

## Mother's Day Sermon ( May 8, 2016)

This Sunday we honor our mother. Anna Jarvis, who promoted Mother's Day was childless, but she had high regards for her mother who was patriotic and a loving woman. She gave generously to help men and women who sacrificed their lives in the military. Anna used her inheritance to promote Mother's Day but she protested the commercialism that soon took root with the Holiday. Cards, flowers, candy and other things that promoted materialism were fought with a vengeance, but she was not successful in changing the tradition . Rather than vying for fame and fortune, she refused to get involved with material benefits but promoted reverence for mothers. She died penniless having spent a good portion of her life fighting against the trend that she found offensive paying the price with her money and her health. She died in a sanitarium at age 84.

Today I want to continue with sharing Scriptures with you concerning the first advent of the coming of the Messiah, and to mention mothers who were listed in the lineage of Jesus the Christ. Isaiah, the prophet of God, was given many pieces to the puzzle concerning the coming Messiah. It is interesting to note that many of the kings that ruled Israel were not interested in hearing about the coming Messiah or anything else that the men of God had to say to them. The attitude of indifference that is prevalent in our government and society towards spiritual things and the word of God is not new. It has been throughout history and will get worse as the time approaches for the second coming of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah chapter 7, God spoke to Isaiah and told him to go meet King Ahaz to give him a message from God. God told him where to find the king and Isaiah obeyed God and found him. He told King Ahaz that he didn't need to be worried about King Rezin and King Pekah though their anger was fierce against Judah and Jerusalem. Their plan to force King Ahaz out to be replaced by the son of Tabul would never happen. However within the span of 65 years Israel would be destroyed and if Ahaz and his officials didn't put their trust in God, they would be defeated. God spoke to King Ahaz again through the prophet saying, "Ask me for proof that my promise will come true. Ask for something to happen deep in the world of the dead or high in the heavens above." Ahaz answered, "I will not ask nor will I test the Lord." In other words, "I have no interest in proving whether or not this is true." Isaiah answered, "Listen every one of you in the royal family of David. You have already tried my patience, but now you are trying God's patience by refusing to ask for proof. But the Lord will give you proof! Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name 'Immanuel' which means (God is with us)."

If you turn to Matthew chapter 1 there is a list of ancestors of Jesus Christ, the Savior. With our human minds we would expect that all of the family lineage of Jesus would be righteous, God fearing people. You may be surprised as you read the names of the people listed in this family tree. The custom was to list men in the family tree, but in this list there are five women included in this chapter. This ancestry is from King David and father

Abraham to the birth of Jesus Christ. The first mother to be mentioned is Tamar. Judah had chosen Tamar for his son, Er whose was taken by God because he was wicked. The second son, Onan, was told that he must take Tamar as a wife so she could bear children for his brother. Onan married her but refused to have children by her so God took his life. Judah had a third son and promised Tamar that he could marry her when the time was right so she went to her father's house to wait out a period of time. After a while it was evident to her that Judah had no intention of giving his son to her in marriage so she could bear children. After Judah's wife died, she learned that Judah was going to be travelling on close by. She decided to dress as a harlot and wait for him in the path that he was expected to walk by. Judah saw her, mistook her for a harlot and asked her to spend some intimate time with him. She was able to get his ring, his staff, and a cord from him as a guarantee that he would send a goat to pay her for her services. She went home and kept the items and when a servant looked for her to deliver the goat, she was nowhere to be found. He asked local people about a harlot in the area but no one knew what he was talking about. Judah had no choice but to go home without his identity items. When word got out that Tamar was pregnant, Judah was the first to want to stone her for adultery. Once she showed the items that identified him as the father, he changed his tune. Tamar had twins and named them Perez and Zerah.

Rahab, is listed next as the mother of Boaz. She was a harlot who lived in the city of Jericho. Joshua sent out spies to the city and they stopped at her house. She hid them and helped them to successfully escape from being captured by the soldiers of Jericho. Because of her bravery and trust in the living God, she and all of her household were spared when the destruction of the city happened and she married into the tribe of Judah. Boaz was wealthy and a kinsman of Naomi who brought back her daughter-in-law, Ruth from the land of Moab. Moabites were enemies of God, yet Ruth embraced the God of Israel and God blessed her by having Boaz redeem Naomi's property and he married Ruth. King David came down through this family line.

Bathsheba was the wife of Uriah, a soldier in King David's army. David committed adultery with Uriah's wife while Uriah was in battle. In order to cover his sin, he eventually had Uriah killed in battle to cover his act. Nathan, the prophet confronted him and the child died. However David married Bathsheba and their son, Solomon, took the throne of David upon his death. ( Her name is not listed and she is still identified as Uriah's wife.)

Mary, who was a virgin was chosen to be the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. She was the first true follower of Jesus Christ. Regardless of our past, God can take the broken pieces of our lives and change them to bring glory to his name. He takes the murky, muddy, dirty garments of shame and exchanges them for garments of praise and robes of righteousness. He alone can change the direction of a life and bring goodness out of a life of sin.

Matthew gives the account as follows: A young woman named Mary was engaged to a man named Joseph from the family of King David. Before they were married, Mary learned that she was pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, being a good man, decided to quietly call off the wedding because he didn't want to cause embarrassment to Mary. While he was thinking these thoughts, an angel appeared to him in a dream. The angel told him that the child that Mary was carrying was from the Holy Spirit and he was to proceed with the marriage. Joseph was told to name the child, Jesus, for He would save his people from their sins. So the Lord's promise came to pass just as the prophet Isaiah spoke in Isaiah chapter 7. When Joseph awoke from the dream, he took Mary as his wife but did not have marital relations with her until after Jesus was born. Joseph named him "Jesus."

Mary was a humble servant of God. Luke 1 records the encounter between Mary and the angel, Gabriel who was sent to the town of Nazareth in Galilee with a message for a virgin named Mary who was engaged to Joseph. The angel greeted her with these words,

"Hail, you who are highly favored, the Lord is with you. You are blessed among women." These words confused her and she wondered what they meant. The angel continued by saying "Fear not for God was pleased with her". He told her that she would have a son and his name was to be Jesus. He would be great and would be called the Son of God Most High. The Lord God would make him king as his ancestor David was. He would rule the people of Israel forever and his kingdom would never end. Mary asked how that could be because she had never been intimate with a man and she wasn't married. The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come down to you and God's power will overshadow you. Your child will be called the Holy Son of God." He then told her that her elderly cousin Elizabeth was also going to have a child as promised and she was in her sixth month of pregnancy. The angel said, "All things are possible with God."

Mary disregarded all that she might lose by accepting God's will for her life. She said simply, "I am the Lord's servant. Let it happen as you have said" and the angel left her.

Mary went to Judea to be with her cousin Elizabeth. When Mary greeted Elizabeth upon her arrival, Elizabeth's baby leaped in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Elizabeth told Mary that she was blessed more than any other woman and God had blessed the child that she would have. She asked, "Why should the mother of my Lord come to me? As soon as I heard your greeting my baby leaped for joy within my womb. The Lord has blessed you because you believed that he will keep his promise."

Mary had a song of praise to the Lord. She praised the Lord with all her heart and she was glad because of God her Savior. She was a humble servant who stated that God cared for her. From that day forth, people would acknowledge that God has blessed her. God All-Powerful has done great things for her and his name is holy. God always shows mercy to everyone who worships him. The Lord has used his powerful arm to scatter those who are proud. God drags strong rulers from their thrones and puts humble people in places of

power. God gives the hungry good things to eat and sends the rich away with nothing. God helps his servant Israel and is always merciful to his people. She ended by saying "The Lord made this promise to our ancestors, to Abraham and his family forever. " This song was made of many Old Testament expressions designed to announce that God has acted to bring Israel its Messiah. Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months and then headed back home. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to register their names in the record books as everyone had to go to their home town to register. While they were there Mary gave birth to the baby boy and Joseph named him Jesus. They were told there were no rooms in the inn but were given a place with the cattle and that is where Jesus was born. They laid him on a bed of hay and wrapped him in swaddling clothes. In Luke 1:17, shepherds came to the manger for angels had given them the news the Savior was born and they would find him in a manger on a bed of hay dressed in swaddling clothes. They told Joseph and Mary what had taken place in the fields and why they had come to see for themselves. Mary and Joseph were surprised but Mary pondered about their words and wondered what it meant. As the shepherds left to return to their sheep, they were saying wonderful things about Him and praising God. Eight days later, Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the temple as was required by Moses' law to be presented to the Lord. The law of God said "Each first-born baby boy belongs to the Lord." Also the parents were required to bring a sacrifice to the Lord giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons and that is what Mary and Joseph did. Simeon, a good man and devout to the Lord had been told by the Spirit of God that he would see Christ the Lord before he died. He had been praying for God to save the people of Israel. The Spirit of God prompted him to go to the temple and as he held Jesus in his arms, he praised God and said, "Lord, I am your servant and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me." He also told Mary that a sword would pierce her heart. The prophet Anna was also in the temple and she acknowledged that this was the Savior who had been promised to the salvation of Israel. She spread the word that God had visited his people.

The wise men from the east followed his star and came to seek the new king. The prophecy of Micah 5:2 was fulfilled. "It says that Bethlehem, though it was little among thousands of Judah, yet out of this place will come forth a ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. The star led them to the baby and an angel warned them not to return the way they had come because King Herod was going to seek to kill the child. The prophecy of Jeremiah was fulfilled. It reads "In Ramah a voice was heard crying and weeping loudly. Rachel was mourning for her children and she refused to be comforted because they were dead." King Herod, realizing that the wise men had avoided him, was enraged and ordered all the baby boys 2 year old and under to be killed. See Jeremiah 31:15.

Joseph and Mary were warned by an angel to go into Egypt and remain until it was safe for them to return. They obeyed and fulfilled the Scripture "I called my son out of Egypt." Hosea 11:1. After King Herod died, the angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph to get up and take the child and his mother back to Israel. He was told to take his family to Galilee and they went to live in the town of Nazareth. The Lord's promise came true as the prophet said, "He shall be called a Nazarene." (*There is no written Scripture in the Old Testament to refer to. It may have been an oral statement from a prophet.*)

When Jesus was twelve years old, his parents took him to the temple for the Passover. Others travelled with them and after they left, they discovered after a day's journey that Jesus was not present with them. They checked with those who were travelling with them, but he was nowhere to be found. Leaving their friends and relatives, they returned to Jerusalem. After 3 days they found Jesus in the temple sitting listening to the teachers and asking them questions. Everyone was surprised with his knowledge and at the answers that he gave to the religious leaders. When Mary and Joseph found him, they were amazed. His mother asked him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been very worried and we have been searching for you." Jesus said, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I must be about my Father's business?" But they didn't understand what he meant. Jesus went back to Nazareth and obeyed his parents. His mother kept pondering and thinking about all that had happened. Jesus became wise and grew strong and God was pleased with him.

We find Mary encouraging Jesus to do a miracle at the marriage of Cana. Even though he said that it wasn't time for him to begin his ministry, he turned water into wine at her request. See John 2. Mary followed Jesus ministry and it is recorded in Matthew 12:46 that she and his brothers came and stood outside and sent someone to tell Jesus that they wanted to speak with him. Jesus said "Who is my mother and who are my brothers? He pointed to his disciples and said, "These are my mother and my brothers! Anyone who obeys my Father in heaven is my brother or sister or mother." She seemed to want to protect Jesus from getting in trouble with the religious leaders.

Mary was at the cross and she watched him being abused and put to death. In John 19:27, Jesus told John that Mary was now his mother and John would be her son. He took her into his own house from that day forward. It fulfilled the prophecy of Simeon Luke 2:33. Mary was among the 120 who met in the Upper Room and was filled with the Holy Ghost. His brothers were also there. Acts 1 & 2.

All of the Scriptures concerning the first coming of Christ, his ministry, his death, and the resurrection of his body came to pass exactly as the prophets stated. With that said, we can be sure that the rest of the prophecies will be fulfilled sometime in the future. Many have been fulfilled in the past 100 years. Matthew 28:19 is his last words to his followers.

### 44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled

	<b>Prophecies About Jesus</b>	<b>Old Testament Scripture</b>	<b>New Testament Fulfillment</b>
1	Messiah would be born of a woman.	<a href="#">Genesis 3:15</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:20</a> <a href="#">Galatians 4:4</a>
2	Messiah would be born in <a href="#">Bethlehem</a> .	<a href="#">Micah 5:2</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:1</a> <a href="#">Luke 2:4-6</a>
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin.	<a href="#">Isaiah 7:14</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:22-23</a> <a href="#">Luke 1:26-31</a>
4	Messiah would come from the line of <a href="#">Abraham</a> .	<a href="#">Genesis 12:3</a> <a href="#">Genesis 22:18</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:1</a> <a href="#">Romans 9:5</a>
5	Messiah would be a descendant of <a href="#">Isaac</a> .	<a href="#">Genesis 17:19</a> <a href="#">Genesis 21:12</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:34</a>
6	Messiah would be a descendant of <a href="#">Jacob</a> .	<a href="#">Numbers 24:17</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:2</a>
7	Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah.	<a href="#">Genesis 49:10</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:33</a> <a href="#">Hebrews 7:14</a>
8	Messiah would be heir to <a href="#">King David's</a> throne.	<a href="#">2 Samuel 7:12-13</a> <a href="#">Isaiah 9:7</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:32-33</a> <a href="#">Romans 1:3</a>
9	Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal.	<a href="#">Psalm 45:6-7</a> <a href="#">Daniel 2:44</a>	<a href="#">Luke 1:33</a> <a href="#">Hebrews 1:8-12</a>
10	Messiah would be called <a href="#">Immanuel</a> .	<a href="#">Isaiah 7:14</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 1:23</a>
11	Messiah would spend a season in Egypt.	<a href="#">Hosea 11:1</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:14-15</a>
12	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace.	<a href="#">Jeremiah 31:15</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:16-18</a>
13	A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah	<a href="#">Isaiah 40:3-5</a>	<a href="#">Luke 3:3-6</a>
14	Messiah would be rejected by his own people.	<a href="#">Psalm 69:8</a> <a href="#">Isaiah 53:3</a>	<a href="#">John 1:11</a> <a href="#">John 7:5</a>
15	Messiah would be a prophet.	<a href="#">Deuteronomy 18:15</a>	<a href="#">Acts 3:20-22</a>
16	Messiah would be preceded by <a href="#">Elijah</a> .	<a href="#">Malachi 4:5-6</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 11:13-14</a>
17	Messiah would be declared the <a href="#">Son of God</a> .	<a href="#">Psalm 2:7</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 3:16-17</a>
18	Messiah would be called a Nazarene.	<a href="#">Isaiah 11:1</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 2:23</a>
19	Messiah would bring light to Galilee.	<a href="#">Isaiah 9:1-2</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 4:13-16</a>
20	Messiah would speak in <a href="#">parables</a> .	<a href="#">Psalm 78:2-4</a> <a href="#">Isaiah 6:9-10</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 13:10-15</a> , <a href="#">34-35</a>
21	Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted.	<a href="#">Isaiah 61:1-2</a>	<a href="#">Luke 4:18-19</a>
22	Messiah would be a priest after the order of <a href="#">Melchizedek</a> .	<a href="#">Psalm 110:4</a>	<a href="#">Hebrews 5:5-6</a>
23	Messiah would be called King.	<a href="#">Psalm 2:6</a> <a href="#">Zechariah 9:9</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:37</a> <a href="#">Mark 11:7-11</a>
24	Messiah would be praised by <a href="#">little children</a> .	<a href="#">Psalm 8:2</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 21:16</a>

25	Messiah would be betrayed.	<a href="#">Psalm 41:9</a> <a href="#">Zechariah 11:12-13</a>	<a href="#">Luke 22:47-48</a> <a href="#">Matthew 26:14-16</a>
26	Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field.	<a href="#">Zechariah 11:12-13</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:9-10</a>
27	Messiah would be falsely accused.	<a href="#">Psalm 35:11</a>	<a href="#">Mark 14:57-58</a>
28	Messiah would be silent before his accusers.	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:7</a>	<a href="#">Mark 15:4-5</a>
29	Messiah would be spat upon and struck.	<a href="#">Isaiah 50:6</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 26:67</a>
30	Messiah would be hated without cause.	<a href="#">Psalm 35:19</a> <a href="#">Psalm 69:4</a>	<a href="#">John 15:24-25</a>
31	Messiah would be <a href="#">crucified</a> with criminals.	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:12</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:38</a> <a href="#">Mark 15:27-28</a>
32	Messiah would be given vinegar to drink.	<a href="#">Psalm 69:21</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:34</a> <a href="#">John 19:28-30</a>
33	Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced.	<a href="#">Psalm 22:16</a> <a href="#">Zechariah 12:10</a>	<a href="#">John 20:25-27</a>
34	Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed.	<a href="#">Psalm 22:7-8</a>	<a href="#">Luke 23:35</a>
35	Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments.	<a href="#">Psalm 22:18</a>	<a href="#">Luke 23:34</a> <a href="#">Matthew 27:35-36</a>
36	Messiah's bones would not be broken.	<a href="#">Exodus 12:46</a> <a href="#">Psalm 34:20</a>	<a href="#">John 19:33-36</a>
37	Messiah would be forsaken by God.	<a href="#">Psalm 22:1</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:46</a>
38	Messiah would pray for his enemies.	<a href="#">Psalm 109:4</a>	<a href="#">Luke 23:34</a>
39	Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side.	<a href="#">Zechariah 12:10</a>	<a href="#">John 19:34</a>
40	Messiah would be buried with the rich.	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:9</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 27:57-60</a>
41	Messiah would <a href="#">resurrect</a> from the dead.	<a href="#">Psalm 16:10</a> <a href="#">Psalm 49:15</a>	<a href="#">Matthew 28:2-7</a> <a href="#">Acts 2:22-32</a>
42	Messiah would ascend to heaven.	<a href="#">Psalm 24:7-10</a>	<a href="#">Mark 16:19</a> <a href="#">Luke 24:51</a>
43	Messiah would be seated at God's right hand.	<a href="#">Psalm 68:18</a> <a href="#">Psalm 110:1</a>	<a href="#">Mark 16:19</a> <a href="#">Matthew 22:44</a>
44	Messiah would be a <a href="#">sacrifice</a> for sin.	<a href="#">Isaiah 53:5-12</a>	<a href="#">Romans 5:6-8</a>