

*“For unto us
a child is
born”*



*“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host
appeared with the angel, praising God and
saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on
earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.”*

Luke 2:13-14

As we look forward to this wonderful time of celebration, are we aware that it was foretold in the book of Genesis? It wasn't a sudden inspiration on the part of God, but part of his plan for the redemption of humanity.

It is common to think of the Old and New Testaments as being separate, but a study of scripture presents a different picture. In relation to the coming of Jesus, there is a continuous link of scriptures which provide confirmation as to the truth of God's word.

Read Genesis 1:26-31, 3:1-15, Matthew 1:18-25 and Galatians 4:4

God created man (both male and female), in his own image and longed to have fellowship with them. He provided for their every need with only one stipulation: that they should not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

- Note verse 15 in particular. Now look at Matthew 1:20 and Galatians 4:4. What do you understand by these verses?

It would take far more time than we have in this session to look at all the prophecies in the Old Testament which were confirmed by events in the New, but we will look at a selection of them.

Prophecies about Jesus	OT Scripture	NT Fulfilment
Messiah would be born of a woman	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4-6
Messiah would be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23 Luke 1:26-31

“It has been calculated that the chance of this event was one in 300,000.

“If one were to conceive 50 specific prophecies about a person in the future, whom one would never meet, just what’s the likelihood that this person will fulfil all 50 of the predictions? How much less would this likelihood be if 25 of these predictions were about what other people would do to him, and were completely beyond his control?

“After examining only eight different prophecies, they conservatively estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} . To illustrate how large the number 10^{17} is (a figure with 17 zeros), the professor gave this illustration: If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They’ll cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the one silver dollar that has the special mark on it. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would’ve had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time.” This information comes from: [Empower International](#)

I know this may sound complex, but it is important that we realise that in effect, it is impossible for the prophecies concerning the birth, life, and death of Jesus, to have happened by chance.

In our recent studies, we have been looking at the line of succession from Abraham, through Isaac and Jacob, and to David. Here is what the Bible tells us.

Prophecies about Jesus	OT Scripture	NT Fulfilment
Messiah would come from the line of Abraham	Genesis 12:3 Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1 Romans 9:5
Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac	Genesis 17:19 Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:34
Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Mathew 1:2
Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33 Hebrews 7:14
Messiah would be heir to King David’s throne	2 Samuel 7:12-13 Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32-33 Romans 1:3

It is crucial for us Christians to have an answer to those who question the validity of our beliefs. [1 Peter 3:15](#) says: *“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord.*

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you hold."

The following complete our brief selection:

Prophecies about Jesus	OT Scripture	NT Fulfilment
Messiah would be called IMMANUEL	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah	Isaiah 40:3-5	Luke 3:3-6
Messiah would be rejected by his own people	Psalm 69:8 Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11 John 7:5
Messiah would be declared THE SON OF GOD	Psalm 2:7	Matthew 3:16-17
Messiah would speak in parables	Psalm 78:2-4 Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35
Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced	Psalm 22:16 Zechariah 12:10	John 20:25-27
Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments	Psalm 22:18	Luke 23:34 Matthew 27:35-36
Messiah would be buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Messiah would resurrect from the dead	Psalm 16:10 Psalm 49:15	Matthew 28:2-7 Acts 2:22-32
Messiah would ascend to heaven	Psalm 24:7-10	Mark 16:19 Luke 24:51
Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin	Isaiah 53:5-12	Romans 5:6-8

There are many more prophecies, but this selection hopefully, proves the truth and reliability of scripture.

- Does reading these verses encourage you to want to read more of God's word? As we participate in the variety of services over this Christmas period, keep these scriptures in mind. Jesus may have come as a baby, but he grew to adulthood and demonstrated that he was not only man, but also God. He is our risen, ascended, and glorified Lord who will one day return to take us to himself.

