

Presentation of the Lord

Promises Fulfilled

The Scriptural passages about the birth of Jesus in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke are rich in symbols and prophecy. The Gospel writers are careful to point out to their Jewish audiences that Jesus is the Messiah sent by God into the world:

Jesus was born in Bethlehem, also the birthplace of King David (read Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:1-5; cf. Numbers 24:17; 1 Samuel 17:12; Micah 5:1-3).

Genealogies are included connecting Jesus to Joseph, Mary's husband and descendant of King David (read Matthew 1:1-17; Luke 3:23-38).

An angel appears to shepherds announcing the birth of Jesus (read Luke 2:10-11; cf. Psalm 23):

The connections to the Old Testament messianic prophecies continued throughout the life of Jesus. For example, the Messiah would be a suffering servant (read Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17; 20:25-28; 26:26-30).

When Jesus was a baby, Mary and Joseph presented him in the

Temple as custom. Others began to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Simeon and Anna, representing many devout Jews who were waiting for Israel's new king, were overcome with joy. While holding the baby Jesus in his arms, blessing God, Simeon said:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

LUKE 2:29-32

Simeon's joyful prayer gives witness to the fulfillment of God's promise that he will send a savior not just for Israel, but for all peoples. In time, billions of people will believe that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is Lord and Savior of all, Prince of Peace, and King of Kings.

► Share with a partner why you believe Jesus is the Savior of the world..