STONEBRIAR COMMUNITY CHURCH

GRATEFUL For GOD'S WORD

A 25-day Christmas devotional on promises kept & prophecies fulfilled

God is the Giver of every good and perfect gift. The ultimate gift He has given us is Jesus, the Lord over all creation who stepped out of Heaven and came to earth with the intention of redeeming mankind from sin.

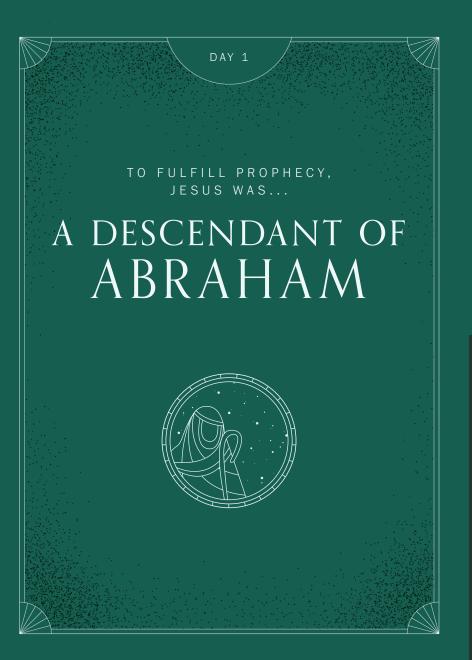
The story of Jesus doesn't start in the manger or even in the New Testament. It is in the Old Testament where specific prophecies about the coming Messiah are woven throughout the pages. Many of those prophecies were fulfilled at Christ's first advent, which will be the focus of these days leading up to Christmas.

You'll see that each day of this journal has an Old Testament prophecy that points to a New Testament fulfillment by Christ. Some verses are direct, effortlessto-understand prophecy, and some are whispers that might be easy to miss otherwise, but they all find their realization in Christ alone. Spend some time daily reflecting on just one element of Christ, journaling your answers to the reflection questions, and using the prayer at the bottom of each page. You'll see He was the plan from the very beginning, and this truth only becomes clearer the more you study the Old Testament.

In light of this intentional focus on Christ as the fulfillment of Scripture, may you experience this blessed Christmas season in a brand-new way. Because of who He is and what He has told us throughout the Bible, may we all be *Grateful for God's Word*.

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Abraham will certainly become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

GENESIS 18:18 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as one would in referring to many, but rather as in referring to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.

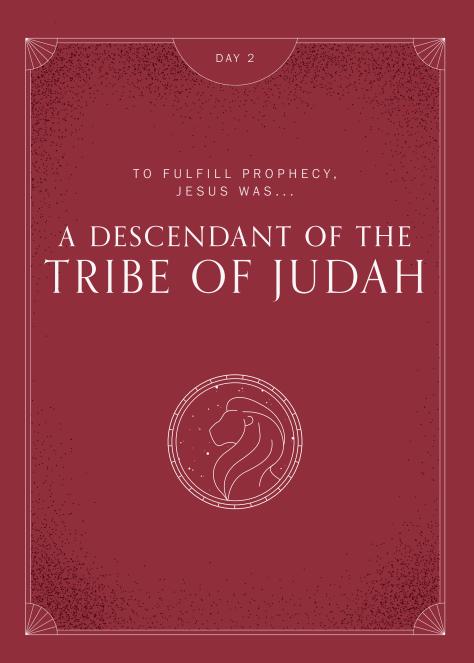
GALATIANS 3:16 NASB

What do you need to trust God for today?



What God promises, God accomplishes. Not only would this great and mighty nation Abraham was promised be the nation of Israel, but something even greater is found in these words. Abraham could have no greater blessing than having the Messiah born from his lineage. Abraham could have never imagined the extent of the fullfillment of this promise.

Lord, only You can see the end from the beginning. I know You have a plan that I might not always understand, but help me to trust in You through it all. Thank You that You are a God who keeps His promises. In the name of Christ I pray, Amen.



As for you, Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you.

GENESIS 49:8 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah.

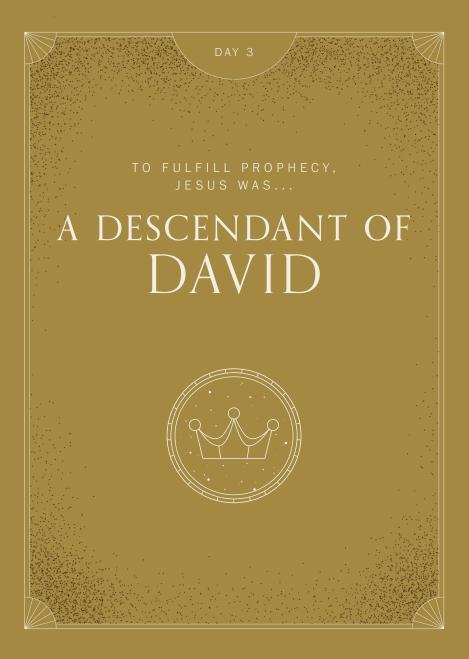
HEBREWS 7:14 NASB



God's Word, especially His prophecies, are very specific. Some verses in the Bible have what is known as dual-fulfillment prophecies, meaning they have a more immediate and also a later completion. In this case, all people—both Jew and Gentile will one day bow down to the Messiah, who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

Father, I look forward to the day when every knee will bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. Would You help me to live in a way that shows my reverence to Christ now, and help me to tell others about Him, too? In praise to You, I pray, Amen.

How are you living your life in a way that shows you worship Jesus?



"Behold, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land."

JEREMIAH 23:5 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

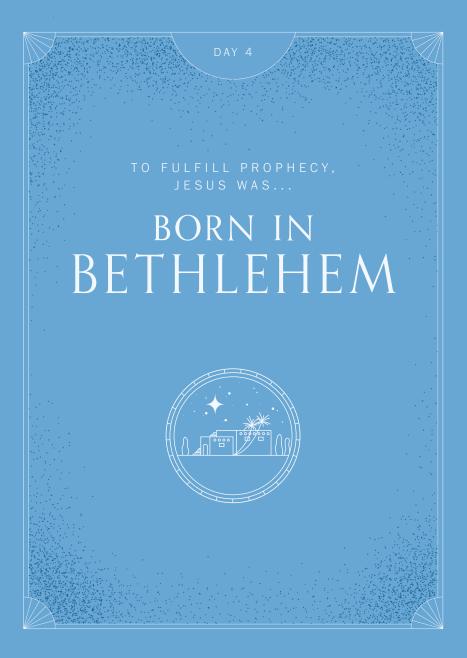
. . . concerning His Son, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh.

ROMANS 1:3 NASB



God always had a plan to have Jesus in the lineage of David. Although Scripture says David was a man after God's own heart, we know that he was a man who sinned greatly. Despite his most known sins of murder and adultery, David repented, and God restored him. The Messiah would still be David's descendant. What do you need to confess to God so that you can be restored to Him?

Lord, I thank You that even though You know all my sins, You still extend to me Your love, grace, and redemption. I ask that You bring to mind anything I need to confess so that I can be in restored fellowship with You. Thank You for the many ways You have forgiven me. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will come forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His times of coming forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.

MICAH 5:2 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king . . .

MATTHEW 2:1 NASB

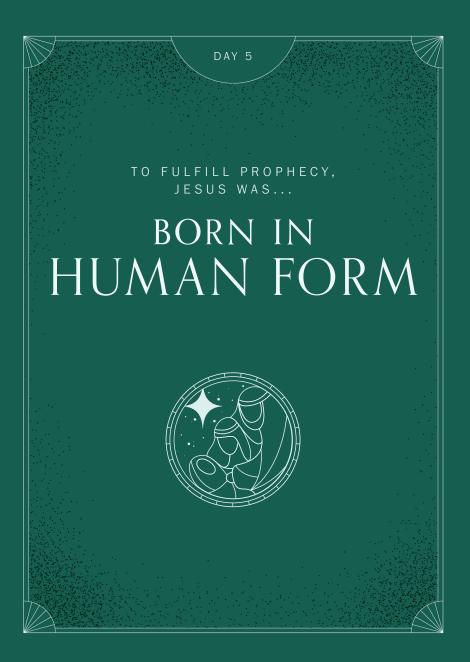


Bethlehem was a small agricultural community that mainly grew barley and wheat. It's no wonder, then, why Bethlehem means "House of Bread," a detail only God could orchestrate. The Christ child born there would be known as the Bread of Life.

> Lord, it is You who sustains me. I pray that You would help me to feast on Your Word more as I grow closer to You. Help me to realize in You I have everything I need.

How have you seen God orchestrate specific details in your own life?

In Christ's name I trust, Amen.



For a Child will be born to us, a Son will be given to us.

ISAIAH 9:6 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

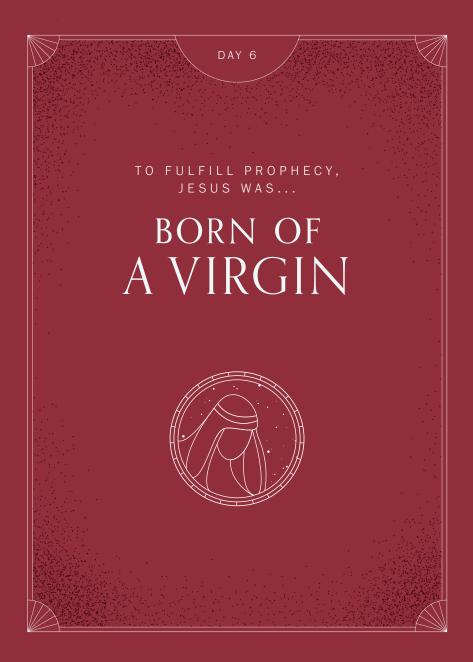
. . . for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

LUKE 2:11 NASB



Of all the scenarios that could have happened, God chose the most humble of ways for the world to be introduced to its Savior. Christ, being fully God, was now also fully man. He chose to step out of Heaven and into our world with the sole purpose of dying for your sins. What were the circumstances that led you to trust in Jesus as your Savior?

Father, I am humbled that Christ would come to earth to pay for my sins. Thank You that by believing in Him and knowing He shed His blood for me, I am forgiven and You now see me as righteous. Help me to bring You glory in all that I do. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



Behold, the virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and she will name Him Immanuel.

ISAIAH 7:14 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

But Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

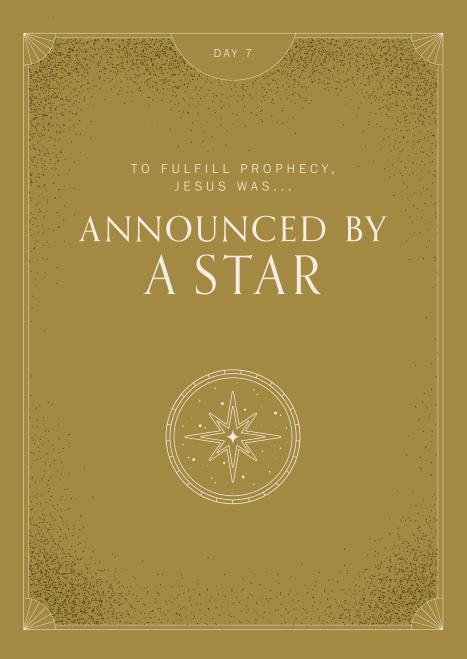
LUKE 1:34 NASB



Every Jewish girl's dream was to be the mother of the coming Messiah. Ever since Eve was told (Genesis 3:15) there was a Messiah coming to redeem mankind that would defeat Satan, the hope of each Jewish woman was that God would choose her. Mary, who was not holy or sinless, had this privilege. She had to trust God in new ways as an unwed expecting mother.

Father, You choose to work in mysterious ways. As I reflect on the ways that You have overseen the details of my life, help my faith and trust in You to increase. I want my hope in You to know no limits. In Christ I pray, Amen.

When has God worked in your life in ways that didn't make sense on a human level?



A star shall appear from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel.

NUMBERS 24:17 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.

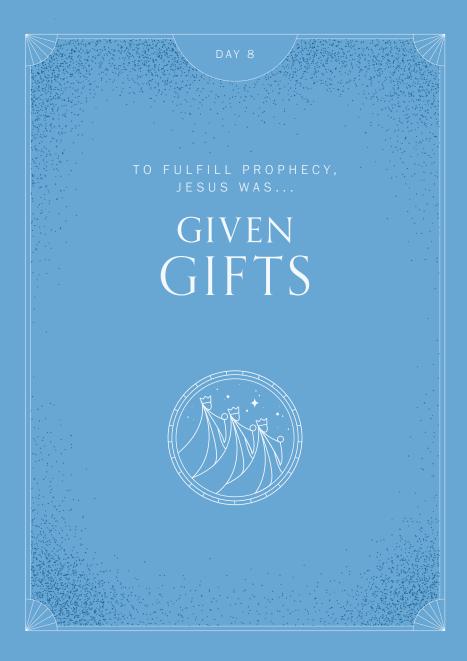
MATTHEW 2:2 NASB

How are you actively seeking the Lord?



We, too, can be guided by the Word and Spirit to know the Lord. God's desire is that all people would follow Christ, who is the bright and morning star.

> Lord, it is easy to be misguided, but I pray the truth of Your Word would be my focus in all things. I want to know Christ more and help others to know Him, too. In the name of Jesus I pray, Amen.



May the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring gifts; May the kings of Sheba and Seba offer tributes.

PSALM 72:10 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

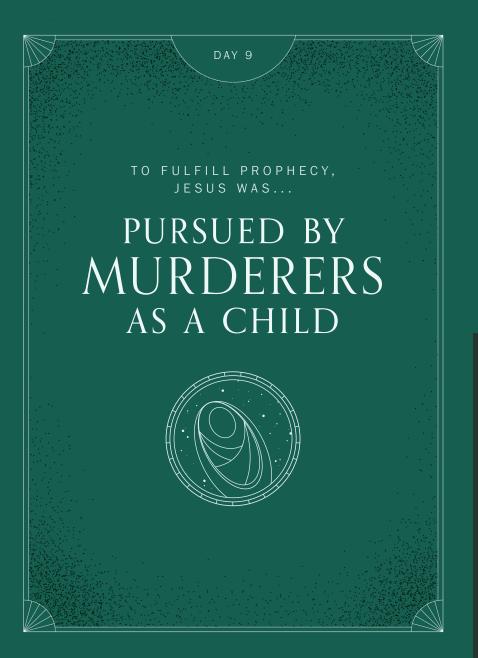
And after they came into the house, they saw the Child with His mother Mary; and they fell down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

MATTHEW 2:11 NASB



It is ironic that we read of gifts being bestowed on the Christ-child when He was the greatest gift ever given to us. As you go through each of your days, be mindful of your heart, talents, intentions, the way you spend your time, conversations—all things. Let these be used as gifts of worship to the Lord. What are some ways you can bless the Lord in various ways of worship?

Father, I do not want to waste anything on this world, but, instead, I want all I have to be an act of worship to You. Help me to be intentional about my time and talents so that I bring glory to You alone. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, Lamenting and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more."

JEREMIAH 31:15 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent men and killed all the boys who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.

MATTHEW 2:16 NASB

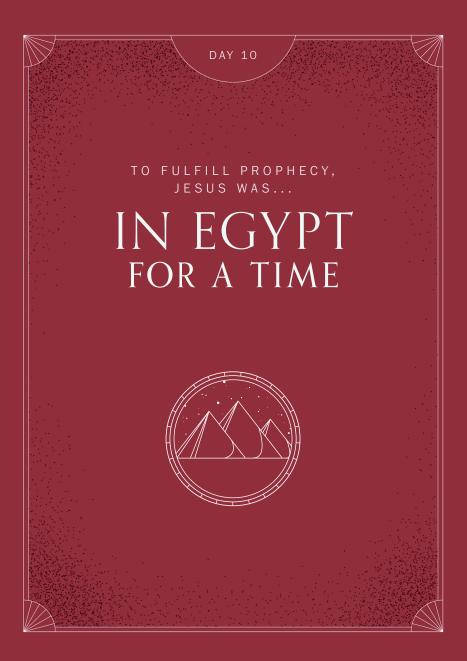


How does knowing God's plans are unstoppable encourage you?



No plans of Satan or man can thwart God's plans. The Lord knows all things from the beginning to end, and He has offered a plan of salvation and redemption through Christ alone.

> Father, there is no detail that goes unnoticed or unattended to by You. Thank You that in Your sovereignty we can find rest and peace knowing all things are in Your control. Remind me of this when I start to feel worried, anxious, or doubtful. In Christ I pray and trust, Amen.



When Israel was a youth I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.

HOSEA 11:1 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

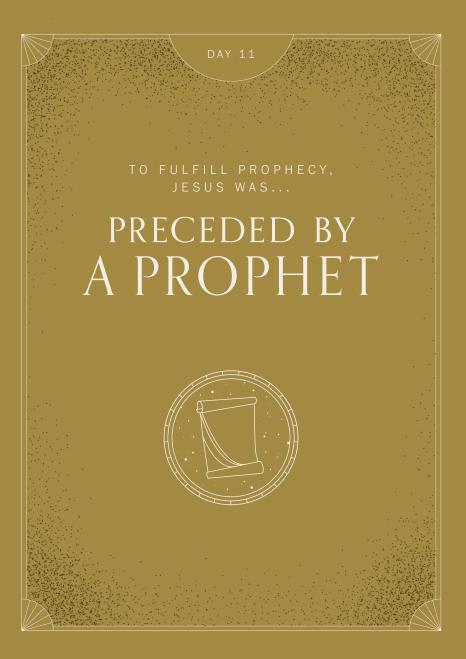
So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. He stayed there until the death of Herod; this happened so that what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled: "OUT OF EQYPT I CALLED MY SON."

MATTHEW 2:14-15 NASB



Sometimes we question God's plans for us when we are in a season and circumstances we never thought we would be in. But God's ways are not our ways. One day, you will look back and reflect on how God worked in ways you never would have imagined in every season of your life. Where do you need to trust God more in circumstances you never planned to be in?

Lord, help me to remember that my will is not Your will. I trust You to care for me in every aspect of my days, and I pray that I will see Your hand guide me in all circumstances. Thank You for your faithfulness. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



Behold, I am sending My messenger, and he will clear a way before Me.

MALACHI 3:1 NASE

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

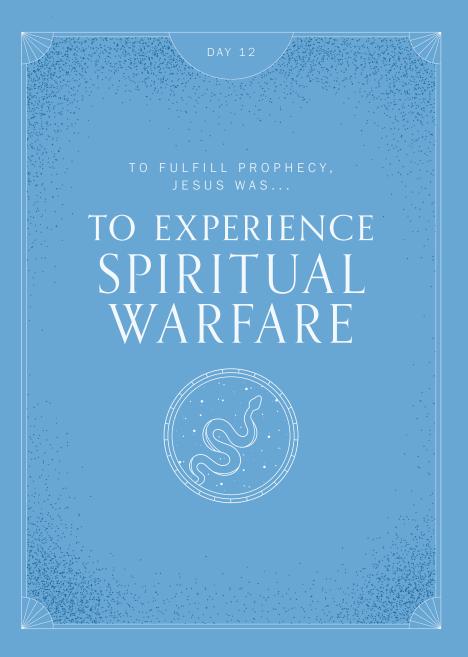
But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and one who is more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written: "BEHOLD, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU."

MATTHEW 11:9-10 NASB



You, also, can be a messenger for Christ. He has put you in unique circumstances and around people He wants you to share His Gospel with. Be mindful of the mission field you are in at work, in school, and even in your own home. Who do you need to share the Gospel of Jesus with, and how are you going to do that?

Lord, I look around my life and see so many people who need Jesus. Would You make me bold to share the Gospel with others? I want to be Your messenger. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



And I will make enemies Of you and the woman, And of your offspring and her Descendant; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise Him on the heel.

GENESIS 3:15 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

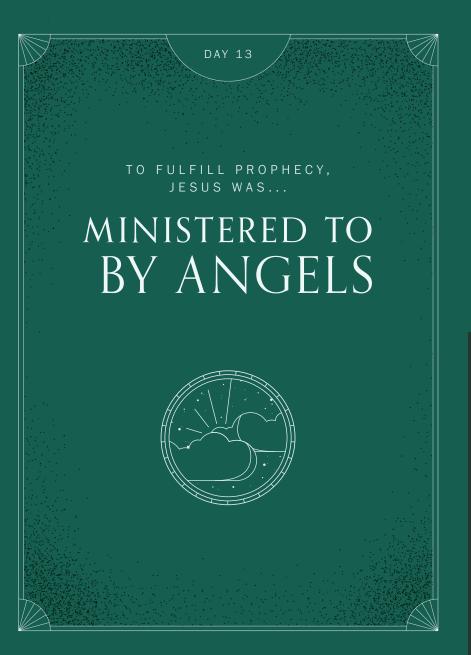
Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.

MATTHEW 4:1 NASB



Satan has always thought he could alter God's plan. The deceiver turns out to be the most deceived of all. A time is coming when Satan will be cast away forever in the lake of fire, never to be remembered again. Despite Satan's best attempts, Christ is and always will be victorious. How do you guard yourself against the spiritual warfare and deception that all believers face?

Father, help me to be so grounded in Your Word that I effectively rebuke Satan's lies, just as Christ did in the wilderness. Give me a love and passion for Your Word, and make it so contagious that others around me want to know more about Your Word, too. Thank You, Lord. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



For He will give His angels orders concerning you, To protect you in all your ways.

PSALM 91:11 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him.

LUKE 22:43 NASB

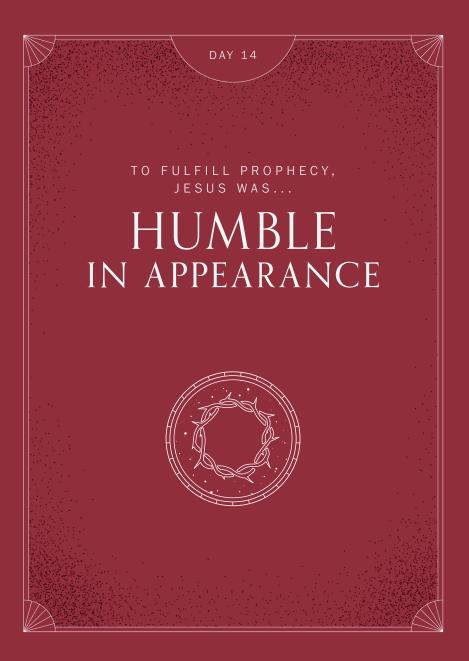


How have you experienced supernatural help from the Lord?



The Lord knows every detail of our circumstances and always provides exactly what we need. Perhaps one day when we are in Heaven, He will allow us to see all the times He sent His angels to help us in unseen ways.

> Father, I trust in You and Your plan for me. I realize my understanding is limited, but I look forward to You one day showing me in full the many ways You have cared, protected, and provided for me in ways I have no idea about now. You are so good to me. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



He has no stately form or majesty That we would look at Him, Nor an appearance that we would take pleasure in Him.

ISAIAH 53:2 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

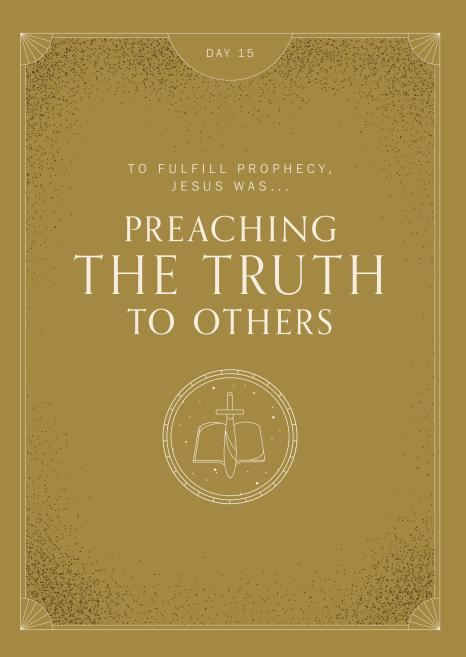
... but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death: death on a cross.

PHILIPPIANS 2:7-8 NASB



The Jews were expecting a mighty, conquering King, not a humble Messiah. Their eyes were set on political reform, but had their eyes been on the Scriptures, they would have seen that Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of the Old Testament Messianic prophecies. When have your eyes looked for what you wanted instead of what Christ wanted for you?

Father, it is always a struggle to lay down my will and wholeheartedly trust in Your will. Would You help me keep my eyes on You and Your Word? I no longer want to settle for less by my own will, but want Your will for me, which I know is the best plan for me. In Christ I pray, Amen.



I have proclaimed good news of righteousness in the great congregation; Behold, I will not restrain my lips, LORD, You know.

PSALM 40:9 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

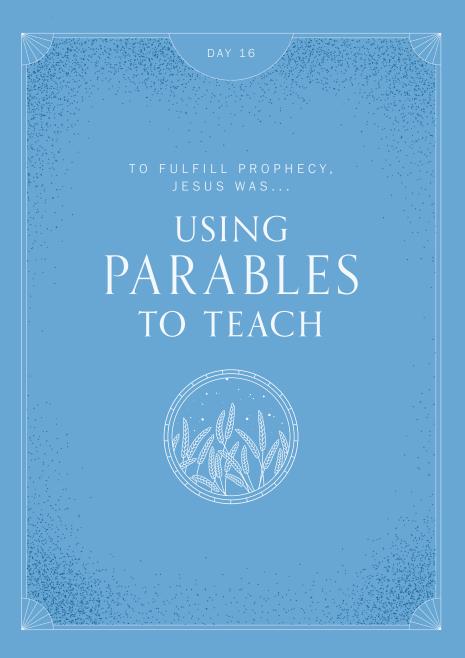
Jesus began going around from one city and village to another, proclaiming and preaching the kingdom of God.

LUKE 8:1 NASB



As believers, we are to strive to be more like Christ in all aspects of our lives. Most importantly, we need to proclaim His Gospel message to the hurting, broken world around us. He has commanded us to do this, so it is not an option. If you had to write a script as to how you would proclaim the Gospel to somebody, what would you say?

Lord, like the verse in Psalm 40 says, help my lips to not be restrained when I am telling others about You. Help me to trust in Your Holy Spirit to guide me and give me the exact words I need in any given situation. I desire to be obedient and share the Gospel with others. In Jesus' name I ask, Amen.



I will open my mouth in a parable; I will tell riddles of old.

PSALM 78:2 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

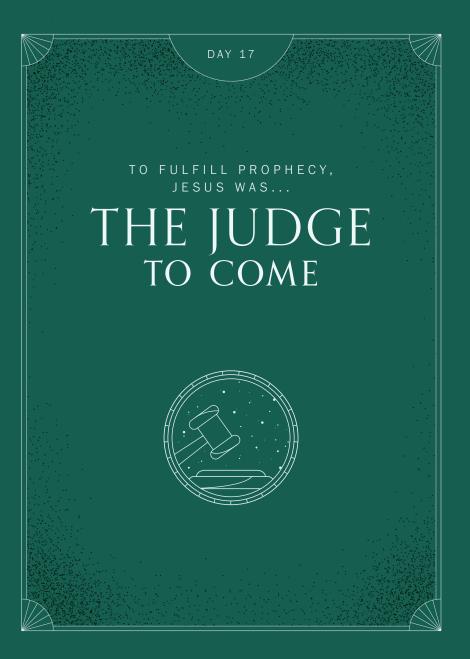
All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables, and He did not speak anything to them without a parable.

MATTHEW 13:34 NASB



God was literally telling Israel in this Psalm that He would speak to them through parables. When Jesus arrived and taught this way, this should have been an unmistakable sign for the Jews. Instead, they dismissed Jesus and what He was teaching. Which of Christ's many parables resonates the most with you? Why?

Father, thank You that Christ used relatable ways to show us who He is and how we should live as a result of knowing Him. I am grateful for how You gently teach me and instruct me through Your Word. Help me to yield to You, grow closer to You, and love You more each day. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.



For the LORD is our judge, The LORD is our lawgiver, The LORD is our king; He will save us.

ISAIAH 33:22 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son.

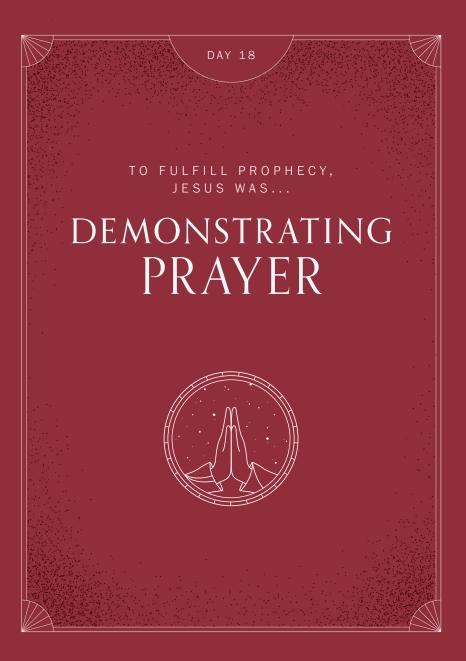
JOHN 5:22 NASB



The final fulfillment of Christ as Judge will be in the future on Judgment Day. He won't be judging for anything this world values such as fame, riches, or personality. His judgment decree will be based only on knowing and believing in Him. Every person who rejected the free gift of salvation will be condemned forever.

Lord, because I know and believe in You, I am thankful I only experience relief at the thought of Judgment Day. Thank You that You see me as righteous because of Christ's shed blood for me. I do not deserve Your goodness, but I am eternally grateful for it. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

What thoughts come to mind when you think about Christ on Judgment Day?



In return for my love they act as <u>my accu</u>sers; But I am in prayer.

PSALM 109:4 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

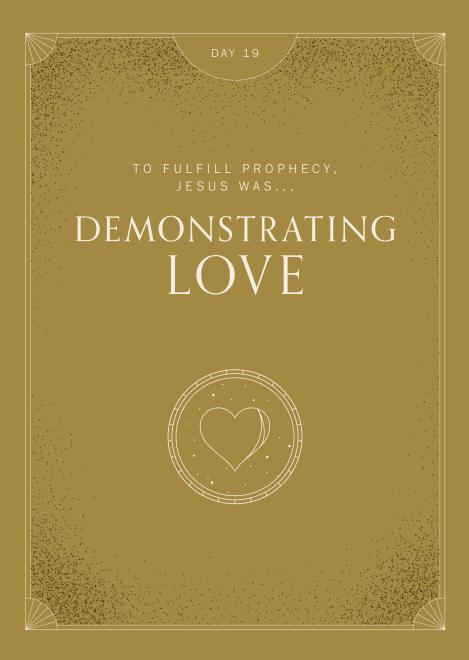
Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

HEBREWS 7:25 NASB



Everyone knows what it is like to be mistreated. As believers, we respond to this differently than the unbelieving world. Christ modeled the perfect response—we are to pray for those who hurt us. Who has accused you or mistreated you that you need to forgive? And how can you commit to regularly praying for that person?

Lord, I know what it is like to be accused, and often times it is I who have hurt others. Please bring to mind anyone I need to forgive or ask forgiveness from. Let me live a life marked by prayer. In Jesus' name alone I pray, Amen.



But the lovingkindness of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him.

PSALM 103:17 nasb

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

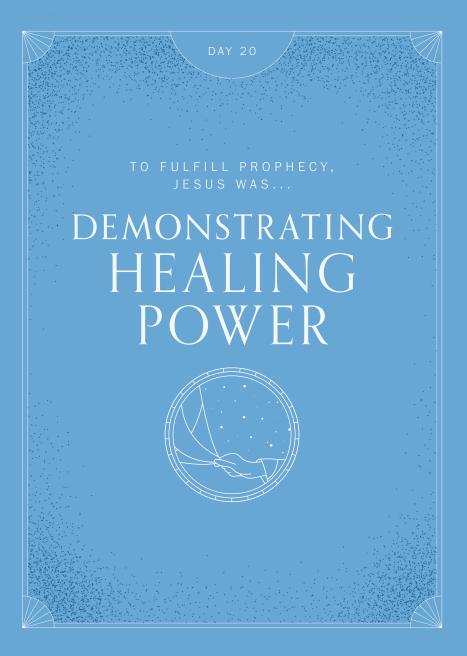
Greater love has no one than this, that a person will lay down his life for his friends.

JOHN 15:13 NASB

Christ demonstrated the ultimate act of love by dying for us in our place. Once we accept His payment for sin on our behalf, He does indeed shower us with lovingkindness from everlasting to everlasting. We have all eternity to thank Him for this love.

> Father, I know no greater love than Yours. You sent Your Son to die for me. You have forgiven me, redeemed me, and promised me a glorious future with You for all eternity. Help me to live my life in a way that demonstrates my thankfulness to You. In Christ's name I pray, Amen.

In what ways are you looking forward to Heaven?



Then the eyes of those who are blind will be opened, And the ears of those who are deaf will be unstopped. Then those who limp will leap like a deer, And the tongue of those who cannot speak will shout for joy.

ISAIAH 35:5-6 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

They brought to Him all who were ill, those suffering with various diseases and severe pain, demon-possessed, people with epilepsy, and people who were paralyzed; and He healed them.

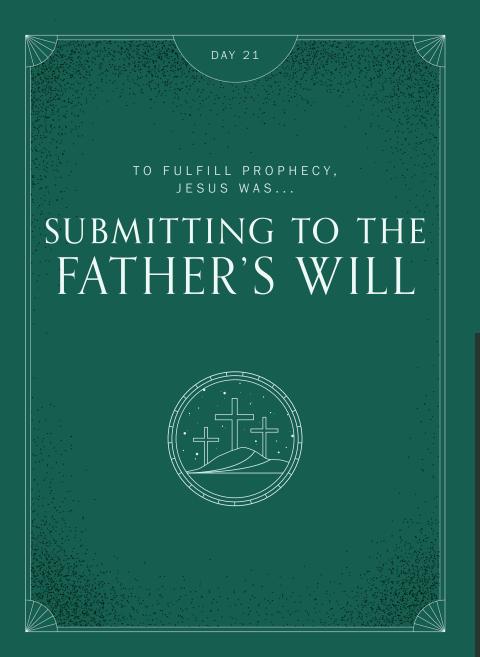
MATTHEW 4:24 NASB



Christ's miracle-working power was renowned. Even unbelieving historians made record of His many miracles. Countless people were brought to Him to obtain physical healing, but His greatest act is healing us spiritually once we place our trust in Him.

> Lord, I am so humbled that You have healed me spiritually by forgiving me. You have made me a new creation in You. I look forward to spending all eternity in Heaven with You. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.

How would you concisely share your testimony with someone?



I delight to do Your will, my God; Your Law is within my heart.

PSALM 40:8 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to accomplish His work."

JOHN 4:34 NASB

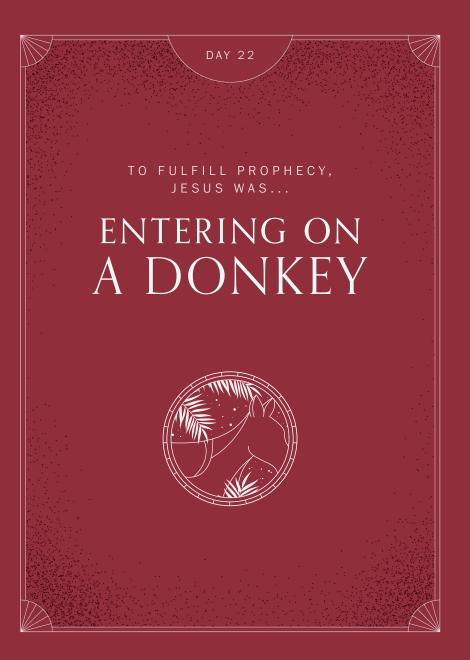


How do you demonstrate delight in doing God's will?



Jesus always glorified His Father and submitted to His will. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane before His crucifixion, we see Christ choosing God's will. This is an example to us that in all things even in difficult situations—we must choose His will over our own.

> Lord, I want to always submit to Your will. Would you remind me in all situations, big or small, to pray and seek You first? As Galatians 2:20 says, "I am crucified in Christ, therefore I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God." I pray this in Christ, Amen.



Behold, your king is coming to you; He is righteous and endowed with salvation, Humble, and mounted on a donkey, Even on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

ZECHARIAH 9:9 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

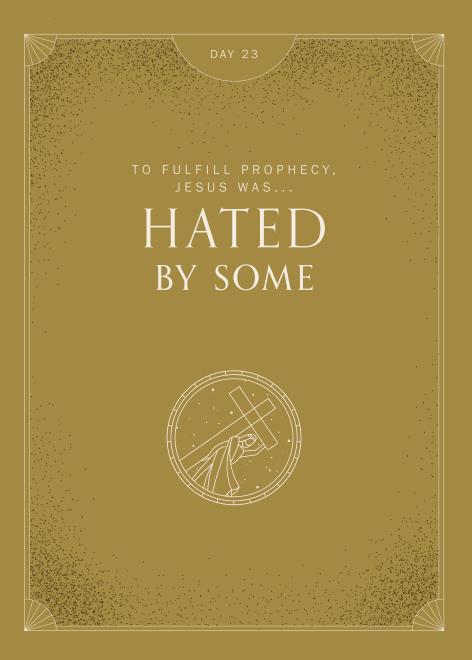
Jesus, finding a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written "do not fear, daughter of zion; behold, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

JOHN 12:14-15 NASB



If the Jews had been more familiar with Scripture, they would have seen Christ riding into Jerusalem as a clear sign that He was indeed the Messiah. The Sovereign Creator of all things juxtaposed with riding a donkey is a true picture of His humility. How familiar are you with Scripture, and how can you choose to improve this?

Lord, I never want to miss a detail that You have intentionally placed in Scripture. As I read Your Word, I pray the words come alive and are sealed deep into my heart. Thank You for your example of humility. Help me to be humble in all things, too. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head.

PSALM 69:4 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

Now they have both seen and hated Me and My Father as well.

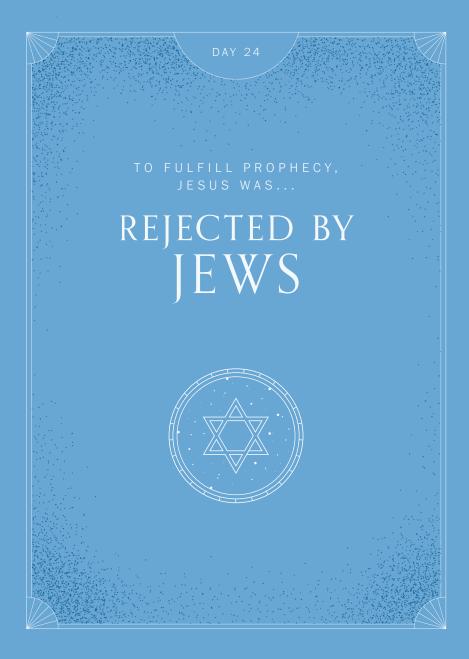
JOHN 15:24 NASB

How have you been rejected for your faith in Christ?



Christ knew that He would be hated and rejected by many, yet that did not stop Him from fulfilling prophecy perfectly, as written thousands of years earlier. Nothing could stop His love and desire for you to be forgiven, redeemed, and restored by Him.

> Lord, as hard as it can be to feel rejection, help me to continue to be bold for You. I want others to know of Your goodness and Your offer of salvation. Give me opportunities to share Your Gospel with others daily. Because of Christ I pray, Amen.



This is what the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel and its Holy One, Says to the despised One, To the One abhorred by the nation, To the Servant of rulers: "Kings will see and arise, Princes will also bow down, Because of the LORD who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel who has chosen You."

ISAIAH 49:7 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

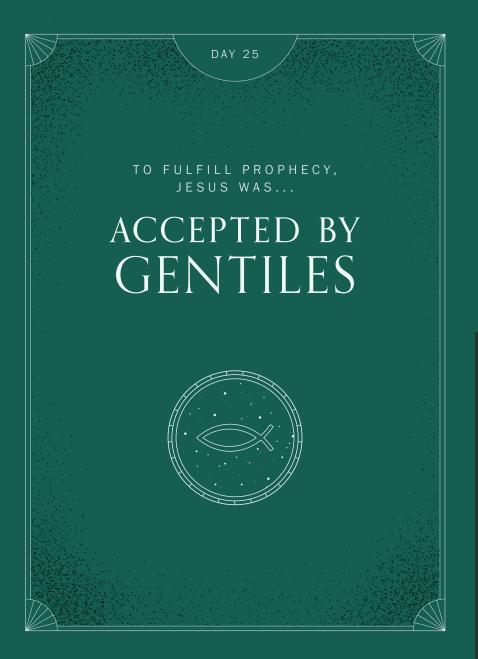
He came to His own, and His own people did not accept Him.

JOHN 1:11 NASB



It must have been even more hurtful for Christ to be rejected by His own people, the Jews. James, His own brother who grew up with Him, did not initially believe that Christ was the long-awaited Messiah. But once James put his faith in Christ, he was so changed that he became a leader at the church in Jerusalem and was later martyred for his faith in Christ. Who in your own family do you need to commit to praying for so that they will turn to Christ?

Father, the pain felt over the unbelief of close loved ones is a pain unique to any other hurt. Let my words and actions glorify You and help these people You are bringing to mind finally choose to trust in You. Help me to endure as I wait for them to accept Your salvation. In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.



I will sow her for Myself in the land. I will also have compassion on her who had not obtained compassion, And I will say to those who were not My people, "You are My people!" And they will say, "You are my God!"

HOSEA 2:23 NASB

NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT

But now in Christ Jesus you who previously were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

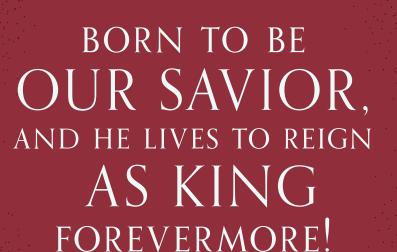
EPHESIANS 2:13 NASB



According to Romans 11, the Gentiles had the opportunity to now trust in Christ because of the Jews' rejection of Him. So as we rejoice that we have been forgiven and redeemed, do not forget to pray for others who need to know Christ, too—including the Jews. How can you more regularly reflect on the gift of salvation you have been given so you never take it for granted?

Lord, I cannot express my thankfulness for salvation enough. You have blessed me beyond measure, shown me the way to Christ, and allowed me to see Your plan You've had from the beginning that is woven throughout Scripture. You are so mighty and sovereign, yet so tender and personal.

> Thank You for all You have done for me. With love in Christ I pray, Amen.



JESUS WAS...



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