

**IMITATORS OF GOD – 2**  
**DECEMBER 17, 2017**

**EPHESIANS 5:1-2**

One way we are instructed to imitate God is by walking in divine love. The new commandment instructs us to love just as God loved us. How has God loved us?

**EPHESIANS 3:16-19**

God's love is revealed in its breadth, length, depth and height. These are the boundless dimensions of God's love.

**JOHN 3:16**

This verse reveals the boundless dimensions of God's love.

- Breath – God so loved the world. He loves all people groups.
- Length – Incarnation. **I JOHN 4:9-10** - He gave His life for us.
- Depth – Crucifixion. **HEBREWS 2:9** - He tasted death for us.
- Height – Resurrection. **EPHESIANS 2:4-7 (ESV)**

**THE LENGTH OF GOD'S LOVE – THE INCARNATION**

**MATTHEW 11:1-3** – Is Jesus the one, the Messiah, or do we look for another?

**MATTHEW 11:4-6** – Jesus doesn't quote one of over 300 prophecies to prove His identity. Instead He cites the proof of transformed lives.

**FULFILLED PROPHECY**

1. The woman's seed. **GENESIS 3:15** - Three sentences of judgment: Ongoing hostility between Satan and women; two lines at odds with each other; the woman's seed will bruise the serpent's head as the serpent's seed crucifies him.  
A. Prophecy fulfilled: **GALATIANS 4:4, MATTHEW 1:18**
2. A descendant of Abraham. **MATTHEW 1:1** - God said He would bless the world through Abraham's descendants. First, Isaac's miraculous birth, then Jacob, his son's, the 12 tribes, Israel and Christ.  
**GALATIANS 3:16**
3. Tribe of Judah. **GENESIS 49:10 (AMPC)** fulfilled – **REVELATION 5:5**
4. A descendant of David. **2 SAMUEL 7:16-17**. Nathan prophesies David's descendants will sit on the throne forever.  
A. **LUKE 1:30-33**- Fulfilled – but how can Jesus be the Son of the Most High if David is his father?  
**LUKE 20:41-44, ISAIAH 9:6**
5. Announced by a forerunner. **ISAIAH 40:3**- Fulfilled in **MARK 1:1-3 (AMPC)**  
A. John The Baptist announced the Messiah's coming.
6. Born of a virgin. **ISAIAH 7:14** - Fulfilled 700 years later according to **MATTHEW 1:18-23**
7. Born in Bethlehem. **MICAH 5:2 (AMPC)** - Fulfilled in **MATTHEW 2:1-6**  
A. These are but seven of over 300 prophecies given by five people over a 1200-year period. All were fulfilled in Christ.  
B. Chances of one person fulfilling just eight of the 300 prophecies are one in 10 to the 17<sup>th</sup> power, or one in 10 to 100,000,000,000,000,000.

**CONCLUSION:** To what length would God go to show His love for fallen man? **2 CORINTHIANS 9:15** - He gave us the gift beyond words. He robed Himself in flesh in the person of His son in order to pay our sin debt and reconcile us to Himself. **PHILIPPIANS 2:5-8**

How do we imitate this kind of love? By laying down our lives for the one who laid down His life for us.