

## God's Got This

There's a line that is often said in the movies or on TV shows that is usually said in a calm and reassuring way by someone who is in control of the situation. "I've got this." When someone says that "I've got this" you know that everything is going to work out. The book of Matthew goes to great lengths to show that Jesus fulfilled all the prophecies about the messiah. In the scripture lesson for today, there are three different references to things that occurred to fulfill prophecy. In fact, more than 35 times Matthew points to an Old Testament prophecy that is fulfilled by something Jesus said or did. Bible scholars and theologians believe the author of Matthew does this because he is writing to mostly Jewish people who would be very familiar with the prophet's words. That may be true, but I think that God using Matthew to show us that He is in control—and everything is going according to His plan. It's as if God is telling us, "Don't worry. I got this."

Granted some of God's plan is painful and hard to deal with. For example, why did God only warn Joseph and Mary to flee to Egypt? Why didn't God warn all the parents in Bethlehem that soldiers were coming to kill their children? Was it because God knew that His own son was going to die by Roman soldiers' hands in about 30 years? Was it because God knew that when His son died, his life would redeem the innocents that were killed because of His birth? I don't know the answer, but I do know that God does not waste creation. I also believe that if God can work out the details of the lineage of Jesus right down to the time and place of his birth, so that all the prophecies about the Messiah are fulfilled, then all the remaining prophecies about the return of Jesus as King will happen too. There are over 300 references to "the Messiah" in the Bible. Here are just a few:

1. **Genesis 3:15** <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."
2. **Deuteronomy 18:15** <sup>15</sup> The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet.
3. **Isaiah 7:14** <sup>14</sup> Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.
4. **Ezekiel 34:23** <sup>23</sup> I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd.
5. **Jeremiah 23:5** The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.
6. Psalm 22 (Read this one)
7. **Hosea 11:1** When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son

Today starts a new year for us according to the calendar. Will it be the year that Christ returns? I don't know. I do know that there will be days of joy and happiness and there will be days of pain and grief. I also know that God will take care of us. So let's not worry about the future let's treasure each moment of everyday that

God allows us to spend with each other. And be assured that God's got this.