

# Falls Fellowship



## Christ in the Old Testament

**B**ack in the 1970s, many years ago, as I was contemplating the direction I would take in my graduate studies. My major professor, knowing about my interest in photography, film and using current technology to teach the Gospel, introduced me to a group of people who were beginning what they called, “The Jesus Project.” It was an ambitious project to produce films and other media which could be used by churches to teach the gospel. Remember this was before video recorders, Power Point presentations, and all the platforms we currently have to present the Gospel via the use of audio/video technology. I had already used photography as a tool for teaching

using Kodachrome slides, the latest film technology of the day! After much prayer and discussion with colleagues I decided I did not want to go in that direction in my graduate work. Nevertheless, I have kept up with the “Jesus Project” and used some of its tools in my ministry. For example, I find the conclusion of the Jesus Project there are 55 references in the Old Testament to Christ intrigues me. The New Testament’s revelation of Jesus Christ begins in the Old Testament.

During the Christmas season I like to go back and read again some of the Old Testament prophecies about Christ documented by the Je-

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## Christmas Is In the Air

**I** am married to a wonderful lady who loves to celebrate Christmas. Our tree was in the living room and fully decorated a week before Thanksgiving. No fewer than six Nativity Scenes decorate our house. One of the Nativity Scenes has been with us for more than fifty years. Another one was given by dear friends; each one has a special meaning. Christmas candles shine in multiple corners, stockings wait to be hung from the fireplace, a brightly colored wreath is on the door. Soon packages will be under the tree and the aroma of Christmas baking will waft through the air. Christmas is in the air.

Christmas is a time of celebration. The most wonderful gift we ever received came to us 2,000 years ago in Bethlehem as God took

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## Christ cont' ...



Project. Actually, it can be said the first mention of Christ in the Bible is found in Genesis 3 in the temptation story. There God said the seed of the woman would bruise the serpent. Many readers of the Old Testament, particularly old ones, like me, see in those words a reference to the coming of Christ.

Isaiah 7:14 says Christ would be born of a woman and Micah 5:2 says he would be born in Bethlehem. Genesis 49:10 says the Messiah would be from the tribe of Judah. 2 Samuel 7:12-13 says Christ would be heir to King David's throne. Isaiah speaks further about Jesus' ministry in Isaiah 61, and of his suffering for our sins in Isaiah 53.

I have concluded from the Old Testament verses about Christ several thoughts.

1. From the day of creation, Jesus Christ was with God the Father. God said, "let us make man" (Gen. 1:26). "Us" is plural; therefore, God must have been speaking to His Son when He said, "Let us make man."

2. When man sinned (Gen. 3) God knew man would need a Redeemer. Therefore, from the beginning, the Redeemer, Jesus Christ, was part of God's plan for creation.

3. Specific events from the life of Christ are part of the Old Testament revelation. For example, Isaiah 7:14 says Jesus would be born of a virgin. Micah 5:2 says he would be born in Bethlehem. When Jacob, in blessing his sons, said the "scepter shall not depart from Judah" (Gen. 49:10), he was referring to Christ, for he would be of the Kingly house of Judah.

4. The best way to understand the New Testament's record of the life of Christ is to begin with read-

ing the Old Testament. The New Testament fulfills the Old Testament.

Many of the promises of the Old Testament are fulfilled in the New Testament. That leads me to believe the promises of the New Testament which have not been fulfilled will be fulfilled according to God's timing. For example, Jesus promised to come again. We live in anticipation of that event. We live in the "in-between time;" the time between the ascension of Christ and his return. Jesus Christ was coming; Jesus Christ came; Jesus Christ is coming again.

Let us joyfully celebrate at Christmas the birth of Christ and let us, also, celebrate the promise of his return. God will, in due time, fulfill all of his promises. The best is yet to come!

— Tom Jenkins

## Event Calendar

December 6 — Sunday School Resumes 10:15 AM

December 6 — Deacons Meeting 3 PM

December 6 — Called Church Conference 12 PM

December 24 — Christmas Eve Service 5 PM

## December Birthdays

- 4 Cheryl Jenkins
- 9 Parker Jenks
- 15 Mark Young
- 15 Taylar Bub
- 20 Barbara Barham
- 20 Phil Jackson
- 21 Rebecca Davenport
- 24 Sarah Tart
- 28 Nikki Creech







## Sunday School Resumes!

Sunday School at Falls Baptist Church will resume on Sunday, December 6 at 10:15 AM. We will have two classes to start, Senior Adults will meet in the sanctuary, and Middle and Older Adults will meet jointly downstairs in the fellowship hall.

Social distancing will be practiced with the classes lasting about 20-25 minutes.

We are still looking for volunteers to lead children's programs so we can reach out and have some attendance by children.



## Worship Precautions During December

The church is taking several precautions to make attendance as safe as possible during this Covid-19 pandemic. Even though we are not aware of anyone in our congregation who has the virus, we are aware you could have the virus and be without symptoms. Therefore, we are requesting that all follow these guidelines:

1. If you are ill, please do not attend until all your symptoms have disappeared.
2. Maintain six-foot social distance except for family members living in the same household.
3. Use furnished hand sanitizer or wipes as you enter the church.
4. Pew Bibles and hymnals have been removed. Order of service and hymns will appear in your individual program bulletin.
5. Use your own face mask if you desire or disposal masks will be available for those wishing to use them.
6. Pews will be cleaned before and after each service.
7. Boxes to receive tithes and offerings are placed at the doors so we do not have to handle offering plates.

Some members fall into the category of having underlying conditions which make them uncomfortable to be in groups. We understand they may not be willing to attend now. Hopefully, this pandemic will soon pass and we can truly get back to normal worship services. During the month of December Wednesday Bible study will continue on Zoom.

— Linwood Barham

## Helping a family

Our Christmas missions project will be helping a family in need with Christmas gifts and a home pounding. See the Christmas tree in the vestibule for gift ideas. There are three children with one on the way.

Suggested items for the pounding include, but not limited to, laundry detergent, dryer sheets, stain removal spray, wipes, diaper rash cream, soups, little blueberry muffin packs, yogurt pouches, apple-sauce pouches.

Gifts should be brought to the church by December 20. Please contact Angie Harris at 919-746-5697 with any questions. Thank you!



## Deacons

Linwood Barham, Chairman	919-418-1162
Frank Powell, Vice Chairman	919-604-1285
Kevin Barham, Secretary	919-618-4214
Hubert Jenks	919-270-8765
Alan Watkins	919-793-5548
Mike Harris	919-746-5697

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## Christmas continued ...

on flesh and blood and became a little baby. Shepherds came to his birth; angels sang; Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled, and the Baby Jesus began his journey in life which would end on the cross.

At Christmas I celebrate the privilege of serving as your pastor. What started out to be a brief interim grew into several years of serving as your pastor. You graciously welcomed Cheryl and me into the church and into your lives. We have been blessed by knowing you and through you we have gathered new memories we add to the big book of memories of our serving Christ together for almost 55 years.

At Christmas I celebrate the pandemic didn't stop Falls Baptist Church from being a beacon of hope on Fonville. For several months we worshipped only online, but even then, you kept responding and supporting the church. When we returned to an abbreviated schedule on Sunday mornings, many of you returned. Others continue to join us for worship online each Sunday. I am grateful you have financially supported your church in these difficult times. The Finance Committee informs me our contributions have kept pace with our expenses.

At Christmas I celebrate our working together as

a church. As I write these words in my office at the church, Tommy Brown and his workers are upstairs renewing old walls and brightening up dark corridors. When I walked into the sanctuary this morning, I was amazed to see decorations are out for the Christmas season. Faithful people working quietly and unnoticed keep the church alive and achieving its mission.

At Christmas I celebrate the presence of God among us. God's presence leads us to reach out to each other as you have to Sandra and Woody Leonard. God's presence brings light to our dark moments, as he has been there in hospital rooms where some of our members have waited for healing and in nursing homes where some of our members are isolated from their families. God's love leads us to support multiple mission causes. We are supporting foreign missions; we are supporting the Baptist Children's Homes; we are providing Christmas for a deserving family.

Christmas is in the air, and I am thankful for every moment I have to celebrate Christmas with my family, with my church and with the knowledge of God's gift at Christmas, Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas from Cheryl and me. We look forward to walking with you into the uncharted territory of a new year — 2021.

— Tom Jenkins



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