

Twas the Night Before Christmas

Luke 2:25,26

'Twas the night before Christmas...' Published in 1823 is poem about the anticipation of one bearing gifts and joy to all awaiting his soon yet covert coming at Christmas (Ole St Nick). *Child had a long list gifts for Santa and parents asked why so long? Because 'I might not believe in Santa next year'.*

Many legends & myths surround Christmas yet one thing is certain, the coming of a savior into the world to save sinners from their sins had long been anticipated. ***Luke 2:25,26 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ.***

How did he know? How can we know? ***John 5:39 "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me;***

Scriptures is OT. Jesus is saying OT prophecies will verify who I am. They give us evidence to know that Jesus is savior of the world, Son of God. If that be true not only is Jesus (who He said He is) but OT prophecies originated w/ God Himself because no mere man could write or fulfill these.

To authenticate we need evidence and it is provided by specific prophecies related to Jesus coming. What is the probability these prophecies coming to pass whereby a man like Simeon would know Jesus is the one.

OT *'scriptures'* over 300 prophecies substantiation who Jesus is.

One--Born of the seed of a woman –***Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."***

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Fulfilled *Ga 4:4 But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, ---Virgin birth-man has the seed, woman the ovum or female reproductive cell*

Two Born of a virgin *Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. **Fulfilled** Luke 1:26-31 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: when His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. **19**And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly. **20**But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. **21**"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." **22**Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet: **23**"BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL," which translated means, "GOD WITH US." **24**And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did as the angel of the Lord commanded him, and took Mary as his wife, **25**but kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.*

Three Descendant of Abraham *Gen 26:4 I will multiply your seed as the stars of heaven, and will give your seed all these lands; and by your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed **Fulfilled** Gal 3:16 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ.*

Four Tribe of Judah *Gen 49:10 "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes.... **Fulfillment** Lk 3:33 the son of Amminadab, the son of Admin, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah*

Five Born in Bethlehem *Micah 5:2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity." **Fulfilled** Lk 2:4-7 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, **5**in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. **6**While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. **7**And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.*

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Six Slaughter of babies *Jer 31:15 This is what the LORD says: “A cry is heard in Ramah—deep anguish and bitter weeping. Rachel weeps for her children, refusing to be comforted—for her children are gone.”* **Fulfilled** *Mat 2:16-18* **16** *Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi.* **17** *Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH, WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING, RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN; & SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED, BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE.”*

Seven Flight to Egypt *Hos 11:1 When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.* **Fulfilled** *Matt 2:14,14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.* **15** *He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”*

Eight Forerunner *Malachi 3:1 “Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,”* says the LORD of hosts. **Fulfilled** *Luke 7:27 Jesus said “This is the one about whom it is written, BEHOLD, I SEND MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU, WHO WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY BEFORE YOU.”*

Other prophecies: Make paths straight *Is 40:3-5--Lk 3:3-6*; Elijah come first *Mal 4:5-6--Matt 11:13,14*; Melchizedek *Ps 110:4--Heb 5:5,6*; Betrayed *Ps 41:9--Lk 22:47,48*; 30 pc silver *Zech 11:12--Matt 26:14,15*; Triumphant entry *Dan 9:25—Mark 11:7-9*; Cut off *Dan 9:26—John 16:16*; Crucified *Ps 22—Matt 20:19*; Crucified w/ criminals *Is 53:12—Mk 15:27,28*; Gambled for cloths *Ps 22:17,18—Matt 27:35*; Resurrected *Ps 16:10—Mk 16:6,7*; Ascension; Buried rich tomb; Side pierced; No bones broken; Falsely accused; Hands/feet nailed

Science speaks – 600 students from 12 different classes combined estimates for evidence of Jesus Christ fulfilling biblical prophecy. Prof Peter Stoner of Pasadena City College led in the probability factor.

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Eight prophecies **1**-Bethlehem, **2**-Forerunner, **3**-Triumphant entry, **4**- Pierced hands/feet, **5**-30 pcs silver, **6**-Buy potters field, **7**-Sheep to slaughter open not mouth. **8**-Wicked mocking.

Chance factor – 1:10 pull from pocket; Compound 10X10X10;

If 1 in 10 bald; if 1 in 50 lost finger – bald w/o finger 1 in 500

Jesus fulfilling 8 prophecies, the compound probability 1 in $10/17^{\text{th}}$ = one hundred thousand trillion or one hundred quadrillion

Trillion \$1000 bills will stack 63 miles high; 100 thousand trillion \$1000 bills will stack 6.3 million miles high. Earth to moon about 250,000 miles **so** if you stacked $10/17^{\text{th}}$ power \$1000 bills the stack climbs 25 times farther than the moon-----if marked one bill blindfold person send in shuttle, thumb thru stack & pull out the one marked \$1000 bill.....

Or if stack $10/17^{\text{th}}$ power \$1 bills—250 stacks stretch from Earth to Venus (25 million miles). Mark one, blindfold....Not a chance but a certainty.

2 Peter 1:19-21 So we have the prophetic word made more sure, to which you do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star arises in your hearts. 20 But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, 21 for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Ps 40:7 Then I said, "Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me: Rev 19:10 For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

Twas the night before Jesus came.....