

Christ, Born the Lamb of God

By Becky Johnson, December 8, 2021

There are many prophecies surrounding the birth of the Messiah, Jesus Christ. Prophecy is important because through fulfilled prophecy God shows us His omnipotence and omniscience! Isaiah 46:9-10, and Isaiah 42:8-9 tell us there is no one like God, who declares what will happen long before it does! Many scriptures told that Messiah would come, that He would be of David's line (Jeremiah 23:5-6), that He would be God (Isaiah 9:2-6), that He would be a light to the nations (Isaiah 49:6b, Luke 2:25-33). A forerunner to the Messiah was prophesied in Isaiah 40:3-5. John the Baptist fulfilled this as explained in Luke 3:1-6, 15-16. Isaiah 7:14 prophesied that Messiah would be born of a virgin, and Matthew 1:18-25 tells of the fulfillment of that prophecy.

Micah 5:2 foretold that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem, and in Luke 2:1-7 we see how that came about. But if we look back at Micah 4:8, we will see an even more specific prophecy about where the Messiah would be born. Micah 4:8 says, "And you, O tower of the flock, hill of the daughter of Zion, to you shall it come, the former dominion shall come, kingship for the daughter of Jerusalem." This is a Messianic prophecy. The Messiah would come to this "tower of the flock," which in Hebrew, reads "Migdal Eder." If the Messiah, the King, is coming to the Tower of the Flock, it is important to understand what it is! Read Genesis 35:19-21. Rachel died and was buried on the way to Bethlehem. Then her bereaved husband, Israel (Jacob) pitched his tent beyond the Tower of Eder, or Migdal Eder (English translation: Tower of the Flock).

In an Aramaic translation of the Hebrew scriptures, known as Targum Jonathan, this is how Genesis 35:21 is translated: "And Jakob proceeded and spread his tent beyond the tower of Eder, the place from whence, it is to be, the King Meshiha will be revealed at the end of the days."*

Alfred Edersheim in *Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah*, further explains the importance of tower of the flock and the significance of the shepherds:

"That the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem was a settled conviction. Equally so was the belief that He was to be revealed from *Migdal Eder*, 'the tower of the flock.' This *Migdal Eder* was not the watchtower for the ordinary flocks which pastured on the barren sheep-ground beyond Bethlehem, but lay close to the town, on the road to Jerusalem. A passage in the Mishnah [Shekalim 7:4] leads to the conclusion that the flocks, which pastured there, were destined for Temple sacrifices, and, accordingly, that the shepherds, who watched over them, were not ordinary shepherds. ... Thus, Jewish tradition in some dim manner apprehended the first revelation of the Messiah from that *Migdal Eder*, where shepherds watched the Temple flocks all the year round. Of the deep symbolic significance of such a coincidence, it is needless to speak."**

The Mishna, a Rabbinical teaching on the Hebrew scriptures, shares that the flocks at the Tower of Eder were destined for temple sacrifice. The shepherds who kept the flock were special shepherds, rabbinically educated and trained to attend to the birth, inspect, and approve unblemished lambs for their destiny as a ceremonially clean temple sacrifice. The shepherds would bring ewes ready to give birth into the base of the tower (a ceremonially clean environment), and would catch, clean, inspect,

and wrap each lamb in swaddling cloths and lay it in the manger until it was strong enough to stand, and not fall and mar itself.

Read Luke 2:8-20. Verse 8 tells us the shepherds were “in the same region” or “nearby.” They were in the fields surrounding the tower! Verse 10 says the angel brought “good news of great joy...for **all** the people.” (v.11 A Savior!!) but in verse 12 the angel says to the shepherds, “this will be a sign for **you**...you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” This sign was specifically for these shepherds! And these shepherds knew exactly where to go! They knew the angel was talking about their manger!

Jesus is described as the Lamb of God in John 1:29 & 36. I Peter 1:18-19 says that we are redeemed by the blood of Christ “like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.” I Corinthians 5:7 says Christ is our Passover Lamb! Revelation 5:11-13 also tells us Jesus is the Lamb.

According to Micah 4:8, Jesus was also born as the sacrificial Lamb, at Migdal Eder, the birthplace of all sacrificial lambs. Why wouldn't He be, when every other detail of Jesus' life, as well as the timing of His death, point to the fact that He is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

*Targum Jonathan on Genesis 35:21,
https://www.sefaria.org/Targum_Jonathan_on_Genesis.35.21?lang=bi

**Edersheim, Alfred, *Life and Times of Jesus*, <https://www.ccel.org/ccel/edersheim/lifetimes.vii.vi.html>