



CHRISTMAS PROPHECIES!

A star will declare his reign!

One of the earliest prophecies about the Messiah came through a Mesopotamian prophet living in modern-day Iraq living 1500 years before the birth of Jesus. The prophet's name was Balaam. He prophesied that the reign of the Messiah as ruler over Israel will be announced by a rising star over the country: "The oracle of Balaam son of Beor, the oracle of one whose eye sees clearly...¹⁷ "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter [or ruler] will rise out of Israel. He will crush the foreheads of Moab, the skulls of all the sons of Sheth [also Moabites]" (Numbers 24:15-17, NIV).

God will have a son.

For over a thousand years, God had spoken to the prophets about this child Messiah, planting hope in the hearts of his people. During 10th century B.C.E., we see Arab prophet Agur, son of Jakeh of Massa, an Arabian desert city named after Ishmael's son who founded the Arabian tribe,¹ crying out to his friends and saying, "Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name and the name of his son? Tell me if you know!" (Proverbs 30:4).² This prophecy is preserved in the Septuagint, dated 2nd century B.C.E.

The Messiah will be born of a virgin.

Prophesied nearly 700 years prior to the birth of Jesus, Isaiah spoke these powerful words: "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child, and you will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel ["God with us"] (Isaiah 7:14) and again, "⁶For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (9:6). These along with over 300 other prophecies were fulfilled by the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, serving as archeological evidence of this glorious light from the purest heaven crashing into our world of darkness, engulfed by sin and Satanic influence.³

¹ 4854.massa, *Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon*, Unabridged, Electronic Database, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc, <https://biblehub.com/hebrew/4854.htm>. See also Genesis 26:14 and Chronicles 1:30 for lineage.

² A complete copy of the Old Testament is found in the Septuagint, dated 2nd century B.C.E., See Septuagint Bible with Apocrypha LXX, Bible Study Tools, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/lxx/>.

³ Former mathematician and astronomer, Professor Peter Stoner calculated a 1 in 1028 chance of any man fulfilling even eight of the three hundred Old Testament prophecies. See Robert C. Newman and Peter W. Stoner, "The Christ of Prophecy," *Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible*, Moody Chicago, online edition (November, 2005), accessed February 7, 2019, <http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/index.html#c0>. Stoner is a former Chairman of the Mathematics and Astronomy Department in Pasadena City College and Chairman of Science of Westmont College.



The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem.

Around the same time as Isaiah, the prophet Micah spoke this about the Messiah: “But you, Bethlehem [formerly Ephratha – ef-rah-thah], though you are small among the class [or rulers] of Judah,⁴ out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient time [or from eternity].

For the fulfillment of these prophecies, read these passages:

Matthew 1:18-21 This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.¹⁹ Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.²⁰ But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus [in Greek means, “the Lord saves”], because he will save his people from their sins” (NIV).

Luke 2:1-6 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world...³ And everyone went to his own town to register.⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David,⁵ because he belonged to the house and line of David.⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born,⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 2:1-2, 11 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, magi [astrologers] from the east came to Jerusalem² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east [or “when it rose”] and have come to worship him.” ...¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh.

⁴ Judah is one of the twelve tribes of Israel, descendants of Jacob, the grandson of Abraham, who was the father of the Jewish people and in the ancestral line of Noah.

⁵ Bethlehem was the birthplace of David, I Samuel 16:1.