

## CHRISTMAS – A Gift Giving Time

Whether it is a bicycle for Bobby, a monster truck for Mickey, a scarf for Ellie, a longboard for Jaime, or a basketball for Ben, smiley faces and happy hearts are evident in both those who receive the gifts and those who give them.

The Christmas season will end and the gifts will have been opened and enjoyed. However, three months later the bicycle may be wrecked, the monster truck broken, the scarf torn, the longboard splintered, and the basketball stolen, but life will go on much the same way as before the gift giving.

Yet there is a gift that keeps on giving. What is it? No, it's not the energizer bunny. He eventually runs down. We read about the gift that keeps on giving in the New Testament Book of John. *John 3:16* says, "**For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.**"

He was the first and greatest Gift-Giver. We read *John 1:1, 4, 14*: "**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.**"

We have all heard the Christmas story of Jesus' birth, but some may not realize that His birth was the fulfillment of hundreds of Old Testament prophecies written 400 to 1,000 years before He was born. Our sharpest minds have a hard time predicting 5 years down the road, let alone 1,000 years with 100% accuracy in regard to circumstances, timing, and location.

**Below are a few prophecies concerning the birth of Jesus and their fulfillment:**

### **Old Testament Scripture Prophecy/New Testament Scripture Fulfillment**

- Genesis 22:18 – Promised through the **seed of Abraham**./Matthew 1:1
- Isaiah 11:1 – He will be born into the **family of Jesse**./Luke 3:32
- Jeremiah 23:5-6 – He will be born into the **House of David**./Luke 3:31
- Micah 5:2 – He will be born in **Bethlehem**./Luke 2:4-7
- Isaiah 7:14 – He will be born of a **virgin**./Matthew 1:18
- Psalm 72:10 - **Kings** will bring gifts and worship Him./Mathew 2:11
- Psalm 72:9 - **Shepherds** will worship Him./Luke 2:9-20
- Isaiah 9:6 - He will be called **Prince of Peace**./Acts 5:31
- Psalm 2:7 – He will be called **Lord**./Luke 2:11
- Isaiah 19:20 - He will be called **Savior**./2 Peter 1:11
- Psalm 2:7 – He is the **Son of God**./Mark 1:11

This week, I urge you to quiet your heart and think back to the time when Christmas became so much more than just a holiday to give and receive gifts. Remember when you received the gift of new life in Christ, the Giver of Life, as well as the gifts He continues to give you. Six of these gifts are:

1. The Gift of **Salvation** (*1Thessalonians 5:9*).
2. The Gift of **Eternal Life** (*John 3:16*).
3. The Gift of His **Unconditional Love** (*1John 3:1*).
4. The Gift of **Peace** (*John 14:27*).
5. The Gift of **Answered Prayer** (*Matthew 21:22*)
6. The Gift of **God's Goodness** from everything He allows to come our way (*Romans 8:28*).

**REMEMBER! REMEMBER! REMEMBER!** (*Psalm 111:4*)

**"I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds. Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God?"** (*Psalm 77:11-13*)

**Dave Dagwell**  
**Assistant to the President**  
**Capitol Commission**