

## It's About Time Outline

### **The Sound of Silence**

- ◆ Easy to think that moving from the Old Testament to the New Testament is a rather short amount of time.
- ◆ Yet, from the last verse of the last book of the Old Testament, Malachi, to the first verse of the first book of the New Testament, Matthew, 400 years have elapsed.
- ◆ The world is completely different after 400 years.
- ◆ The Jewish people were anticipating a Messiah to arrive:
  - Some candidates, but all fell far short of being a Messiah.
  - They were weary of being ruled by the Romans.
  - They wanted freedom.
- ◆ Anticipation was great!

### **Tension is Thick: Isaiah 07:10-15**

<sup>10</sup> Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, <sup>11</sup> "Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights."

<sup>12</sup> But Ahaz said, "I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test."

<sup>13</sup> Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. <sup>15</sup> He will eat curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right.

- ◆ One of the most well-known prophecies concerning Christ's birth.
- ◆ Some prophecies have a two-fold purpose:
  - The prophecy deals with a present-day situation.
  - The prophecy also deals with a future realization.
- ◆ The people need rescued.
- ◆ Ahaz tries to work out this problem on his own.

- ◆ God is more than willing to help.
- ◆ God raises up two people not considered “power players”:
  - Young Woman
  - A Baby
- ◆ Ahaz wanted to do it his own way; God always knows a better way.

**Life with a Bougainville: Isaiah 11:01-05**

<sup>1</sup> A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD -

<sup>3</sup> and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.  
He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,  
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

<sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he will judge the needy,  
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.  
He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;  
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

<sup>5</sup> Righteousness will be his belt  
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

- ◆ Even when things look bleak, God is still God.
- ◆ Not how it starts but how it ends.
- ◆ This Leader will:
  - Understand Humanity
  - Provide Great Counsel
  - Provide Power
  - Care for the Needy
  - Never Let Go

## **A One Light Town:** Micah 05:02-05

- <sup>2</sup> "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times."
- <sup>3</sup> Therefore Israel will be abandoned  
until the time when she who is in labor gives birth  
and the rest of his brothers return  
to join the Israelites.
- <sup>4</sup> He will stand and shepherd his flock  
in the strength of the LORD,  
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.  
And they will live securely, for then his greatness  
will reach to the ends of the earth.
- <sup>5</sup> And he will be their peace.
- ◆ At the time of Jesus' birth, Bethlehem was not a big town.
  - ◆ "Whose origins are from of old"= before time began
  - ◆ Israel will not have a human king until Christ arrives.

## **What are the Odds**

- ◆ There are over 300 prophecies about Christ in the Old Testament.
  - Multiple authors
  - Numerous books
  - They are specific and verifiable.
- ◆ It has been said that the chances of one person fulfilling only 8 of these prophecies is the equivalent of:
  - Covering the entire state of Texas with quarters 2 feet deep.
  - Placing a mark on one of the quarters.

- Then asking a blind person to grab the marked quarter on their first try.
- The odds of that happening:

**1 in 100,000,000,000,000**

- ◆ But keep in mind, Christ fulfilled more than 8 prophecies, he fulfilled over 300 prophecies.