

## “The Star and the Scepter”

Numbers 24: 17

### Introduction:

All the Bible, and history itself hinges upon the central figure of Jesus. Scripture contains many central **themes** which weave their way through the text like “**threads**” and **progressively reveal** various aspects of Christ’s person and work as scripture unfolds. ***As the threads progress, the picture becomes clearer and the image more distinct.*** There are several key thematic threads which run through the entirety of scripture and form connections between Jesus and his Messianic roles of **prophet, priest, and king.**

### Old Testament Background: (The Promised \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_)

- Gen 3:15 – “I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and woman, and between your offspring and her **offspring**; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”  
=> God promised a redeemer that would deal with the serpent and with the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin.
- Gen 22:16-18 – “I will surely bless you and I will multiply your **offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.** And your offspring shall **possess the gate of his enemies**, and in your **offspring** shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because you have obeyed my voice.”  
=> God chose the \_\_\_\_\_ line to fulfill his promise of a redeemer.  
=> Notice the subtle hint of the theme of \_\_\_\_\_ starting to develop.
- Gen 49:10 – “**The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his.**”  
=> Out of the Abrahamic line, God chose Jacob (later called Israel) and his son \_\_\_\_\_ to fulfill the promise.  
=> Imagery of king starting to stand out more clearly around a central \_\_\_\_\_ figure.

### The Star Prophecy: (The Coming \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_)

- **Baalam** gives four oracles and ends up blessing Israel from three different mountain peaks overlooking the people of Israel encamped below. Each oracle is made from a **progressively closer vantage point** and becomes **more future oriented**.
  - **Bamoth-Baal** (Num 23:7-10) => Balaam sees a portion of Israel for the first time. “From the rocky peaks I see \_\_\_\_\_” and is overwhelmed with how numerous they are. This is a clear allusion to the \_\_\_\_\_ of Abraham.
  - **Pisgah** (Num 23:18-24) => Balaam sees the tabernacle and possibly the Shekinah Glory (cloud over the tabernacle). “The \_\_\_\_\_ is with them; the shout of the \_\_\_\_\_ is among them.”
  - **Baal-Peor** (Num 24:3-9, 15-25) => Balaam looks into the future and sees the future **God / King**.
    - **A Star will come out of Jacob** -> Symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ in ancient near-east.
      - Ex. Babylonian / Assyrian deities Ishtar (Star) and Shamash (Sun)
      - Amos 5:26 – “You carried along Sikkuth your king and Kiyyun, your images of your **star-god** you made yourselves.”
    - **A Scepter will rise out of Israel** -> Symbol of \_\_\_\_\_ and extension of blessing of Judah.
- While David and the Davidic line is most directly in focus here (near / far) prophetic view, there is a **Messianic expectation** associated with the passage as well that lived on beyond David and extended to one that would come from his line (ex. Psalm 110).

**Numbers 24:17** is known as the Star Prophecy and has long held **Messianic connotations** to both Christian and Jewish traditions.

- Ex. Bar Kokhba (**means Son of the Star**) rebellion against the Romans that took place in 132 AD.
- Rev 22:16 – “**I am the bright morning star**” -> Jesus referring to himself.

**The Prophets: (Start to fill in more of the picture about the Messiah / God / King. More \_\_\_\_\_ are revealed about him.)**

Isaiah 9:6-7 – “For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; **and the government shall be upon his shoulders and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.** Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, **on the throne of David and over his kingdom,** to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.”

Micah 5:2 – “But you, **Bethlehem Ephrathah,** although you are small **among the tribes of Judah,** from you will come forth for Me one who will be ruler over Israel. **His origins are from of old from ancient days**”

Zech 2:10 – “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion for behold, **I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the Lord**”

**Jesus’s Birth (Jesus would be born in Bethlehem of Judea. The wise men knew because of \_\_\_\_\_ .)**

Luke 1:31-33 - “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called **Son of the Most High.** And the Lord God will give to him the **throne of his father David,** and he will **reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.**”

Matt 2:1 – “Now after Jesus was **born in Bethlehem of Judea** in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “**Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose** and have come to worship him.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea”

**Jesus’s Triumphant Entry, Trial, Death, Resurrection**

Matt 21:7-9 – “They **brought the donkey and colt** and put on them their cloaks, and **he sat on them.** Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and other cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, “**Hosanna (save please) to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!**” => The one promised so long ago is \_\_\_\_\_!

Mark 14:61-62 – “But he remained silent and made no answer. Again, the high priest asked him, “**Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?** And Jesus said, “**I am** and you will see **the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.**” => References back to Daniel’s prophesy about the \_\_\_\_\_.

Matt 27:28-30 – “They stripped him and put a **robe** on him and then twisted together a **crown of thorns** and set it on his head. They put a **staff in his right hand.** They then knelt in front of him and mocked him, “**Hail king of the Jews!**” they said. They spit on him and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. They then led him away to crucify him.”

Matt 27:35-37 – “When they had crucified him they divided up his clothes by casting lots. And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. Above his head they placed a written charge against him: **THIS IS JESUS, THE KING OF THE JEWS.**”

Matt 28:18-20 – “And Jesus came and said to them, “**All authority on heaven and earth has been given to me.** Go therefor and make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you,”

**The Future King / Kingdom**

Rev 22:16 - “I, Jesus have sent my angel to testify to you... I am the root and **the descendant of David, the bright morning star.**”

1 Cor 15:24 - “Then comes the end, when he **delivers the kingdom to God the Father** after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. **The last enemy to be destroyed is death**” => Brings us full circle

**Final Thoughts =>** We only scratched the surface of the over \_\_\_\_\_ prophesies that Jesus fulfilled throughout his life. These prophesies were written in some cases 1500 years before Jesus’ incarnation many recalling events that were even older. The evidence in these prophesies and threads / themes weaves through the entirety of scripture and that point to Christ. The evidence is simply overwhelming that the Bible and the person of Christ it reflects are \_\_\_\_\_ so the question remains, “What will you do with it?”