

Christmas Convergence

Part 1

Genesis 3:15

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Take your Bible and open it to Genesis 3:15. Today we are taking a break from our typical studies that we have been doing since Christmas is coming up. I want to bring you some teachings today on what we would call a "Christmas Convergence." As we get into this subject, one of the things to understand about Jesus is that long before He was born, His life, including all of the circumstances related to His birth, was written out by the Holy Spirit in advance.

Jesus is the only person that has ever lived that walked into a script in His earthly life that was pre-written. No other human being has ever accomplished that. Even secular non-biblical historians like Josephus point this out. Josephus, a first century Jewish historian, calls Jesus the Christ. He says of Christ:

"...the prophets of God had foretold these things [concerning his death, resurrection, etc.]."¹

Jesus, when He was on the earth, appealed to this. He took a walk, if you will, with the disciples on the Emmaus Road after He resurrected from the dead. This is what He said to them:

"Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures" (Luke 24:27).

"Now He said to them, 'These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled'" (Luke 24:44).

Law, Torah, Psalms (the most prominent book in writings), and Prophets: that is Tanakh, TNK—Torah, Navi'im, Katuvim. This was the way the Jews divided what we call the Old Testament.

What Jesus is saying through that nomenclature is: "The whole Old Testament, as we call it, points towards Me." Jesus said to the Pharisees in John 5:39-46:

"'You search the Scriptures because you think in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me'" (John 5:39).

¹ Josephus, *Antiquities*, 18.3.3.

"For you believe Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me"
(John 5:46).

Paul the Apostle, in his evangelism, appealed to this script also. This is when Paul went to Thessalonica, and he went to the synagogue first, as he does in all the locations in the Book of Acts:

"And according to Paul's custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and giving evidence that Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, 'This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ'" (Acts 17:2-3).

Paul the Apostle, in the famous resurrection chapter of 1 Corinthians 15 says,

"For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:3-4).

When all of these passages keep saying "according to the Scriptures" at some point you have to ask yourself, "What Scriptures is he talking about?" There was not a New Testament when these words were initially given, so he is obviously referring to Hebrew Tanakh, Hebrew Bible.

All of these passages are making a claim that Jesus had a script written out for Him by God, hundreds—and in some cases thousands—of years before He was ever incarnated or walked on our planet. What I want to share with you today are 14 Old Testament passages that unmistakably identify who Jesus was. I picked the verses that relate to Christmas; that is why I call this a "Christmas Convergence."

Messiah Must Be:

1. A man (Gen 3:15)
2. Semitic (Gen 9:26)
3. From Abraham's line (Gen 12:3)
4. From Isaac's line (Gen 17:18-19)
5. From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)
6. From the tribe of Judah (Gen 49:10)
7. From the family of Jesse (Isa 11:1)

Messiah Must Be:

8. From David's line (2 Sam 7:16)
9. Solomon's line (1 Chron 28:4-7)
10. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
11. Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:14)
12. Come before A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
13. Present Himself to Israel on 3/30/33 (Dan 9:25)
14. Die in a particular way (Zech 12:10)

Christmas is about a plethora of passages simultaneously coming together in a single human being. This is how the Jews were expected to recognize their Messiah when He came the first time. They had this information, and they should have been aware of the messianic season that they were living in.

When I have taught this before, I analogize this to a funnel. A funnel starts off very broad, and as you move through the funnel, top to bottom, it narrows. That, in essence, is what Hebrew Bible does. It starts off really broad in terms of identifying the coming Messiah, and then as you move through the Old Testament, you will discover that the information starts to get very, very narrow—very, very specific. It starts to crystallize so that it is undeniable who is being spoken of by the time you complete the Old Testament and move into the New Testament.

A modern example of this is if I wanted to identify somebody on planet Earth. Let us say I wanted to identify you specifically. I could start really broad and talk about what hemisphere you live in—the Western Hemisphere. After that I could get more specific and reveal what country you live in—the United States of America. Next I could get more specific and figure out what state you live in—the great state of Texas, of course. I could get more specific and identify the county that you live in, and then I could identify the city you live in. I can get even more specific and get into your zip code, then the street name that you reside on, and then your street address. If you have a bedroom in a particular house, I could then identify you by which room in the house you sleep in. Finally, I could identify who you are.

That is basically what your Bible does with Jesus. It starts off really broad, and as you move through the Bible, the information starts to narrow prophetically, hundreds and thousands of years before Jesus ever walked this earth. It is specifically pertinent to the birth of Jesus, which is what we are celebrating this week.

Here we have 14 prophecies that reveal the coming Messiah. What we do not finish in the first hour we are going to finish in the second hour.

The first prophecy that reveals the coming Messiah is that the Messiah must be a man. God is very clear that the Messiah would not be a woman. Nothing against women, but God says the Messiah will not be the female gender. He will be the male gender as there are only two genders. The very first messianic prophecy in the whole Bible, is Genesis 3:15, right after man falls. It is dubbed the Proto Evangelium:

*"And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel"* (Genesis 3:15).

It is a prophecy that there is coming into the world a Messiah who is going to take Satan's head and crush it. In the process of the crushing, the Messiah's foot or heel will be bruised. In other words, the Messiah is coming to deal this death knell to Satan, but there is going to be a lot of spiritual warfare in the process. It very clearly here:

*"He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel"* (Genesis 3:15).

What has happened here in Genesis 3:15 is that half of the world's population—the female population—has been eliminated as being a potential Messiah. The Messiah will be masculine; the Messiah will be male. Which man are we talking about on planet Earth, who is going to be this Messiah? We do not have that information yet, but we are at the very outer edges of the funnel. We are speaking in very broad terms.

By the way, here—and we probably will not get to this subject until the second hour—there is a veiled prophecy of the virgin birth. It says in this first messianic prophecy:

*"And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed"* (Genesis 3:15).

"Her seed"—women do not have seed, because the sperm belongs to the man; so the fact that it says *"her seed"* indicates that something has to be supernaturally put inside of her. That becomes, I think, the work of the Holy Spirit in the work of the virgin conception. You can actually see the doctrine of the virgin birth developing right here very early on in the Bible.

Which man is the Messiah going to come from? This takes us to number two: the Messiah must be Semitic. There was a global flood. The New Testament and the Old Testament both tell us that eight people were saved from the Flood in the Ark. That would be Noah and Mrs. Noah, Noah's three sons—Ham, Shem, and Japheth—and their respective wives. From those three sons of Noah the earth was repopulated.



Here is a map showing where the Hamites settled, where the Shemites settled, and where the Japhethites settled. From which of these people groups is the Messiah going to come from? Genesis 9:26 narrows the line:

*"He also said,
'Blessed be the Lord,
The God of Shem;
And let Canaan be his servant'" (Genesis 9:26).*

There is a lot of controversy on this verse concerning how it is misinterpreted, which we are not going to get into now. It is enough to say that God is very clear that the Messiah is not going to come through Ham's line; He is not going to come through Japheth's line; but He is going to come through the lineage of Shem.

From Ham we get Southwest Asia, Northwest Africa, the Egyptians, and even the Canaanites. The Messiah will not be a Hamite according to Genesis 9:26. From Japheth we get the European nations and the North American continent. The Messiah will not be a Japheth. The Messiah is going to be from the line of Shem. From the word "shem" we get the word "semitic."

What Genesis 9:16 is saying is that the Messiah will be Semitic—He will come from the line of Shem. We do not know which of the people groups within Shem He is going to come from, but we know He is going to come from the Shem line.

Who are these Semitic groups that came from Shem? The Hebrews, Arabs, Syrians, Assyrians, Persians, and Babylonians. The Messiah is going to be one of them, but we need more information, because there are an awful lot of people within the lineage of

Shem—an awful lot of Shemites, Semites, there. From which of the Semitic people groups is the Messiah going to come? We know He must be a man, and we know He must be a Semite, but from which of the Semitic people groups will the Messiah come from?

This takes us to number three: the Messiah will come from Abraham's line. Where do we get that from? We get it from Genesis 12:3, the calling of Abram, who later became Abraham.

*"And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse,
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed"* (Genesis 12:3).

The Messiah will come from the lineage of Abraham. Of course, we need more information because Abraham had more than one son. In fact, early on there were two prominent sons that he had: Ishmael (Genesis 16) and Isaac (Genesis 21). We know the Messiah is going to be a man. We know He is going to be Semitic. We know He is going to come from Abraham's line, but is Messiah going to be from Ishmael's line or from Isaac's line?

As you move through the Bible, the information gets clarified, which takes us to number four: the Messiah must be from Isaac's line. You might remember, as God was dealing with Abram in Genesis 15:2-4, He had this promise that there was coming one through his household who will bless the world. His wife and himself were a bit beyond child bearing and rearing age, so he thought, "God must be talking about a common servant in my household named Eliezer of Damascus."

"Abram said, 'O Lord God, what will You give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'Since You have given no offspring to me, one born in my house is my heir.' Then behold, the word of the Lord came to him, saying, 'This man will not be your heir; but one who will come forth from your own body, he shall be your heir'" (Genesis 15:2-4).

"He is not going to be a servant. He is going to come forth from your own seed." The years rolled on, and God had not made good on His word, so Abram and Sarai decided to help God out. "Poor, poor God, what is He going to do? We have to jumpstart this thing"—which is the definition of religion.

The definition of religion is man helping God. God does not need our help. He does not need my good works to save me. He is completely capable of doing it independent of my good works. Every time we try to help God out, we make a total mess of things, do we not? In Genesis 16, you remember Abram and Sarai hatched a plot. "Why don't you go in and impregnate Hagar?" I noticed that Abram does not argue with his wife about that. "That sounds like a great idea, Sweetie." "Why don't you go down and implant your seed in Hagar, and then the Messiah is going to come forth through the Hagar line."

They tried to help God out, and they were so happy at what they had done that once Ishmael is born, Abraham brings Ishmael to the Lord, and says, "Lord, look what I have done for you." So that is in Genesis 17 eight and nine it says,

"And Abraham said to God, 'Oh that Ishmael might live before You!' But God said, 'No'" (Genesis 17:18-19).

There are two plans that God said no to, to Abraham—it is not going to be Eliezer of Damascus, and it is not going to be Ishmael. God said, "No, it is not Hagar that is going to give birth to the Messiah. It is your wife, whose womb is dead from the human perspective."

"And Abraham said to God, 'Oh that Ishmael might live before You!' But God said, 'No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him'" (Genesis 17:18-19).

Eternity. The eternal covenant is not going to come through Ishmael, but it is going to come through Isaac. It is going to come through Sarah, but not Hagar. This is the point, as you probably know, where Muslims at this point reverse the two. They just rewrite the Bible. But that is not what the Bible says. The Bible is very clear. It is not as if God did not love Ishmael; He did. But in terms of the bringing forth of the Messiah, the Messiah is going to come through the lineage of Isaac and not Ishmael. God on this point could not be clearer.

We know that the Messiah must be from Isaac's line, but we have a problem because Isaac and Rebecca had more than one son. Their two sons were Esau and Jacob. So which of these two sons is the Messiah going to come from? That takes us to number five: the Messiah must come from Jacob's line, not Esau's line. That prophecy is given in the Book of Numbers, in Numbers 24:17. It is an amazing Christmas passage, as I will show you.

The context of this prophecy is the Nation of Israel, after the Egyptian bondage, had left Egypt, passed through the Red sea, and they went to Mount Sinai and received the Law. They went up to the southern border of Canaan at a place called Kadesh Barnea to enter the land, and they fell into unbelief. God said, "I am not going to work with this generation anymore. I am going to work with your kids."

Because they could not enter at Kadesh Barnea, they went down around the southern portion of the Dead Sea and went east through an area called the Transjordan. By the time you finish the Book of Numbers, that generation is moving through the Transjordan east of Israel, and they are poised to enter Canaan. Here is a map showing you the trajectory in the Book of Numbers.



Everything is fine until a guy named Balak figures out these Jews are coming through his land in the Transjordan, and he is not happy. You might remember that Balak, a Moabite, was a descendant of Lot who had an incestuous relationship with his two daughters. That is where the Moabites and the Ammonites came from.

Here come these Jews, or Hebrews, tracking through his territory. Balak, the king of Moab, is not happy, so he hires somebody named Balaam to curse them. Balaam is what I would call a prophet for profit. He was a religious leader, but he would do whatever he had to do. He was not an Israeli at all, he was from Mesopotamia, which is a big deal for Christmas. Be patient with me, because I will try to connect those dots for you.

Essentially what you have going on in Numbers 23 and 24 are seven oracles. Balak hires Balaam to curse the Jews. The problem is that God's hand of blessing is on the Jews, the Hebrews, so every time Balaam tried to utter a curse against Israel out of his mouth came a blessing. I guess the guy that paid him was not very happy about that.

These two chapters in your Bible, Numbers 23 and 24, constitute the seven oracles of Balaam, which were supposed to curse Israel but ended up blessing Israel. Every time you see this language, "he picked up his oracle and said," that is a new oracle. You will find that language in Numbers 23:7: "He picked up his oracle and said"; also in Numbers 23:18; 24:3, 15, 20, and 21: "he picked up his oracle and he said." That is why we know there are seven of these oracles.

They are amazing to study, but I only have time to focus on the fourth one because the fourth oracle is messianic. That is why I had you turn to Numbers 24:17. This is what

Balaam said as he was trying to curse Israel as they were coming through the Transjordan, but a blessing came out instead:

*"I see him now, but not now;
I behold him, but not near
A star shall come forth from Jacob,
A scepter shall rise from Israel,
And shall crush through the forehead of Moab,
And tear down the sons of Sheth"* (Numbers 24:17).

This fourth oracle is messianic; it is a statement of the coming Messiah analogized to a star. The first thing you notice here is this coming star is going to come not from Esau's line, but from Jacob's line. You see that right there in the text. In other words, the Messiah, when He comes, will not just be a descendant of Abraham, He will not just be a descendant of Isaac, but He will be a descendant of Jacob. This is the first time that we understand He will be an Israelite—He will be a Hebrew.

What the Holy Spirit has just done is eliminate all of the other Semite Gentile nations as possible candidates for bringing forth the Messiah, focusing specifically upon the Nation of Israel. Do we all understand that Jesus was Jewish? Jesus was not a Southern Baptist, and in Texas I can probably get lynched for saying that, but He was not a Southern Baptist. He was not a Methodist. He was not a Presbyterian. He was not even a Bible Church guy, much to our chagrin. He was as Jewish as they come. His whole ministry took place within the borders of Israel. He never left the borders of Israel.

There are a lot of people out running around pure propaganda. I saw this in Bethlehem, which is controlled by the Palestinian Authority. Boy, they know how to put up the propaganda. There is a big wall that everybody has to look at as you are moving in and out, and they are trying to argue that Jesus is a Palestinian. These pictures of Jesus with the keffiyeh on are very, very common.

In fact, the Pope made news. I got this from X:

"Breaking: The fake pope that never condemned October 7 massacre, today attended an exhibition showing a Palestinian Jesus (resting on a Palestinian keffiyeh). Someone should tell this "pope" that Jesus was born, raised, and died as a Jew living in Judea."²

Here is another article about the Pope:

"Pope Francis inaugurates the nativity scene in Vatican showing baby Jesus on keffiyeh. Pontiff, who recently called to investigate Israel for

² @Dr.EliDavid, "Breaking: The fake pope that never condemned October 7 massacre, today attended an exhibition showing a Palestinian Jesus..." X, December 7, 2024, 3:09 PM, <https://x.com/DrEliDavid/status/1865503833473904653>.

genocide, preaches end to all war, as he dedicates a scene by Palestinian artists, to be displayed in Vatican's Paul VI Hall."³

The propaganda is very thick on this. By the way, this is the same pope that condemns Donald Trump wanting to build a wall around the United States. He says it is unspiritual, when the man lives behind a wall—and it is a big wall that he lives behind. I am pointing this out to show you the type of propaganda that your children and your grandchildren are under. They are being told that Jesus was a Palestinian, which is an absurd and ridiculous statement to make because the name "Palestine" does not even appear in the Bible.

The name "Palestine" was invented by Hadrian in the second century A.D., after the canon of Scripture was shut, and after the Jews had been pushed out of their homeland by the Romans. He tried to de-Judaize the land by coming up with a derivative for the land after the enemy of the Israelis, which was the Philistines in the Old Testament. He said, "We will just call the land not Philistine, but Palestine," and that is where "Palestine" comes from. It is an anti-Semitic term used to pretend that the Jews were never in that land.

The propaganda is so thick that they want the world to believe that Jesus Himself was a Palestinian. No, He was not a Palestinian—He was Hebrew. He was a physical descendant of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob; that is what your Bible says.

In the prophecy of Balaam:

*"I see him, but not now;
I behold him, but not near;
A star shall come forth from Jacob,
A scepter shall arise from Israel"* (Numbers 24:17).

It analogizes the coming of the Messiah to a star, which is on all your Christmas cards. The wise men say in Matthew 2:2:

"For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him"
(Matthew 2:2).

The East in the Bible is always Babylon—always. The Garden of Eden was in the east, between the two rivers, the Euphrates and the Tigris, which I would guess is modern-day Babylon, depending upon how the global flood altered the topography of the earth. The Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:2) is in Babylon, in the Land of Shinar. Shinar is the Hebrew term for "country of two rivers," the Euphrates and the Tigris, in modern-day Iraq.

³ Times of Israel Staff, "Pope Francis inaugurates nativity scene in Vatican showing baby Jesus on Keffiyeh," *Times of Israel*, December 8, 2024, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/pope-francis-inaugurates-nativity-scene-in-vatican-showing-baby-jesus-on-keffiyeh/>.

When it says that the wise men came from the east following a star, it is telling us that they came from Babylon to worship the Christ child. Here are these wise men making this 350-mile journey from Babylon to pay homage to the Christ-child following the star. At some point, you have to ask yourself: Why are they following this strange occurrence in the sky? The star? What would ever give them the incentive to? "There is the star. Let us pick up and go and worship the king." What would ever give them the incentive to do that?

The reason they are doing that is because they had a knowledge of Balaam's Oracle. How do you know they had a knowledge of Balaam's oracle? Because Balaam lived in Mesopotamia.

"Because they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you" (Deuteronomy 23:4).

This guy that Balak hired to curse Israel, that ended up blessing Israel seven times and ended up giving a messianic blessing, lived in the same area where the Magi came from thousands of years later. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that they had some awareness of this prophecy that the Messiah is going to come associated with a star. They were looking for these strange occurrences in the skies through the generations. When they saw one like the star we read about in Matthew's gospel, they started following it.

This is a rebuke to the Nation of Israel. The Nation of Israel had a whole Old Testament canon—Tanakh—and they could not figure out who the Messiah was. Here are these guys coming from the East, a place of infamy, by the way. It is like saying these guys came from Vegas—they came from Babylon. The Tower of Babel was in Babylon. That is where idolatry spread over the earth. Here are these guys with one prophecy, and they had enough faith to make the journey 350 miles from the East into the Land of Israel. The prophecy that they are aware of was Balaam's prophecy.

In the second hour, I will show you that they had two prophecies. They had Daniel's prophecy of the 70 weeks, which is ultra specific, concerning when the Messiah was going to be born. We will build on that foundation in the next hour. At this point, we know pretty well that the Messiah is going to be a Hebrew, but we need more information, because within the Land of Israel there are many tribes—twelve tribes.

From which of these tribes is the Messiah going to be born? That takes us to number six: when the Messiah comes, He must come from the tribe of Judah. He is not going to come from Manasseh, Dan, Asher, Naphtali, or Reuben. It is very specific that He will be born as a man, as a Semite, as an Israeli, from the tribe of Judah.

Where are we getting this from? We are getting it from Genesis 49:10. This is relevant to our study in the Book of Genesis. This is Jacob giving prophecies about the Tribes—

his boys, Jacob's Dozen—at the end of his life. When he gets to Judah, he makes this statement:

*"The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh comes,
And to him shall be the obedience of the peoples"* (Genesis 49:10).

This is saying that Judah will not lose its tribal identity until the one comes who has full rights to the scepter. In other words, the Holy Spirit just gave us the exact tribe that the Messiah is going to come from. He is going to come from the tribe of Judah. This becomes a big deal as you move through the Scripture. Jesus has the rights that He has because He comes from the right tribe, the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10).

In fact, Revelation 5:5, which is Jesus taking a seven-sealed scroll: the title deed to planet Earth. Everybody in heaven is crying because no one has the right to open it. If this stays shut, who runs the universe forever? The devil. Once it is opened, the title deed to the earth, which was forfeited in Eden, is reclaimed. Everybody is crying because nobody is qualified to open it, when suddenly everybody gets happy because there is someone qualified to open it. He has the right credentials to open it.

"And one of the elders said to me, 'Stop weeping: behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals'" (Revelation 5:5).

Jesus has the right to open that seven-sealed scroll because He is from the right tribe according to messianic prophecy.

If you are studying the Book of Hebrews, this is a big deal because the author of Hebrews is trying to show that Jesus has a superior priesthood than Aaron. We know that because if Jesus was just going to be another run of the mill ordinary priest, He would have been born in which tribe? Levi. But He was not born in Levi; He was born in Judah.

The kings of Israel come from which tribe? Judah—Jesus being a king. So Jesus brought in a priesthood that is higher than Aaron simply by documenting the area of His birth, the tribal area being Judah. The Holy Spirit just eliminated all the other Israeli tribes from bringing forth the Messiah.

We still need more information, do we not? Because there are many families within Judah, which family is it going to be that will bring forth the Messiah? This takes us to number seven: the Messiah, when He comes, must be born from the family of Jesse. That is a prophecy you will find in Isaiah 11:1. Keep in mind that this is 700 years before Jesus was born. All of these other prophecies. I am giving you—most of them from Genesis or Torah—are written 1,500 years before Jesus was born. Seven hundred years before Jesus is born, Isaiah wrote:

*"Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse,
And a branch from his roots will bear fruit" (Isaiah 11:1).*

It is identifying the family line that the Messiah is going to come from. Who is this branch coming from the stem of Jesse? Read the rest of the chapter, and it is very clear that it is talking about a Messiah who is going to bring to the earth a type of peace where there will not even be conflict in the animal kingdom anymore. A small child will put his hand into the cobra's nest and not be injured (Isaiah 11:6-8). "Hey, where is Junior? Oh, he is in the backyard with his hand in the cobra's nest." Everyone is fine with that—pass the salt and pepper, pass the ketchup—it is just ordinary.

There will be total peace in the animal kingdom, and the earth is filled with the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:9). The branch is the one that brings all this in. The branch is the Messiah.

*"But with righteousness He will judge the poor,
And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth;
And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth,
And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked" (Isaiah 11:4).*

This is like the way Paul talks about the coming of the Messiah—He will overthrow the Antichrist *"with the breath of his mouth and...the splendor of his coming"* (2 Thessalonians 2:8).

This is the Messiah. The Messiah is going to be born from Jesse's line within Judah, within Israel, within the Semitic people groups of the earth, and He will be a male. Now we have a problem because Jesse had more than one son. He has eight sons, and we know that because it says that in 1 Samuel 16:10-11:

"Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, 'The Lord has not chosen these.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are these all the children?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep'" (1 Samuel 16:10-11).

This guy was so little that Jesse did not even bring him out. "Just keep doing your chores in the back. We will take care of business here with the prophet."

"Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here'" (1 Samuel 16:11).

That is where we learn that of Jesse's sons, eight total, one of them the youngest is going to be the next king. See how God constantly contradicts the workings of man? The rights go to the firstborn in the ancient Near East, but God says, "Not this time around. The king is going to be the youngest, David."

This takes us to number eight: the Messiah must be from the line of David. Where are we getting this from? Second Samuel 7:8-16, which is a reference to the Davidic Covenant:

"Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the Lord of hosts, 'I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel'''" (2 Samuel 7:8).

Rulership is coming through David's line.

""Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever"" (2 Samuel 7:16).

In other words, David is going to be the king, although he was the youngest of eight. From David is going to come an eternal dynasty; a forever throne is going to come through David's line. This is where we learn that the Messiah must be from the line of David.

But David has more than one son, right? Through which of David's many sons is the Messiah going to come? This takes us to number nine: the Messiah must come from Solomon's line, David's son. Where do we get that from? We get it from 1 Chronicles 28:2:

"Then King David rose to his feet and said...'Of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons)' (1 Chronicles 28:2, 5).

We know that the Messiah is going to be a Davidite, but we do not know from which specific line within the household of David this eternal dynasty is going to be ushered in. Here we get clarification:

"Then King David rose to his feet and said...'Of all my sons (for the Lord has given me many sons), He has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the Lord over Israel'" (1 Chronicles 28:2, 5).

The Messiah, when He comes, will come through Solomon's line. Do you see what God has done here? Traveling through the Bible? How clue after clue after clue after clue is given, identifying exactly from whom or from where the Messiah is going to be born? Anybody that shows up and says, "I am the Messiah," had better have their papers in order, because they have to fit a specific set of criteria, that I think coming together in a single human being is mathematically impossible.

The Messiah, number one, must be a man (Genesis 3:15). The Messiah, number two, must be Semitic (Genesis 9:26). The Messiah, number three, must be from Abraham's line. (Genesis 12:3). The Messiah, number four, must be from Isaac's line (Genesis 17:18-19). We do not even know if He is Hebrew or not yet, but then you get here to number five, and the Messiah must be from Jacob's line (Numbers 24:17).

That comes from Balaam, who was a resident of Mesopotamia, which is where the Magi came from in the New Testament, as it is recorded. Now we understand why they are following a star—they had access to Balaam's Oracle. There were seven oracles, but the fourth one is the one that is a big deal in terms of the birth of Christ. That one is messianic.

Number six, we know He is Jewish, But what tribe is He coming from? The Messiah must be from the tribe of Judah. Number seven, of all of the families in Judah, which of these is going to bring forth the Messiah? He will be the branch from Jesse. But Jesse has eight kids, so that takes us to number eight: the Messiah must come from David's line, Jesse being David's father, David being the youngest of the eight. David has many sons. He told the Lord, "Lord, You gave me many sons, through which is the Messiah going to come?" It is not until you get to 1 Chronicles 28:4-7 that we see the Messiah must come from the Solomonic line.

With all of that being said, go over to Matthew 1:1-18. This is the genealogy of Jesus. Let us just be honest, folks, how many people really pay attention to Matthew 1? For most of us, our eyes glaze over a bunch of weird names. We are reading this and we think, "When are we going to get to the miracles? When are we going to get to the baptism?" Our eyes glaze over and we do not appreciate Matthew 1.

Matthew 1 is a genealogical record of Jesus from the time of Jesus backing up to Abraham. There are countless names mentioned. When you read through Matthew 1:1-17, you are going to see all the names that I already mentioned, except the ones that predate Abraham, because Matthew is writing to a Jewish audience. He is trying to show that Jesus has the right to Israel's kingdom because His genealogy goes back to Abraham. We learned earlier that it goes beyond Abraham, but that is why Matthew 1 stops at Abraham, because it is the genealogy through His father Joseph. It is trying to show that Jesus has the rights to the Davidic Kingdom.

He is skipping generations. I do not think in Genesis 5 and 11 any generations are skipped; but here, because it is such a massive amount of data, he has to skip generations or else this Bible would read like the IRS tax code. You can be happy that they skip a few generations here. He picks 14.

"So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation in Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations" (Matthew 1:17).

Matthew says, "I am going to pick 14 generations from now back to the Babylonian captivity, another 14 generations from the Babylonian captivity to David, and another 14 generations from David back to Abraham, because I want Israel to understand who they rejected as their King." Matthew, who is writing after the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus, says, "I want you to understand why the kingdom is in a state of

postponement—not cancellation, but postponement—because the Nation of Israel turned this guy down. He had all of these prophecies come together in His own life, many of which revolving around the birth of Jesus Christ."

Have you ever asked yourself why Matthew picks 14 generations? Why not thirteen? Why not fifteen? Why? "Why, Matthew, as a Jew are you talking about 14 generations?" It has to do with gematria.

Gematria is where ancient languages like Greek and Hebrew had a number attached to them. You could take someone's name in Greek and you could take someone's name in Hebrew, and you could assign the right number to the right letter, and you could add up the digits, and everybody's name could be converted to a number. That, by the way, is how to understand the Antichrist having the number 666, whoever he is—and he will be a "he" too. The women said, "We knew that was going to be the case." Whoever the Antichrist is, when he shows up, you will be able to take his name and get the number 666.

You cannot use his title. This is where the preterists are all confused. They are trying to say the Antichrist is Nero, because they have to throw in the title to make it work. Revelation 13:18 says that the number of his name is six hundred and sixty-six.

I do not plan on being here when this happens. "Pastor, I do not know about all that Rapture stuff." "Do not worry about it; we will explain it to you on the way up."

When the Antichrist comes, you will be able to take his name, convert it into Greek, assign the right digit to the right letter, add it up, and it will yield the total 666. That is why the whole world will know or should know who the Antichrist is. There is no excuse for taking the mark of the beast during that time period. That is basically what gematria is.

When you take David's name in Hebrew and you attach the right digits to the right letter and you add it up, you know what David's number comes to? It comes to 14. That is why Matthew says, "Let us talk about 14 generations from this point back to the captivity and another 14 generations, skipping generations, from the captivity to David, and another 14 generations from David to Abraham."

Matthew could have picked any number he wanted if he was going to randomly skip generations, but he picked 14 because that is another literary clue who Jesus is. He is the one that had the right to Israel's throne, whom the Nation of Israel rejected. That is the significance of this genealogy.

As you look through this genealogy, you will see most of the names that we have talked about. For example, in this genealogy, you will see the names: Solomon (number 15), David (number 14), Jesse, (number 13), Judah (number 4), Jacob (numbers 3), Isaac (numbers 2), and Abraham (number 1).

Why is Matthew giving all of this information? Because he downloaded our Bible study this morning, right? No. He knows his Old Testament, and he knows which direction the Old Testament points to. This is what I mean by a Christmas convergence.

We get more specific. Where is the Messiah going to be born? How is the Messiah going to be born? When is the Messiah going to be born? As much as we condemn date setters today—and rightfully so, because the Bible never gives us a date for the Rapture—these people should have been date setters, because the prophecies are so specific that they not only reveal where and how, but when.