



Did you know that Christmas was prophesied?

No other event from 2000 years ago holds the attention of the world like Christmas and the birth of Jesus does, events that are known far and wide and are celebrated yearly.

On this matter, I will tell you one element that's almost always left out about the story of Christmas which originally was virtually paramount to those who first heard it in the time of ancient Israel. Here's what it is: Christmas was prophesied!

People all over the world, Christian or otherwise, often know that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

But almost no one knows why it matters that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, much less the circumstances of His mother, Mary. And that's because fulfilled Biblical prophecy has become one of the unknown phenomenon of our enlightened times. Nevertheless the plain fulfillment of prophecy is one of the greatest proofs of a supernatural God who has a plan for mankind and is steering events toward an ultimate showdown between Light and Darkness.

Here is what was prophesied about Christmas:

First, Bethlehem itself was *predicted* specifically by God through the mouth of the prophet Micah to be the birthplace of the coming King of the Jews, over 700 years before Jesus' birth. It says in Micah 5:2, (God speaking to the town of Bethlehem), "***But you Bethlehem, though you be small among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth the one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose going forth is from old, from everlasting.***"

The Jews of Jesus' time knew exactly what this meant and even used it to try to prove Jesus was *not* the Messiah. Jesus was born in Bethlehem but grew up in Nazareth. So the unbelieving Jews knew Jesus was from Nazareth and said, "***Has not Scripture said that Christ shall come from the seed of David and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?***" (John 7:42) But Christ did come from the town of Bethlehem; He was born there although he grew up in Nazareth. I guess those folks who were trying to use this against Him hadn't done their research.

What does that mean about "***the seed of David and the town of Bethlehem, where David was***"? Again, it was majorly significant to people 2000 years ago, but virtually not at all to us now. The Messiah to come for the Jews was to be a direct descendant of King David, Israel's greatest king.

It was prophesied, foretold and every Israeli at that time knew it! They also knew the Messiah was to be a descendant of King David. Was Jesus a physical descendant of David? Absolutely. The opening 16 verses of the book of Matthew traces the lineage of "the Virgin Mary" directly back to King David. "***The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.***" (Matthew 1:1) A very important detail, erased in history.

It was also prophesied of the Messiah to come that He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14 says, "***The Lord himself shall give you a sign; behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.***" And Emmanuel means "***God with us.***" (Matthew 1:23)

The Messiah, that every Jew back then looked for, would be born in Bethlehem, born of the lineage of David and born of a virgin. That's why Christmas is so important, because Jesus was not some ordinary little baby born to a teenage girl. He was and is the Messiah promised to Israel, and He is our Savior. HAPPY CHRISTMAS!