

12-14-25 Message

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SPEAKERS

Pastor Dow Boyer

So anyway, excited to be here today. I mean, we're kind of, we've been kind of talking about some Christmas themed messaging here on on these Sundays that we have, which really we got this week and next week, and then we'll already be into that. So I wanted to just talk a little bit about the prophecy of Christ's birth today. And hopefully this will be interesting for you, and hopefully that those who are at home aren't glad that they stayed home, maybe if they don't like this content, but I think it'll be good. So hopefully you guys will bear with me a little bit today. So let's open up with a word of prayer, and then we will get started. Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for the people of grace. Point Lord, whether they're at home or here, we know that some of our people live far out. Some of them had a easier trek than others, and for some of us, for health reasons and different things, couldn't make it here today. But Lord, I am confident that there are quite a few that are either watching now on live stream or we'll watch it later. So we're just thankful for the people of grace point. I pray keep us safe. I pray we'd have a good turnout tonight, but we do. Thank you, Lord, that nothing catches you off guard, Lord, and that you this the day that you've made, and we will rejoice and be glad in it. And we thank You, Lord for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and that He was buried and rose again three days later. Lord, if we will just receive that gospel message by faith, Lord, that we will be with you in heaven for all eternity. So certainly, whoever's watching this or live here and in person, Lord, I pray that each and everyone of us has done that today. We love you and praise you in Jesus name, Amen. Alright, so we start talking about the things like words, like prophecies, right? And I think it's interesting that this whole idea of a baby being born is something that the world has accepted terms of it. In fact, Hollywood has stole the storyline quite a bit, if we think about so many movies involve like a prophecy and a kid, right? I mean, whether that is Anakin and you know, you're dealing with that Star Wars thing, and really, even a little bit of Harry Potter enters into that realm as well. But so much of that storyline just you find it everywhere. It's something about a prophecy the chosen one wonder where they got that information from, right? And so really want to talk a little bit about this, because I think this is one of the things that sets the Bible apart from any other religious text. And I think that this is something today that hopefully will encourage you to be able to trust what God says. And that's the point, really, of today, you see a lot of prophecies concerning the birth of Christ, His earthly ministry, his death, and even the kingdom after resurrection. So some of these have not been fulfilled yet, but anything involving his birth, earthly ministry and death have been fulfilled. And some some things in the Bible that were prophecies were more like types like Boaz as a kinsman redeemer was a type of Christ. And then some of the Psalms were dealing with real things that were happening, but they were also messianic Psalms, and a good example that would have been Psalm 22 it's clearly like even in verse one, where he says, My God, My God, why has thou forsaken me? Those would be Jesus's exact words on the cross, right? So you have those as well, and then you have, as we talked about last week, like the main three, the big three, and there sometimes is a fourth one, but the Christmas card verses involving prophecy, and those are ones I really want to take some time to talk about today. I think it will encourage you. There's one, though, that sometimes gets looped into the whole Christmas card

verses and the birth of Christ that I'm going to challenge you with here in these first few minutes, that it has nothing to do with the birth of Christ, and that is John 316 you find this one quite a bit on cards as well. But John 316 says God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. And this was something I was going to bring up last week, but time was not going to permit so I found a way to squeeze this in to this week. And so imma ask you to hang in there with me for a few minutes. I'm probably going to show you something that you've not seen before. Might be a few of you in here that have but this verse quite often is used in reference to Jesus being born. The word begotten really comes from the Greek of monogeneous, and it basically just means single of its kind, only one, one of one, if you will. So that's really what this begotten term is that people will hang on to so let's just investigate this for a little bit. Right? Hebrews 11, seven. We're going to talk about this one first. This is this whole hall of faith chapter in the Bible, but says, By faith, Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac and he had received the promises, offered up his only but. Begotten son now was Isaac Abraham's first son. He was not Ishmael was it's interesting here, though, in Hebrews 11 seven, using this terminology, his only begotten Son, that would be single of its kind only that would kind of be the differentiation here, because what we're trying to avoid is that Jesus was created. That's we talked about last week. Jesus was 100% God and 100% man, right? And that's why this is an important verse to really talk through a little bit. But now, if we're going to back up a little bit. Psalm, chapter two says something really interesting. It says, Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion, I will declare the decree the Lord has said unto me, Thou art my Son. This day have I begotten thee. So the question becomes, is, well, what is this day? Well, it was the birth of Christ, right? I don't believe so. But here it is in Psalms, this day have I begotten thee. So we've got the John 316 we've got another scripture here written quite a bit before John 316 where this psalm is saying, This day, have I begotten these so we need to figure out what is this day. And if you're familiar with Paul's first public sermon, it's going to help you quite a bit with this. We do a lot of comparison with right divide, with Rightly dividing with Peter's sermon in Acts, chapter two, verses, Paul's in Acts. Chapter 13. And how different they are. However, there's one piece of this that gives us a little bit of insight, and that's acts 1333, it says God hath fulfilled the same unto us, their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again, as it is also written in the second Psalm. Thou art my Son. This day have I begotten thee, kind of takes the mystery out of Psalm two, seven, if acts 13, Paul's going to say as it's written in the second Psalm, talking about the resurrection of Jesus Christ, this day have I begotten thee? Well, that's not usually how we read that, but that's what Scripture is teaching here. But there's a little bit more to give you evidence to this position that this day that Jesus was begotten had everything to do with his resurrection and not his earthly birth. Romans one four declared to be the Son of God. Similar phrasing here, with power according to the spirit of holiness, how by the resurrection from the dead, or First Peter one three, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which, according to his abundant mercy. Listen to this terminology. Hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, or Revelation one five and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten. Keep reading of the dead and the prince of the kings of the earth unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood. You know, I go big deal. What's the point of talking about this? Well, it's the same as last week. But if we're going to talk about the prophecies and we're going to talk about Jesus being born, then we shouldn't attribute certain scripture that really was not talking about that at all. See when Jesus was accepted from his resurrected state, he was the first and only begotten unto the Lord. One day in the future, we will be resurrected, right? And so I think that's very important kind of as we're looking at this. It's not ideal as far as trying to nail the point home for what I'm about to talk about. But if we're going to talk about verses, you're like, why didn't you cover that verse? This is why I believe 100% that this was a this was talking about Jesus from his resurrected status. And that's really what when Jesus was talking in John chapter 316, was kind of a shadow of how he is the only begotten son. You can agree, disagree, or whatever, but that is why I'm not looping it with these next verses when I'm talking about the Christmas verses. So let's get to the ones that are usually on your Christmas cards outside of that one that occasionally is given. Alright, the first

one is going to be Isaiah, chapter nine, verse six. Now, here's, let me, here's, let me tell you something about Isaiah. First of all, Isaiah was a prophet to the northern kingdom. These were the 10 Tribes that separated. This goes clear back to Jeroboam and Rehoboam, and this. Told Rehoboam, with the really bad advice, he was Solomon's son, and his friends told him, You should just be harsh to Jeroboam, and then it causes big division. So Bethlehem, I'm sorry. Bethlehem, Benjamin and Judah are the southern kingdom. The other 10 Tribes are northern kingdom. 10 Tribes. When you start reading First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles, you start reading through there, you see that most of the bad kings were the kings from the northern tribes. In fact, they go into captivity about 150 years before the southern tribe. So Isaiah was a prophet to the northern kingdom. This is key, because it's going to kind of give you a time Stan, right? He was doing most of his ministry in the seven hundreds. But if they were taking captivity in 727, then what he's about to say in Isaiah was a little bit before that. And I think that's important, when we come full circle, to know time frames here. Isaiah nine, six, says unto us, a child is born unto us, a son is given. And the rest of the verse here is going to deal more with the kingdom, but this was how he entered into his earthly existence. And it says, the government shall be upon his shoulder. That's the kingdom. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. So it's all dealing kind of with the kingdom. But the first part of this verse is dealing with the birth of Jesus, and this was fulfilled in Luke, chapter one, verse 32 through 33 He shall be great. Shall be called the Son of the Highest. The Lord God shall give unto him a throne of his father David. He shall reign over the house of Jacob forever his kingdom, there shall have neither shall be no end. And so almost, probably, almost 800 years later, the thing that Jesus or the thing that happened on earth that was prophesied earlier, actually took place. Say, 800 years later. We know Philippians two nine says, it'll be a name which is above every name. Those were some of those names given there. Now that was Isaiah nine, six. And then the other one is Isaiah 714 this is going to be a little bit more specific. It's going to have really three facts here that we can check on this. So Isaiah 714 says, Therefore the LORD shall give you a sign, Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel. So once again, probably 750, years roughly, before the events took place. But in Matthew chapter one, verses 18 through 23 this is what said the birth of Jesus Christ was on the wise when, as his mother, Mary, was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph, her husband, being a just man and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou Son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. She shall bring forth a son and shall call his name Jesus, for he shall save His people from their sins. Now all this was done listen that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken by the Lord, by the prophet 750, years later, right, Behold, a virgin with child and sorry, a virgin shall be with child and shall bring forth a son. They shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted as God with us here, Matthew is saying that what has happened was a fulfillment of this prophecy, which was about 750 years earlier. Now the other author of one of these Christmas card verses is Micah. Micah was a contemporary of Isaac Isaiah, and so he was writing roughly about the same time to the northern tribes, which is helpful to understand time frame, right? Because the southern tribe goes into captivity in 586, Jeremiah. He's primarily the biggest prophet to the southern to the southern kingdom. However, Micah and Isaiah both were to the north. It says, thou Bethlehem Ephrata, though thou be little among the 1000s of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto thee that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from old, from everlasting. Now this was fulfilled. We're gonna read two different passages here. We're going to find out how this came to be and how Bethlehem played a role. But in Matthew chapter two, starting in verse one, it says, When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, okay, that's a fulfillment there of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the East to Jerusalem saying, King. Where is he that is born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east and have come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes and people together, he demanded of them

where Christ should be born, and they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet. Really no, no reason here to doubt anything. It's just point blank says this right. It says, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are not the least among the princes of Judah, for out of thee shall come a Governor that shall rule my people Israel. Matthew, saying this was prophesied about 700 years before. Luke, chapter two, verses four through seven, and Joseph also went up into unto sorry, went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth into Judea unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because now it's going to give us a little bit more information about why Bethlehem unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, parentheses, because he was of the house and lineage of David to be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was that while they were they were there. The days were accomplished that she should be delivered, and she brought forth her first born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. So there was a census, which drove them to Bethlehem to fulfill prophecy from 750 years before, roughly. So we see a lot here, just in these three verses here, that God was very meticulous. God spoke through the prophets to say what was going to happen, and it happened. Now, here's the crazy thing about this. Is this, when you understand what happened to the northern tribes? They were taken into captivity by the Assyrians. So this word had to be supernaturally preferred, or sorry, preserved, and then had to be protected, and had to keep going through captivity, through 400 years of silence between Malachi and Matthew to pop up again and for them to be able to say this is in accordance to what God said. Now, I don't think we really catch that, I guess, catch the significance in all of the major prophets and Minor Prophets. What took place for us to be able to have them as part of canon, because you constantly had Israel being ransacked, both we're talking about North and South, right, being taken captivity, ransacked. People being brought in, people being taken apart. Remember Josiah? For longest time, they couldn't even find the law. But somehow these these parchments, made it through exactly the way they were supposed to God's exact words, and then we're able to look back 750 years and say, these were fulfilled. This was just three. It's estimated, depending who you talk to, that there's anywhere from three to 500 prophecies in the Old Testament about Jesus, and that at least 1/3 of those are dealing with his birth, and he fulfilled every single one of them. What other religion can boast of that, even if you're on the fence saying, Well, I don't really know. I mean as there really only one way to heaven and all these things here, what can we really trust? It just doesn't make sense, right? Well, what God has done that He set us up to prove that nothing in this world could stop His Word and His truth from going out. It wasn't captivity, it wasn't wars, it wasn't isolation, it wasn't his people going separate. It wasn't even the silence of 400 years after after Malachi was written. None of that mattered, because here we are in the first century here, and we've got scripture being fulfilled, and even the writers in Scripture saying this happened that it would be fulfilled. That is amazing. And now I tried to put this into something that maybe I would understand. Maybe it's because I'm a little slow, maybe I need an object lesson. I don't know. So Imma take you on a little journey with me. In 2016 when I turned 40 years old, just dated myself, right? I had a goal, and I wanted to be on the Isle of sky on my 40th birthday. That's in Scotland. And we set this goal, and I was working for Kanaka Minolta, and then through a weird set of circumstances, that position got eliminated, and I find myself here full time at the church, and we're kind of like, well, there went that dream, a pastoral salary that's not going to get us there in nine months, or whatever. We had to work with. Rachel was working behind the scenes. We got there, and it was amazing. One of these stops that we made on our way to Scotland was in England. It was Northern England. It was a castle called Anak, but it looks like onwick, so if you ever research it online, but it's a really cool castle, and it really is. It was a sight to behold, but when you start going through the castle, it starts giving all of this history of the castle. And what was amazing about this castle is, like the Percy family purchased this castle in 1309, here I was there in 2016, 700 years later, I started thinking about this. What if there would have been a parchment? One single parchment, that would have said, and they dated this in the 1300s when they found it, and they would say that 700 years from now, a man is going to come here for his 40th birthday. Okay, well, that could happen. I mean, it could be from anywhere, right, but, but then let's imagine there was a second parchment by

a totally different author that they found in 1309 and it said something a little different. It said his name would be Dow. We've limited it down a little bit from there. I've never met another one even, even the Dow Jones is somebody's last name, right? And Dow Chemical Company and things like that. But let's say there was a third parchment by a different author, still 700 years old. And it says that Dow would be from Whiteland, Indiana. And you had these three parchments that were 700 years old. And here's what they would have had to survive when I started looking back to the history, because even though the Percy family had this castle in 1309, and we can visit it today. It had to survive the War of the Roses. The castle changed hands several times between Yorkist and Lancastrians during conflict. But somehow, not only would we have to have these parchments, they would have had to survive 700 years intact from its original intent with three different authors, and if we still had them 700 years later, and then I go walking through there on that day, they would be fulfilled. We would either say that was incredibly lucky, or we would have to step back and say, Man, there's some sorcery or something going on here. There's something supernatural going on. Because the odds of something like that happening go way beyond luck. If it was just a man visited on his 40th birthday, but three parchments, 700 years old, making it through a bunch of wars, all giving a little bit different information, all of which is culminated when I walk through those doors. At some point, we're stepping back and we're like, wow, somebody knew something back then. Here's the thing, though, that would have just been three people talking and writing parchments that were supernaturally preserved. The difference with what Isaiah and Micah wrote is that it was through Isaiah and through Micah. Second, Peter 120 and 21 says, Knowing this first that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man. It wasn't just a good idea. Somebody didn't just have a dream and say, I think I'm just going to write this down. But what we have collected in Scripture was God. It says holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. The author of this preserved Word of God is God Himself supernaturally preserved. And he proves that, because who else could have wrote those things and then have it fulfilled, right? Especially during a time period where we don't have internet, we're not freely giving information. And again, look at Josiah. How hard it wasn't even find the law, but somehow the prophets were preserved supernaturally and then revealed, and that God had to say, I'm just going to this is going to be the chef's kiss. There even has to be a census for him to be born in Bethlehem, 750 years earlier. The unique characteristics, and that's not even talking about so many other things that really aren't just specific to his birth, right? That John the Baptist a forerunner, Yep, that was written in Malachi three one. How specific was that? Right? We'll talk next week about race Rachel and the weeping of children. Yeah, it's because Herod slaughtering all the children. It's amazing when you start looking at all these prophecies and everything that was fulfilled. And I only gave you three things today, and only three things with. My journey from 2016 that would make you think this is more than just coincidence. In fact, not only was the Bible written by God through people, but Deuteronomy 1820 through 22 says something really interesting. You know that anybody who would speak for God in the Old Testament a prophet? That's what it means to speak for if they would ever say one thing that didn't come true, they were a false prophet, and they would be stoned to death. So Deuteronomy 1820, through 22 it says the Prophet which shall presume to speak a word in my Name which I have not commanded him to speak, or that speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die, we've totally taken off the shelf or off the possibility that these were just men who were just speaking of their own volition, and it was somehow supernaturally preserved. No, it was God's Word. In fact, it says, If thou say in thine heart, how shall we know that the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the Prophet hath spoken it presumptuously, Thou shalt not be afraid of him. God said, I said it in the Old Testament, and I did it because if I say it, I have to do it, or I'm not God. All these prophecies fulfilled, proving God was God. How else could all this happen? It's amazing. There's a man by the name of Peter Stoner, and some of you old timers probably know of Peter Stoner and his work, but he's been gone for a while now, but he wrote a series of articles and books in the 40s and 50s, and it was about science speaks scientific

proof of the accuracy of prophecy in the Bible. And the original was like 1944 a lot of people quote out as 1952 but here's what he did. And this was kind of interesting, if you think about this, but he was trying to figure out the astronomical odds of one person fulfilling all these prophecies. And his conclusion, obviously, was to point towards Only Jesus could have fulfilled all these prophecies. So here's what he did at Pasadena City College. He taught a class called Christian evidence, and it was sponsored by the inner varsity Christian Fellowship. He taught this class 12 times, and this was the result of 600 students, 12 classes, being taught. They did probabilities on whether or not that these could be fulfilled by anybody other than Jesus, and they started looking at eight main prophecies. Eventually, they looked at 48 now here's what they found, is that they said these eight main prophecies, starting out with the odds of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies is one and 10 to the 17th power. Then he went on to say, the probability of one person fulfilling 48 prophecies is one and 10 to the 150/7 power. Now we are certainly, at this point, really, on the level of impossibility. And then he said, Let me this was his quotes here. This is pretty interesting. He says, let's put this into perspective. Let's let's take 10 tickets. Let's put him in a hat. Let's mix them up, and let's blindfold a man and then have him pull one ticket out, right? And so this would be they've given you that whole one in 10 probability to start out with that before we start throwing all these zeros behind it. A blindfolded man the odds of him pulling out a specific ticket one in 10. And then this is where he kind of put everything in perspective. He said, Let's do 10 to the 17th power so that we can create a good visualization of this. And he says, suppose that we took silver dollars. And some of you have heard this before, but suppose we took silver dollars and we stacked them two foot deep. We'd have to cover the entire state of Texas, two foot deep and single or in silver dollars side by side. And he said, and here we're going to mark one of them. Just mark one of them out of the two foot deep entire state of Texas. Then we're going to blindfold a man, and we're going to tell him, you get to pick one. You can walk both coasts, north and south border, all over Texas. You get one choice. You get one pick. You get one silver dollar, and it has to be the one that we've marked. They're two foot deep. The entire state of Texas, that would be 10 to the 17th power. And when you when you soak that in, you're like, can we not trust God with what he says? I mean that we have the supernaturally preserved Word of God here. Day, and we are fortunate to have this. But in Jesus's day, they had canonized the Old Testament about 150 years before he was here. So he had supernaturally preserved even all of that to where they can look back and say, This is what the Prophet said. Now I look at this and I'm thinking to myself, why is this important? Well, and why is this so different, really, maybe, from a Christmas message and things like that. Well, the bottom line is, God cannot lie, and let's just start with that premise right now. And as a result of that, when you read Titus one, two, it says, In hope of eternal life, which God that cannot lie promised before the world began? Fact, numbers 2319, says God is not a man that he should lie, neither the Son of man that he should repent. Hath he said and shall he not do it, or hath he spoken? And shall he not make it good? Now for me, the full circle, this is if I'm trusting, trying to figure out, is there really only one path to heaven? Would a loving God not allow a bunch of different paths? Then I'm thinking to myself, If God says there's one way and God cannot lie, then how many ways are there? There's one and if God has promised each and every person watching or here today, that if you will place your faith in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and you'll receive that by faith today, right, that that you'll be with Him in Heaven for all eternity, and he cannot lie, then I can trust that, right? And then I can know that there's a way for me not to go to hell, and it comes through God's promised word. See, God can be trusted if there's, if there's a moral to come out of this today, or if there's something to really be I guess, re emphasize in our mind, in our heart, it's the fact that God cannot lie. And nothing you saw everything that could have stopped God's word from happening, if there's not a census here, right? Or if there happened to be a flood, or if they were successful in taking out all the children, any number of things could have happened to stop God's word from coming true, and it didn't. That means that no matter what Satan, no matter what the world, no matter what philosophers try to do, they cannot change the fact that there is only one way to God, and it is found through the shed blood of Jesus, Christ on the cross, and that if we place our faith and that alone, we will be with Him in

Heaven for all eternity. Nothing's going to stop that, nothing's going to change that, nothing's going to alter that, because God hath said it, and it's true. And so that's when I look back on on stuff like this. It's like everything God has said he's going to do, he has done nothing has been able to stop him. So when he says that I can keep you, I can preserve you, and that you will be with Me in Heaven for all eternity, we can trust that. When he says that there's no condemnation to you, which are in Christ, Jesus, we can trust that when he says that there's nothing that can separate you from my love, we can trust that, because God cannot lie. And I'm thinking, we can have lights, we can have trees, we can bring family together. But man, isn't that something worth celebrating today, that He's given us His word and he cannot lie? People have tried. They've tried to deter it, they've tried to discount it, and they just can't. And you know, we're still sitting here with it here today, that means Satan could never destroy it, and he won't ever be able to. So maybe be encouraged when you see manger scenes, when there's talk about the little baby when there's the Christmas cards that come across, maybe a reminder to you, and the conversations you can have with others is that all that had to happen for God to fulfill those prophecies. And we can trust God and what He says, and if we could trust God about what he said about a baby being born, that we can trust him for our salvation today. And by the way, it's not just a baby. It was God in flesh coming down. He was 100% God and 100% man. And so we celebrate the fact today that God cannot lie, which promised us. It's my hope and prayer today that you are trusting in the God who has told you the way he has shown you how to have eternal life today, and that you can take him at his word, because he cannot lie. Let's pray Dear Heavenly Father, thank you for this day. Thank you for the people that can make it out today certainly be a little bit more discouraging if there was only five or 10 of them, but, but Lord, regardless, Lord, this was about you today, and Lord, we are thankful that we can trust you, that your word is true, that you cannot lie. And the ramifications of that isn't just about the manger. It is about the cross. It is about the resurrection, and it is about the hope we have of resurrection, because we can trust what you say. Lord, we are thankful for that. Lord, I pray be at the people, keep them safe. Lord, we pray for a great turnout tonight. Lord, as we look to point everybody towards you through song. Lord, we promise to give you all the honor and glory. Just be with us now. Amen. I.