> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
> — *Isaiah 7:14*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, miracles, prophecy

Interpretation:
Isaiah 7:14 is one of the most famous verses in the Bible. In it, God promises the people of Judah that He will send a sign of His presence. This sign is none other than the birth of a child named Immanuel.

This verse is of great significance in the history of Christianity, as Christians believe this child is *Jesus Christ*, born *of a virgin*.

Who is this virgin?

One of the most common questions about this verse is who is referred to by the virgin. In Hebrew, the word *"almah"* used in this verse simply means *"young woman."*

Some argue that this word specifically refers to a virgin, while others say it doesn't necessarily imply virginity. However, regardless of the exact translation, it is clear that the birth of a child in this verse is a supernatural event.

Emanuel - God with us

The name Immanuel means *"God with us."* This name symbolizes God's presence with us and His active involvement in our lives. The name Emmanuel symbolizes God's presence in the world and His desire to be with His people even in the most difficult times.

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Attention! This is one of the possible interpretations based on the comments of famous theologians, which may differ from each other. If the interpretation is taken from other languages, then there may be a distortion of meaning when translating the language. *Matthew 7:7-8*

> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
>
> *— Isaiah 9:6*

Book: Old Testament / Isaiah
Topics: Christmas, Father, Jesus, Messiah

Interpretation:
Isaiah 9:6 is one of the most beautiful Bible verses in all of Scripture because it tells us long beforehand of the prophecy of the birth of an extraordinary child who would bring lasting peace and become a wise and powerful leader. This child is Jesus, the Savior of the world, who came to earth to fulfill God's plan of salvation.

Explaining the Four Titles of God:

Wonderful Counselor - Jesus came to be the one who teaches and counsels us. During his ministry, Jesus gave us some very important teachings and showed us the way to live with God. Jesus is our great counselor who guides the lives of all who believe in him.

Mighty God - Jesus is God! He has all the power and authority of God. But God chose to come to earth as a man to save us. This is a great miracle: God, in all his power, loves us so much that he came and suffered in our place. God himself took our sins on the cross.

Everlasting Father - Jesus is eternal. He is God, he has no beginning and no end. When he died, death could not hold him, for he was stronger! Jesus rose again and lives forever. Just as Jesus is eternal, he gives eternal life to all who believe in him and love him.

Prince of Peace - Jesus came to restore our relationship with God. When we sin, we become enemies of God, separated from Him. But through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus offers us forgiveness and reconciliation with God. In this way, we can have peace with God and peace in our lives.

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> But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.”
> — *Luke 1:30-31*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, Angels, fear, Jesus

Interpretation:
Luke 1:30 tells us of the moment when the angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will be the mother of the Savior. This verse shows us that Mary received God's grace and that the Lord's presence was with her.

According to Christian theology, God's grace is a free gift that provides forgiveness and eternal salvation. God's grace is demonstrated through God's love for His children, no matter how sinful they are. God's grace is not dependent on our works, but on His mercy.

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> The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.”
> — *Luke 1:35*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, Holy Spirit, Jesus, strength

Interpretation:
In this Bible verse, we see *the angel Gabriel* appearing *to Mary* to tell her that she will give birth to *the Son of God*. Furthermore, we are told how this momentous event will unfold. The angel tells Mary that *the Holy Spirit* will descend upon her and the power *of the Most High* will overshadow her.

The divinity of Jesus

The text we just read is the key to understanding the divinity of Jesus. The angel clearly states that the Son to be born will be called the Son of God. Thus, we see that *Jesus* is not just a prophet or a great teacher, but *the Son of God Himself*, an integral part *of the Trinity*. This truth can help us better understand the nature of Jesus and His role in our lives.

The Holy Spirit in action

In addition to revealing the divinity of Jesus, this verse also tells us about the role of the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who descends upon Mary to overshadow her. This shows us how the Holy Spirit was at work in the incarnation of Jesus. In this way, we can clearly see how the Trinity has worked in human history. We can also reflect on how the Holy Spirit works in our own lives.

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> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.”
> *— Luke 2:10*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, Angels, fear, joy

Interpretation:
The Bible verse *Luke 2:10* presents us with one of the most touching scenes of the birth of *Jesus*. The shepherds who were tending their sheep in the field were surprised by the appearance of an angel announcing the birth of *a Savior*. No doubt, it was a great relief and joy for the shepherds who received this good news.

What is “great good news”?

In this verse, the angel tells the shepherds not to be afraid because he brings them *“good news.”* But what exactly does the angel mean? The good news that the angel brings them is that *a Savior, the Messiah*, has been born. This meant that God’s promise to send a Savior to redeem His people had been fulfilled.

The birth of Jesus brought joy and hope to a world immersed in darkness. That is why it is called *“great good news,”* because it was the answer to God’s promise and brought hope and joy to all the

hearts that needed it.

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> Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.
> *— Luke 2:11*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, Messiah, Savior

Interpretation:
The Bible verse Luke 2:11 describes one of the most important and significant moments in human history: **the birth of Jesus**. Here we are introduced to Jesus as the Savior sent by God to bring us salvation and redemption from our sins. The City of David where he was born refers to Bethlehem, highlighting the fulfillment of Bible prophecies.

The term **"Christ"** means **"Anointed One"**, and its use here refers to the Christian belief that Jesus was anointed by God to fulfill his role as **Savior and Messiah**. **Lord** is a term that refers to **the divinity of Christ** and His authority over all things.

The birth of Jesus is a special occasion when Christians around the world celebrate the birth of their Savior. *Luke 2:11* reminds us that **Jesus is the way to salvation** and gives us hope for a better life in the world to come.

We can apply this verse to our lives by recognizing that **Jesus is the Savior** and that we are to follow His teachings. By following His teachings and examples, we can improve our lives and become more loving and compassionate people. Jesus shows us how to live a fulfilling life based on values ??such as love, humility, and justice.

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> Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.
> — *Luke 2:14*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, Angels, peace, worship

Interpretation:
Luke 2:14 is one of the most well-known verses in the Christian community and is often used as a hymn during the Christmas season. However, the meaning of these words is deeper than it may seem at first glance.

Verse context

The phrase appears in Luke 2, in the account of the birth *of Jesus*. An angel appears to a group of shepherds in the fields near Bethlehem, informing them *of the newborn Savior*. After the angel appears, a multitude of angels appear and sing the song of *Luke 2:14*.

Verse content

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests" is a praise to God, an acknowledgement of His greatness and splendor. But it is also a praise of the peace and good will that came to humanity through the birth of *Jesus*.

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> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.
> — *Luke 2:20*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas, praise, worship

Interpretation:

Luke 2:20 is written in the context of Christmas. It tells the story of the birth *of Jesus* and the appearance of angels to the shepherds of Bethlehem, announcing the birth *of the Savior*. The shepherds, filled with joy and excitement, went into town to see the baby and, having found him, returned glorifying and praising God.

Interpretation

This verse exemplifies the proper response to divine revelation. The shepherds, like everyone else, were filled with amazement when they received the news of the Savior. Their reaction was not one of indifference or disbelief; rather, they responded with faith and joy. They praised God for what they had heard and seen, which demonstrated their faith in God and His work in history.

Reflections on the Verse

The story of the shepherds teaches us a valuable lesson. We often receive good news or have moments of happiness and joy, but how do we respond to them? Are we content to simply enjoy them, or do we take the time to recognize God's work in them? The shepherds show us that our response to blessings should be gratitude and praise to God not only for the good times, but for His purposes for our lives.

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> So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.
>
> *— Luke 2:4-5*

Book: New Testament / Luke
Topics: Christmas

Interpretation:
Luke 2:4-5 takes us to one of the most famous stories in Christianity: *the story of the birth of Jesus*. These verses introduce us to the situation *of Joseph and Mary* during the census ordered *by King Herod*. At the time, Joseph and Mary were engaged to be married, and Mary was pregnant.

To better understand the importance of these verses, it is important to consider the historical and cultural context of the society of that time. In those days, the commitment to marriage (betrothal) was almost as important as the marriage itself. Therefore, the betrothal of Joseph and Mary meant that they were already united in soul and body in the eyes of God and society.

The circumstances in which Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem were not easy. Not only did they have to overcome the fatigue and travel necessary to complete the census, but they also had to shoulder the burden of responsibility for the care and protection *of the Son of God*. However, they did not give up and successfully completed their mission.

In this sense, these verses teach us a great lesson: the importance of not giving up in the face of adversity and always having faith in God, even when we feel alone and helpless, as Mary and Joseph must have done at that time.

Moreover, these verses encourage us to reflect on the importance of fulfilling our responsibilities and doing them in the best possible way. Joseph and Mary fulfilled their mission despite the difficulties, and thanks to this, the birth *of Jesus* became possible, as predicted.

Who was Joseph and the connection with David and Bethlehem

Bible verses in *Luke 2:4-5* that mention *Joseph*, the husband *of Mary* and the earthly father *of Jesus*. According to Christian tradition, Joseph was a carpenter from Nazareth, a small town in Galilee.

These verses say that Joseph went from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a town in Judea, for genealogical reasons. *Luke* notes that this place had special significance because it was the city *of David* and Joseph was a descendant of that king. This links *Jesus'* birth to an Old Testament prophecy that predicted *the Messiah* as a descendant of David.

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> While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.
> *— Luke 2:6-7*

Book: New Testament / Luke

Topics: Christmas, Jesus

Interpretation:
The Bible serves as a source of teaching and guidance for millions of people around the world, and one of the most important episodes it records *is the birth of Jesus*. *Luke 2:6-7* tells us that *Mary and Joseph* were in Bethlehem when the time came for the birth. This event marked the beginning of the life of one of the most influential figures in human history, and so it is important to reflect on its significance.

The coming of the Savior

The birth *of Jesus* was not an ordinary event. In fact, the coming *of the Savior* had been foretold long before in Old Testament prophecies. The fact that Jesus' mother gave birth in Bethlehem and the local shepherds were the first to receive the news of His birth demonstrates that this event was not a coincidence, but an act of God's providence.

The blessing of the birth

These verses also remind us that the birth of Jesus was a blessing not only for His family, but for all of humanity. With His coming, God's promise to send a Savior into the world to save His people from sin and death was fulfilled. Through Jesus' earthly ministry, many were healed, delivered, and saved. His sacrifice on the cross gave everyone the opportunity to have eternal life.

The humility of Jesus

Jesus, the Son of God, was not born in a royal palace or a luxurious home. He was born in a manger, surrounded by animals, and in very humble circumstances. This shows us the humility and simplicity that *Christ* always demonstrated throughout His life. We can follow His example in our own lives and strive to live with humility, simplicity, and always being concerned about the well-being of others.

The importance of Christmas

The birth of Jesus is the highlight of Christmas, a time when Christians celebrate His coming into the world with prayer, family gatherings, and acts of love and generosity. These verses remind us of the importance of celebrating and honoring God at this time of year and in every moment of our lives.

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> This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.
>
> *— Matthew 1:18*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Holy Spirit, miracles

Interpretation:
In the book of Matthew, the birth of Jesus Christ is described in a very special way. According to this gospel, the conception of Jesus was the work of the Holy Spirit, which emphasizes the **divinity of the Son of God**.

At the time when Mary and Joseph lived, the engagement or dissolution of the engagement was a commitment before witnesses or even a marriage certificate could be signed. However, the couple did not live together and did not have sexual relations until the marriage was celebrated, which could take up to several years. If infidelity occurred during the engagement, the innocent party could seek a divorce decree.

The virginal conception of Mary is one of the fundamental beliefs of Christianity, but it is also one of the most difficult concepts to understand by human logic and biology. According to Christian theology, the Holy Spirit fertilized Mary without the intervention of a man. Although this may seem impossible, for the Christian faith, the power of the Holy Spirit is limitless thanks to divine omnipotence.

In addition, the virginal birth of Jesus has a deep theological meaning. As theologian Karl Barth wrote: *“God did what humanity could not do: go beyond all boundaries and create something completely new.”* The virginal conception is a sign **of Jesus’ divinity**, as the verse from Matthew indicates.

The birth of Jesus, according to Christian tradition, is the fulfillment of a prophecy mentioned in the Old Testament: *“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14)*. For believers, the birth of Jesus is the fulfillment of a divine promise and the beginning of the new era of redemption.

On the other hand, the birth of Jesus is the event that marks the beginning of the ministry of Jesus Christ on Earth. *Jesus was sent into the world to save it from perdition and to offer new life to all who believe in Him*. His birth, therefore, is the first step in his saving work.

Some critics have argued that conception by the Holy Spirit diminishes Jesus' humanity. However, this is not the case: the fact that Jesus was born of a human woman and grew up as a child and had a life

of flesh and blood means that Jesus had a real human nature.

Furthermore, Jesus' virgin birth means that he did not inherit original sin from Adam. Thus, Jesus is considered the second Adam, who came to redeem original sin and restore humanity to divine grace.

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> But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.”
> *— Matthew 1:20*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Angels, Holy Spirit

Interpretation:
Matthew 1:20 is a very significant verse in the Bible. In this verse, the story of Joseph, who was about to marry Mary, is presented. Joseph was terrified to discover that Mary was pregnant before they were married. But, thanks to the appearance of an angel of the Lord in his dreams, Joseph was able to understand the situation.

Joseph was a carpenter, descended from the line of David and very prominent in his community. He planned to marry Mary, who was said to have conceived a child before their marriage. Joseph was confused and hurt by this, as he was a righteous man and observant of Jewish law.

The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him that he should not be afraid to marry Mary, as what had been conceived in her was from the Holy Spirit. The angel urged him to take Mary as his wife and by doing so, Joseph would become the legal father of the future Messiah.

This Bible passage teaches us that God can intervene in our lives in times of conflict, doubt, and uncertainty. Sometimes the path is not clear and it is easy to feel fear and insecurity. In these situations, we must trust in God's guidance and have faith that He will show us the right path.

In addition, there is an important lesson we can learn from Joseph's behavior. He was willing to listen to the angel's message, despite his own doubts and fears, and he made a decision that seemed difficult, but right. In the same way, we too must be prepared to do the right thing, even if it seems

difficult.

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> She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.
>
> *— Matthew 1:21*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, Redeemer

Interpretation:
The Bible verse we are dealing with today is considered one of the most important in the entire New Testament, as it sums up the main purpose of Jesus Christ's coming into the world. We are told that the Virgin Mary will *give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins*. This brief statement has in itself great theological richness, which deserves to be explored in detail.

The name given to the child born to the Virgin Mary is undoubtedly one of the most fascinating aspects of this verse. The word **"Jesus"** comes from the Hebrew **"Yeshua,"** which means **"Jehovah is salvation."** Thus, from the very moment of his birth, the child who is to be called Jesus has a name that announces his mission on earth: to save humanity from its sins and reconcile it with God. This name is the one that has been invoked throughout history by millions of Christians around the world, as a symbol of hope, salvation and divine love.

As the verse itself says, Jesus Christ's primary mission is to **"save his people from their sins."** To understand the meaning of this phrase, it is important to remember that sin is that which distances us from God's grace and makes us deserving of eternal punishment. The Bible teaches us that we have all sinned and are far from divine perfection *(Romans 3:23)*, and that only through faith in Jesus Christ can we be justified and restored to our relationship with God *(Romans 5:1-2)*. That is, the saving work of Jesus Christ consists of cleansing our sins and making us worthy of eternal life, through his sacrifice on the cross and his resurrection.

This verse has many aspects that invite reflection. For example, we can ask ourselves: how is it possible for a man to save humanity from its sins? Why is the redemptive work of Jesus Christ

necessary? What does the word **"salvation"** really mean? These are deep and complex questions, which have multiple answers depending on each individual's perspective. Some possible reflections are:

Salvation is a continuous process that involves the transformation of our inner being and communion with God. It is not just a matter of avoiding sins, but of living according to the divine will at every moment.

The saving work of Jesus Christ is an expression of God's unconditional love for humanity. Through the incarnation, life, death and resurrection of his Son, God shows us that he is willing to do anything for our salvation and invites us to love him and follow him.

Salvation *is a promise and a gift that we can only receive by the grace of God, through faith in Jesus Christ*. It is not something that we can achieve by our own means, but it is given to us freely by divine love.

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> All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).
> *— Matthew 1:22-23*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, miracles, prophecy

Interpretation:
Christmas is more than just a date on the calendar. It is a celebration of the most spectacular event in human history. Christmas is a time to celebrate that God loves us and that He is always with us.

Man was created to have fellowship with God. God created us in His image so that He and we could enjoy personal relationships. Sin robbed us of that fellowship. That is the fellowship Jesus came to restore to this earth.

God could have chosen many ways to communicate with us, but because He created us, He knew that the best way to communicate with us was **face to face**. That is why He became one of us. He did

not send an angel, a prophet, a politician, or an ambassador. **No! He came Himself!**

If you want someone to know how much you love them, you do not send a representative to communicate with them. *You go and tell them! That is what God did at Christmas!*

The Bible tells us that God is love. Love is the essence of God's character. It is His very nature! We were created to be the object of God's love. He created us to love us. **His love is the reason we are still alive**. Did you know that God was thinking about us before He created the world?

Because God's love is unconditional, He loves us on our good days and our not-so-good days. He loves us when we feel His love and even when we don't. He loves us despite our behavior, mood, actions, or thoughts. His love doesn't change!

Seven hundred years before Jesus was born, Isaiah prophesied that He would be born as Emmanuel – God with us, to save humanity from its sins.

One of the problems with Christmas is that many people think of Jesus as if He was just a baby. Their idea of ??Him is that of a helpless newborn in His mother's arms. If Jesus had never grown to do what He did, He would not have had the power to change our lives.

But the baby born in Bethlehem did not remain a baby. Jesus grew up, became a man, and showed us a way of life pleasing to God. *And let us not forget that this was God himself!*

He paid for our sins by dying on the cross. And then he rose again! This is the Gospel! Good news!

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> After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."
>
> *— Matthew 2:1-2*

Book: New Testament / Matthew
Topics: Christmas, worship

Interpretation:
We are presented with the story of some wise men who came to Jerusalem in search of the newborn king of the Jews. This event takes place in the political and social context of the reign of Herod the Great, who ruled the territory of Judea as a subject of the Roman Empire.

The original term used in the Greek text for the Magi (wise men) is *"Magoi"*, which in ancient times was used to refer to a group of priests and scholars from Persia and Babylon. These wise men were experts in astronomy, astrology and magic, and had a good reputation for their prophetic and mystical abilities.

The wise men were guided by a star, which they believed to be a divine sign that a new king was coming to Israel. This belief may have been influenced by the prophecy in the Book of Numbers, which spoke of *"a star coming out of Jacob"*. The wise men therefore interpreted the star as a sign that the Messiah had been born and that they should go to Jerusalem to worship Him.

When Herod heard the news from the Magi, he was filled with fear at the thought of a possible threat to his throne. He sought information about the birthplace of the Messiah in order to destroy Him, and, under the guise of religious interest, he called the wise men to tell him the exact location of the birthplace.

The star that guided the Magi has been interpreted in different ways. For some, the star is a symbol of the divinity of Jesus and an extraordinary sign that God sent to announce His arrival. Others interpreted the star in a more esoteric sense, as a sign that the Messiah was illuminating the world and that His light should be followed.

The wise men who appear before Jesus also provide an example of how truth and divine wisdom can be sought in the world, beyond religious boundaries. Just because they were wise men from a pagan land does not mean that they could not be people who were seeking God's truth.

Herod's reaction is an example of how the powerful and the rulers have much to lose from the coming of the Messiah. However, Herod's attitude can also be seen as an image of the resistance people experience to accept the coming of Jesus into their lives and to surrender control of their existence to the Lord.

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> 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.
> — *Micah 5:2*

Book: Old Testament / Micah
Topics: Christmas, Jesus, prophecy

Interpretation:
Bethlehem was a small town located about 10 km south of Jerusalem. Ephrathah was a rural area near Bethlehem. The phrase *"Bethlehem Ephrathah"* refers to the specific location where the *Redeemer* was to be born.

It is notable that *Micah* does not mention any other major city, such as Jerusalem, as the birthplace of the messiah. Instead, a humble and remote location is given. This reflects the central message of his prophecy: God reveals himself through the small, the weak, and the vulnerable.

Micah 5:2 was quoted by the wise men who were looking for the baby *Jesus* in Bethlehem. In *Matthew 2:5-6* we read, *“And they said to him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written: “‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.’”* This quote shows that the Jews themselves considered *Micah 5:2* to be a messianic prophecy.

It is also interesting to note that the wise men were foreigners, not Jews, but they knew the Hebrew Scriptures and were looking for *the Messiah*. This indicates that God’s salvation is not limited to a particular people or culture, but is open to all.

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