Luke 3:23–38). Probably the best way to interpret verse 23 is like this: Jesus "was thought to be the son of Joseph, the son-in-law of Heli." Then the genealogy continues all the way back to David, Abraham, and Adam. This establishes Mary as the physical descendant of David, so it can be stated that Jesus truly was "the Son of David" through the lineage of David's son Nathan.

Matthew's genealogy of Jesus (Matt. 1:1–16), from Joseph's perspective, is also important because it clearly demonstrates Jesus' legal right to the throne of David. According to Judaism, Jesus, as the adopted son of Joseph, would have all the legal rights of a biological heir. Joseph descended from David through Solomon, and that was the chosen line of David for someone to be considered king. Hence, the Lord Jesus was the son of David by biological descent through Mary and the king of Israel by legal right through Joseph.

The amazing part of all this is that God had cursed the line of Solomon so that no physical descendant of his could be named king. Jeremiah 22:30 says of Jeconiah, "Record this man as childless . . . none of his descendants will succeed in sitting on the throne of David or ruling again in Judah." This created a "Catch 22" of sorts. Only a descendant of Solomon could be king, yet this line was cursed. Therefore, only Jesus could fulfill the Davidic covenant. Jesus had the legal right to be king through Joseph but, because He was virgin born, the curse on Jeconiah did not apply to Him. Instead, He was the son of David through His mother Mary. Both genealogies are significant in establishing the Lord Jesus as the true Davidic king.

[\[Why is Joseph Important to Jesus Genealogy? | Q&A | Today in the Word\]](#)

12. What does the angel tell Mary?

That she is highly favoured and the Lord is with her (v28)

She is not to be afraid because she has found favour with God (v30)

She will conceive and give birth to a son and she is to call him, Jesus (v31)

This son will be great and be called the Son of the Most High {equal to God see John 5:18} and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His Father (forefather) David (v32) and He will reign over Jacob's (Israel) descendant forever and His Kingdom will never end (v33)

13. How is it possible for Mary, a virgin, to have a child?

Even though Mary is a virgin (v34), the Holy Spirit will come on Mary and the power of the Most High will overshadow [reminiscent of the glory of God coming to rest on the tabernacle in Exodus 40:35] her (v35). In other words, God will give her the baby in her womb.

14. What reassurance (evidence) is Mary given in verse 36?

She is given the reassurance of another miracle in that her ageing relative, Elizabeth, who has been unable to conceive is in the sixth month of her pregnancy!

15. What eternal promise is given in verse 37? (cf. Isaiah 40:8; 55:11; Matthew 5:18; 19:26 and Hebrews 4:12)

V37 – For no word from God will ever fail. KJV says: For with God nothing shall be impossible!

Basically, what God says will happen – ALWAYS happens! As the following verses state about God's Word...

Isaiah 40:8 – The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever

Isaiah 55:11 – So is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

*Matthew 5:18 - **For** truly I tell you, until heaven and earth disappear, not the smallest letter, not the least stroke of a pen, will by any means disappear from the Law until everything is accomplished.*

*Matthew 19:26 - Jesus looked at them and said, **"With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."***

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

16. How does Mary respond in verse 38?

Mary responds by saying "May your word to me be fulfilled". Mary responds in faith.

17. How is Jesus described in Luke 1:26-38 and how does that compare to your description at the beginning?

His name will be Jesus = The Lord is salvation = Jesus is a Saviour.

Son of the Most High

King of the throne of King David and King of an everlasting Kingdom.

He will be a Holy One [set apart and different to anyone else – i.e., Divine!] and Son of God (v35).

Finish in prayer: Thanking God that no Word of His will ever fail and thanking God for sending Jesus.