

## *"In the Fullness of Time . . ."*

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*"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons" (Gal. 4:4, 5).*



It is impossible for those who are Americans to fully grasp the longing created by promise and picture that exists within Hebrew history and current culture. Our existence is marked by 230+ years of development built on a democracy. Theirs is built on millennia and theocracy through monarchy.

This day in history marks the fulfillment of promises and the final realization of pictures. Shadows give way and are eclipsed by the full sun of noonday rising. Although Malachi is the last of the canonical prophets, God is not silent. He continues to speak through image and ritual, reminding and retelling the Story to each succeeding generation, until . . . fulfillment. Two of the Gospels provide details that verbalize the culmination of God's Story.

There are ten stories within the combined narrative that speak directly to the Story's fulfillment. First, both Matthew and Luke intentionally trace Jesus back to historical figures that play key roles in the Story. Matthew places Jesus in the lineage of King David and the Patriarch Abraham (Matt. 1:1ff), whereas Luke traces the lineage of Jesus back to Adam (Luke 2:23ff). In Matthew, Jesus is the fulfillment of the Shepherd King made in the Abrahamic Covenant. In Luke, Jesus is the second Adam who will succeed where the first Adam failed.

Second, the angel Gabriel (Luke 1:19) in speaking to Zacharias identifies the naturally born son of Elizabeth as the promised forerunner preceding the Hero's arrival (Luke 1:16, 17). Likewise, when speaking to Mary, Gabriel will identify her supernaturally born child as the fulfillment of the promises made to and through King David (Luke 1:31-33).

Third, Mary's praise (i.e. "magnificat") clearly identifies the child within as the fulfillment of "the promises spoken to Abraham and his descendants forever" (Luke 1:54, 55).

Fourth, Zacharias' prophecy sees the birth of his son as the fulfillment of "His holy covenant, the oath which He swore to Abraham our father" (Luke 1:72, 73).

Fifth, the shepherds of Luke 2 speak in shadow and type of the greater antitype found in the person and work of Jesus Christ. They did what God called them to do. They believed the promises and acted on what Gabriel said, "For today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Sixth, Joseph and Mary speak to His arrival as one who was born of a woman and born under the Law when they obeyed the Law and circumcised Jesus on the eighth day (Lev. 12:2-4, 6; Luke 2:22; see further Galatians 4:4, 5).

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Seventh, Simeon confirms the fulfillment of the promises when he cradled the Christ child and spoke of completion (Luke 2:30-32).

Eighth, the aged Anna in seeing the Christ child spoke of fulfillment “to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem” (Luke 2:38).

Ninth, the Magi (i.e. “wise men,” “band of scholars”) from the East sought the one “who has been born King of the Jews” (Matt. 2:2). Through their gifting, they confirm the child as “prophet, priest, and king.” They clearly confirm their adoration of the Christ by falling to the ground and worshiping Him (Matt. 2:11).

Finally, King Herod’s response confirms the fulfillment of promise and picture and the arrival of the Story’s Hero. He believed the Story, but in unbelief trembled (James 2:19).

Everything the nation sought would be fulfilled in the person and work of Jesus Christ. It is impossible for us to recreate the longing that existed within the heart and mind of the Jewish people. Every element within their daily lives was intentionally placed by God in the Story in order to remember and retell the one Story written by Him. Now the fulfillment of the Story sat at the threshold. The nation would discover the richness of the one Story written by God in the coming of God incarnate. Once more they will ask, “Is He enough?” And once more God will answer by saying, “He is more than enough in this life and in the life to come.”

Waukesha Bible Church is a family of families seeking to live in **the Storyline of the Bible**. She is determined by design to have a **God-centered, Christ-exalting worship; a Word-centered teaching** focused on personal **discipleship** through intentional and systematic instruction; a **Global-impacting mission** that resolves to be a **church planting church**; and a **Grace-based fellowship** where disciples are invited to live under a **reigning grace** characterized by a **Gospel-driven sanctification** that celebrates a divine **monergism** to the Christian life.