

## JESUS CHRIST: GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

### PERFECT PROMISE

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet . . . Matthew 1:22*

### ANTICIPATING

The Promise was \_\_\_\_\_

Genesis 3:15    Isaiah 7:14    Isaiah 9:2, 6-7    Micah 5:2

The predominant holiday message given to us by our culture is a lie. There's an anticipation that builds—an anticipation that will not be satisfied come Christmas morning. What are we really celebrating here? Let's have our anticipation redeemed . . .  
Matt Chandler

The Promise was \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew 1:1-17

For most readers of the Bible, reading a genealogy is about as exciting as reading a telephone book. Yet for a Jew in Jesus' day, this genealogy in Matthew 1 would have had more attention-grabbing power than the cover of *Time* magazine or the front page of *USA Today*. It would have summed up all their hopes and expectations about what God had been promising to do in their lives ever since the time of Abraham.  
Edward P. Sri

### RECEIVING

The Promise was \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 53

You really cannot find any Jews, before the cross, who simply got it together and believed that Jesus was simultaneously the promised triumphant king and the suffering slaughtered servant. But it was there in scripture. They just hadn't gotten it together.  
D. A. Carson

The Promise was \_\_\_\_\_

Isaiah 40:8    Matthew 5:17-18    I Peter 1:25

"Father, we thank you for the power of the holy scripture, for the truthfulness of it which even in the minutest detail stuns us, elevates our confidence and consequently our joy and our hope. We thank you for all that you have given to us in your promises. Everything matters. Everything. And it all points to one person, the Lord Jesus Christ."  
John MacArthur

## GIFT EXERCISE

### PERFECT PROMISE

*All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet . . . Matthew 1:22*

Set aside specific time for solitude this week. Make this an intentional early part of your Christmas season. Put it on your list, give your word, choose a special place—whatever motivates you to make it a priority.

- Ask God to make this Christmas season one like no other. He can do that even if it is your busiest time of year.
- Ask Him to make this a Christmas where you learn of Jesus in new ways—to fill you with *anticipation* for that.
- Ask Him to prepare you *to give* to others out of what you are learning about Jesus and all that He is for you.

Communicate your deep longings to God. What do you want? What do you keep wishing for? It may be something that is relevant for you specifically during this Christmas season or it may be something broader that flows from what is happening in your life as a whole.

- What is my point of need, longing—right now? Honestly get in touch with my own heart . . .
- How is God's promise "more" than what I am focused on? What does God want to do that is different than my desire for deliverance, relief, solutions? How can I see Jesus as the answer?
- What is God's Word to me in Jesus? What real promise from God is mine? Ask Him to open your eyes to that. Dig for that in scripture. Have others work with you on that. Hold on to that.

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