

# Jesus

Part 3

Matthew 1:18 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.

The following note is very important.

The first stage of marriage in Jewish culture, usually lasting for a year before the wedding night, it was more legal than an engagement in our current culture.

(UBS Handbooks for New Testament)

Betrothed . . . came together (TEV " engaged . . . married "): though the Jews did distinguish engagement from marriage, the dissolution of an engagement was considered the equivalent of divorce, and an engaged woman whose husband-to-be had died was regarded as a widow. Consequently, any sexual relations between an engaged woman and another man was viewed as adultery, and the woman was punished accordingly.

<sup>19</sup> And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.

<sup>Verse 19</sup> Here Joseph is called a "righteous man". As with Zachariah; GOD has not only revealed Himself to them, but their lives had changed. What we can see is that we DO NOT need to follow someone else for GOD to declare us righteous. Joseph is a carpenter and Zachariah was a priest. Zachariah responded without faith and GOD met him. Joseph responded with faith. We should be aware that we will meet others who love GOD everywhere, not just in a religious profession.

Matthew 1:20 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 *Subjunctive with negation* to take Mary as your wife; for the Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 20 Here we see that the plan of GOD will not be stopped by the fears or the plans of men. There is a limit to our choices. GOD will send an "angelic messenger" to guide us into the perfect will of GOD when we are open and willing to obey His directions!

“Do not be afraid” a Subjunctive with a Negative- “DO NOT LET FEAR EVERY ENTER YOUR MIND. Now or at any point in the future!

Aorist Passive Subjunctive & Negative - Stop all fears ; have no fears - the subjunctive indicated that the fear was not there yet. Do not let any fear arise in your heart about your wife and the child! This child was the one from Genesis 3 "He". His name JESUS (Savior Deliverer) was chosen by the Father that every time His name was called it was the cry from man for the Savior and Deliverer.

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) The angels of heaven are his (GOD's) servants and messengers, and it has been well said that we think of them too little amid the changing circumstances of our lives and look only for natural laws and natural causes, whereas God's help is often extended through supernatural hands.

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) .... so he (GOD) still guides all things for his sons even though His hand is now invisible.

Matthew 1:21 "She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He <sup>Emphatic</sup> will save His people from their sins."

Verse 21

"Call" in this context is equal to a command and Jesus HIMSELF (Lit) will save the people from their sins!

The "HE" here is Emphatic Darby so notes it \*He\*

#### Roberson's Word Pictures

Thou shalt call his name Jesus (Kalesies to onoma autou Iesoun). The rabbis named six whose names were given before birth: "Isaac, Ishmael, Moses, Solomon, Josiah, and the name of the Messiah, whom may the Holy One, blessed be His name, bring in our day." The angel puts it up to Joseph as the putative father to name the child. "Jesus is the same as Joshua, a contraction of Jehoshuah (Nu 13:16; 1Ch 7:27), signifying in Hebrew, 'Jehovah is helper,' or 'Help of Jehovah'" (Broadus). So Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua (Heb 4:8). He is another Joshua to lead the true people of God into the Promised Land. The name itself was common enough as Josephus shows. Jehovah is Salvation as seen in Joshua for the Hebrews and in Jesus for all believers. "The meaning of the name, therefore, finds expression in the title Saviour applied to our Lord (Lu 1:47; 2:11; Joh 4:42)" (Vincent). He will save (sosei) his people from their sins and so be their Saviour (Soter). He will be prophet, priest, and king, but "Saviour" sums it all up in one word. The explanation is carried out in the promise, "for he is the one who (autos) will save (sosei with a play on the name Jesus) his people from their sins." Paul will later explain that by the covenant people, the children of promise, God means the spiritual Israel, all who believe whether Jews or Gentiles. This wonderful word touches the very heart of the mission and message of the Messiah. Jesus himself will show that the kingdom of heaven includes all those and only those who have the reign of God in their hearts and lives. From their sins (apo ton hamartion auton). Both sins of omission and of commission. The substantive (hamartia) is from the verb (hamartanein) and means missing the mark as with an arrow. How often the best of us fall short and fail to score. Jesus will save us away from (apo) as well as out of (ex) our sins. They will be cast into oblivion and he will cover them up out of sight.

Matthew 1:22 Now all this <sup>Emphatic</sup> took  
place <sup>Perfect</sup> to fulfill what was spoken by the  
Lord through the prophet:

Verse 22 "This ALL took place" is a Perfect.  
The "THIS" is emphatic in the Greek.  
The fulfillment of GOD's word will be  
exactly as He has said! The word for Virgin  
in the Hebrew is more than "one that has not  
been married." The general term is used in  
Gen. 24:16 "bethulah" but then changed to  
the term ""Almah" in Gen. 24:43 when  
Rebekah had already accepted the offer to  
marry Isaac. So when GOD choose to have  
the word used again in Isaiah 7:14 GOD had  
restricted this prophecy to a virgin that had  
accepted the proposal and was not yet  
married. So Mary was betrothed to Joseph  
exactly as the term stated! GOD's word will  
not fail in any detail that it declares!

<sup>23</sup> "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."

Verse 23 Robinson's Word Pictures "GOD with  
us!" This is Matthew's explanation of the  
meaning of Immanuel, a descriptive  
appellation of Jesus Christ and more than a  
mere motto designation. God's help,  
Jesus=the Help of God, is thus seen. One  
day Jesus will say to Philip: "He that has  
seen me has seen the Father" (Joh 14:9).

<sup>24</sup> And Joseph awoke from his sleep and did  
as the angel of the Lord commanded him,  
and took *Mary* as his wife,

<sup>25</sup> but kept her a virgin until she gave birth  
to a Son; and he called His name Jesus.

Verse 24 We see the obedience that is required  
when it is clear that GOD has provided  
direction. And in keeping with the Word in  
Isaiah Joseph did not touch Mary! Greek  
states "he knew her not"

NAU Luke 2:1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

<sup>2</sup> This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

*NOTES on these 3 verses*  
*The TEXT continues on Page 9*

(Robertson's Word Pictures) No such decree was given by Greek or Roman historians and it was for long assumed by many scholars that Luke was in error. But papyri and inscriptions have confirmed Luke on every point in these crucial verses 2:1-7. See W.M. Ramsay's books (Was Christ Born at Bethlehem? Luke the Physician. The Bearing of Recent Discovery on the Trustworthiness of the N.T.).

(Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary)  
Verses 1-7

The fullness of time was now come, when God would send forth his Son, made of a woman, and made under the law; and it was foretold that he should be born at Bethlehem. Now here we have an account of the time, place, and manner of it.

I. The time when our Lord Jesus was born. Several things may be gathered out of these verses which intimate to us that it was the proper time.

1. He was born at the time when the fourth monarchy was in its height, just when it was become, more than any of the three before it, a universal monarchy. He was born in the days of Augustus Caesar, when the Roman empire extended itself further than ever before or since, including Parthia one way, and Britain another way; so that it was then called Terraram orbis imperium - The empire of the whole earth; and here that empire is called all the world (v. 1), for there

was scarcely any part of the civilized world, but what was dependent on it. Now this was the time when the Messiah was to be born, according to Daniel's prophecy (Dan. 2:44): In the days of these kings, the kings of the fourth monarchy, shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.

2. He was born when Judea was become a province of the empire, and tributary to it; as appears evidently by this, that when all the Roman empire was taxed, the Jews were taxed among the rest. Jerusalem was taken by Pompey the Roman general, about sixty years before this, who granted the government of the church to Hyrcanus, but not the government of the state; by degrees it was more and more reduced, till now at length it was quite subdued; for Judea was ruled by Cyrenius the Roman governor of Syria (v. 2): the Roman writers call him Sulpitius Quirinus. Now just at this juncture, the Messiah was to be born, for so was dying Jacob's prophecy, that Shiloh should come when the sceptre was departed from Judah, and the lawgiver from between his feet, Gen. 49:10. This was the first taxing that was made in Judea, the first badge of their servitude; therefore now Shiloh must come, to set up his kingdom.

3. There is another circumstance, as to the time, implied in this general enrolment of all the subjects of the empire, which is, that there was now universal peace in the empire. The temple of Janus was now shut, which it never used to be if any wars were on foot; and now it was fit for the Prince of peace to be born, in whose days swords should be beaten into plough-shares.

II. The place where our Lord Jesus was born is very observable. He was born at Bethlehem; so it was foretold (Mic. 5:2), the scribes so understood it (Mt. 2:5, 6), so did the common people, Jn. 7:42. The name of the place was significant. Bethlehem

signifies the house of bread; a proper place for him to be born in who is the Bread of life, the Bread that came down from heaven. But that was not all; Bethlehem was the city of David, where he was born, and therefore there he must be born who was the Son of David. Zion was also called the city of David (2 Sa. 5:7), yet Christ was not born there; for Bethlehem was that city of David where he was born in meanness, to be a shepherd; and this our Saviour, when he humbled himself, chose for the place of his birth; not Zion, where he ruled in power and prosperity, that was to be a type of the church of Christ, that mount Zion. Now when the virgin Mary was with child, and near her time, Providence so ordered it that, by order from the emperor, all the subjects of the Roman empire were to be taxed; that is, they were to give in their names to the proper officers, and they were to be registered and enrolled, according to their families, which is the proper signification of the word here used; their being taxed was but secondary. It is supposed that they made profession of subjection to the Roman empire, either by some set form of words, or at least by payment of some small tribute, a penny suppose, in token of their allegiance, like a man's attuning tenant. Thus are they vassals upon record, and may thank themselves.

According to this decree, the Jews (who were now nice in distinguishing their tribes and families) provided that in their enrolments particular care should be had to preserve the memory of them. Thus foolishly are they solicitous to save the shadow, when they had lost the substance. That which Augustus designed was either to gratify his pride in knowing the numbers of his people, and proclaiming it to the world, or he did it in policy, to strengthen his interest, and make his government appear the more formidable; but Providence had another reach in it. All the world shall be at

the trouble of being enrolled, only that Joseph and Mary may. This brought them up from Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judea, because they were of the stock and lineage of David (v. 4, 5); and perhaps, being poor and low, they thought the royalty of their extraction rather than a burden and expense to them than a matter of pride. Because it is difficult to suppose that every Jew (women as well as men) was obliged to repair to the city of which their ancestors were, and there be enrolled, now, at a time when they kept not to the bounds of their tribes, as formerly, it may be offered as a conjecture that this great exactness was used only with the family of David, concerning which, it is probable, the emperor gave particular orders, it having been the royal family, and still talked of as designed to be so, that he might know its number and strength. Divers ends of Providence were served by this.

1. Hereby the virgin Mary was brought, great with child, to Bethlehem, to be delivered there, according to the prediction; whereas she had designed to lie in at Nazareth. See how man purposes and God disposes; and how Providence orders all things for the fulfilling of the scripture, and makes use of the projects men have for serving their own purposes, quite beyond their intention, to serve his.

2. Hereby it appeared that Jesus Christ was of the seed of David; for what brings his mother to Bethlehem now, but because she was of the stock and lineage of David? This was a material thing to be proved, and required such an authentic proof as this. Justin Martyr and Tertullian, two of the earliest advocates for the Christian religion, appeal to these rolls or records of the Roman empire, for the proof of Christ's being born of the house of David.

3. Hereby it appeared that he was made under the law; for he became a subject of the Roman empire as soon as he was born, a

servant of rulers, Isa. 49:7. Many suppose that, being born during the time of the taxing, he was enrolled as well as his father and mother, that it might appear how he made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant. Instead of having kings tributaries to him, when he came into the world he was himself a tributary.

III. The circumstances of his birth, which were very mean, and under all possible marks of contempt. He was indeed a first-born son; but it was a poor honour to be the first-born of such a poor woman as Mary was, who had no inheritance to which he might be entitled as first-born, but what was in nativity.

1. He was under some abasements in common with other children; he was wrapped in swaddling clothes, as other children are when they are new-born, as if he could be bound, or needed to be kept straight. He that makes darkness a swaddling band for the sea was himself wrapped in swaddling bands, Job 38:9. The everlasting Father became a child of time, and men said to him whose out-goings were of old from everlasting, We know this man, whence he is, Jn. 7:27. The Ancient of days became an infant of a span long.

2. He was under some abasements peculiar to himself.

(1.) He was born at an inn. That son of David that was the glory of his Father's house had no inheritance that he could command, no not in the city of David, no nor a friend that would accommodate his mother in distress with lodgings to be brought to bed in. Christ was born in an inn, to intimate that he came into the world but to sojourn here for awhile, as in an inn, and to teach us to do likewise. An inn receives all comers, and so does Christ. He hangs out the banner of love for his sign, and whoever comes to him, he will in no wise cast out; only, unlike other inns, he welcomes those

that come without money and without price. All is on free cost.

(2.) He was born in a stable; so some think the word signifies which we translate a manger, a place for cattle to stand to be fed in. Because there was no room in the inn, and for want of conveniences, nay for want of necessaries, he was laid in a manger, instead of a cradle. The word which we render swaddling clothes some derive from a word that signifies to rend, or tear, and these infer that he was so far from having a good suit of child-bed linen, that his very swaddles were ragged and torn. His being born in a stable and laid in a manger was an instance, [1.] Of the poverty of his parents. Had they been rich, room would have been made for them; but, being poor, they must shift as they could. [2.] Of the corruption and degeneracy of manners in that age; that a woman in reputation for virtue and honour should be used so barbarously. If there had been any common humanity among them, they would not have turned a woman in travail into a stable. [3.] It was an instance of the humiliation of our Lord Jesus. We were become by sin like an out-cast infant, helpless and forlorn; and such a one Christ was. Thus he would answer the type of Moses, the great prophet and lawgiver of the Old Testament, who was in his infancy cast out in an ark of bulrushes, as Christ in a manger. Christ would hereby put a contempt upon all worldly glory, and teach us to slight it. Since his own received him not, let us not think it strange if they receive us not.

Luke 2:4 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,

<sup>5</sup> in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

<sup>7</sup> 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.

Verse 4 The fulfillment of this prophecy was brought about by a human decision. GOD controls the events in human choices to bring His wishes to pass.

Verse 6 Here is the fulfillment of the prophecy to be born in Bethlehem.

Mic 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.

Verse 7 Clearly Jesus is the firstborn of Mary. Other children were born after Jesus.

(Calvin)

Because there was no room for them in the inn. We see here not only the great poverty of Joseph, but the cruel tyranny which admitted of no excuse, but compelled Joseph to bring his wife along with him, at an inconvenient season, when she was near the time of her delivery. Indeed, it is probable that those who were the descendants of the royal family were treated more harshly and disdainfully than the rest. Joseph was not so devoid of feeling as to have no concern about his wife's delivery. He would gladly have avoided this necessity: but, as that is impossible, he is forced to yield, and commends himself to God. We see, at the same time, what sort of beginning the life of the Son of God had, and in what cradle he was placed. Such was his condition at his birth, because he had taken upon him our flesh for this purpose, that he might, empty himself" (Philippians 2:7) on our account. When he was thrown into a stable, and placed in a manger, and a lodging refused him among men, it was that heaven might be opened to us, not as a temporary lodging, but as our eternal country and inheritance, and that angels might receive us into their abode.

Luke 2:8 In the same region there were *some* shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

<sup>9</sup> And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened.

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid:" Present Imperative with a negative for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;

<sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

<sup>12</sup> "This" Emphatic will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

<sup>13</sup> And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds *began* saying to one another, "Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing" Rhema that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

Verse 10 "Do not be afraid" Present Imperative with Negative (Stop fearing)

Verse 12 "This" Emphatic

Verse 13 ""Heavenly Host" Army **THEY** announce the peace!

Verse 15 "This Thing (Rhema)" Direct "Word" spoken to them!

Luke 2:16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.

<sup>17</sup> When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.

<sup>18</sup> And all who heard <sup>Participle</sup> it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.

<sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these things, <sup>Rhema</sup> pondering them in her heart.

<sup>20</sup> The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.

<sup>21</sup> And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was *then* called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.

Verse 16 When GOD reveals something to you, you must not delay! All our activities must be put on hold when GOD speaks!

Verse 17 Once we have seen - it is then time to "TELL" others of the Rhema that GOD has spoken. We must remember that what He speaks in the darkness we are to proclaim from the housetops! Mat. 10:27

What I tell you in the darkness, SPEAK <sup>Imperative</sup> in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, PROCLAIM <sup>Imperative</sup> upon the housetops.

"SPEAK" "PROCLAIM" Imperatives!!

Verse 18 "Heard" a participle were "HEARING"

Verse 19 "These Things" (Rhema (Plural) {s}) We are not to forget the Rhema Words that the LORD speaks to us! <sup>John 10:27</sup> "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me;

Verse 20 The transformation of our lives is revealed - we will be glorying and praising GOD not drawing attention to anything BUT GOD!

Verse 21 The naming was a part of the ceremony of circumcision as is shown also in the case of John the Baptist (Lu 1:59-66).

Luke 2:22 And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord<sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "EVERY *firstborn* MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD"),<sup>24</sup> and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, "A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS."

Verse 22 Gill

And when the days of purification,.... Of the Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord; though most copies read, "of their purification"; and so read the Syriac, Persic, and Ethiopic versions, including both Mary and Jesus: and now, though Mary was not polluted by the conception, bearing, and bringing forth of Jesus, that holy thing born of her; yet inasmuch as she was in the account of the law clean; and though Jesus had no impurity in his nature, yet seeing he was made sin for his people, both came under this law of purification, which was for the sake of the son or daughter, as well as for the mother; though our reading, and which is according to the Complutensian edition, best agrees with the Hebrew phrase, *הַרְחַט יָמֵי*, the days of her purifying or purification, in Leviticus 12:4. according to the law of Moses, in Leviticus 12:1.

were accomplished; which for a son were forty days: the seven first days after she gave birth she was unclean; and then she continued three and thirty days in the blood of her purifying, which made forty; see Leviticus 12:2 but though the time of her purifying was upon the fortieth day, yet it was not till the day following that she came to the temple with her offering: for so runs the Jewish canon F23Maimon. Hilch Mechosre Cappara, c. 1. sect. 5. ,

And this was the time when they, Joseph and Mary, brought him, the child Jesus, to Jerusalem, and to the temple there, to present him to the Lord, to the priest his representative; and which was done in the eastern gate, called the gate of Nicanor: And here Mary appeared with her firstborn son, the true Messiah; and this was the first time of his coming into his temple, as was foretold, Malachi 3:1.

Comments continue on Verse 24

Here by the offering that was given we know that the Wisemen DID NOT come to the stable. They came to the HOUSE. If they had such gifts they would have offered a Lamb.

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) Joseph and Mary came to give only "a pair of turtledoves or two young doves," which cost about 16 cents, and not a lamb and a turtledove or a young dove, which would amount to two dollars (Exod. 12:6, 8). They could not well afford the latter.

Gill

a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons: if the person was able, she was to bring a lamb of the first year for a burnt offering; and a young pigeon, or a turtle dove, for a sin offering; but in case of poverty, then the above sufficed, and one of them was for a burnt offering, and the other for a sin offering; which shows not only that the virgin offered for herself a sin offering, being ceremonially unclean, but also her mean estate and poverty, in that she offered the offering of the poorer sort; see Leviticus 12:6.

Luke 2:25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this <sup>Emphatic</sup> man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

Verse 25 "THIS" Emphatic [man]

Luke 2:26 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.

Verse 26 The Holy Spirit has been active from the beginning of time bringing about GOD's will into the lives of men that would bring about His purpose. Righteous men will be a part of GOD 's plan.

It is only after Pentecost that the Holy Spirit could reside "in" man when the full deliverance from sin and corruption was accomplished by the life, death and resurrection of Jesus! As we learn from the Word of GOD we see the activity of the Holy Spirit.

As GOD the Holy Spirit cannot lie or be mistaken in anything that He reveals! There is no indication when the communication was given to him, he believed and GOD was faithful to His Word!

<sup>27</sup> And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,

Verse 27 Promises from GOD are to be met by us with obedience by following the directions of the Spirit!

Romans 8:14 For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these <sup>Emphatic</sup> are sons of God.

<sup>28</sup> then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,

Verse 28 Here we see the responses of others when we walk by and in the directions of the Holy Spirit. Those who are following the LORD will be responsive to the Spirit. They allowed him to hold and bless Jesus knowing the true identity of the Child that was entrusted to them.

It is a beautiful thing to watch the true movement of GOD in His people! GOD is moving among us; yet to those who do not know GOD, GOD's activity happen without their notice!

Luke 2:29 "Now Lord, You are releasing  
Your bond-servant <sup>Slave</sup> to depart in peace,  
According to Your word; <sup>Rhema</sup>

Verse 29 "Lord" - despotes (δεσπότης, 1203), "a  
master, lord, one who possesses supreme  
authority," is used in personal address to God in  
Luke 2:29; Acts 4:24; Rev. 6:10; with reference  
to Christ, 2 Pet. 2:1; Jude 4;

"bond-servant" is SLAVE; *see Book "SLAVE"*  
*by John MacArthur 2010*  
"Word" is "rhema"

The Holy Spirit had given him understanding of  
the identity of the child only one month old.  
This event would make Mary and Joseph aware  
of GOD's watchful care. GOD had brought the  
shepherds on <sup>34</sup> And Simeon blessed them and  
said to Mary His mother, "Behold, this *Child* is  
appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel,  
and for a sign to be opposed--

Stated in Verse 35 and a sword will pierce even your  
own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many  
hearts may be revealed."

<sup>30</sup> For my eyes have seen Your salvation,  
<sup>31</sup> Which You have prepared in the presence  
of all peoples,  
<sup>32</sup> A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE  
GENTILES, And the glory of Your people  
Israel."  
<sup>33</sup> And His father and mother were amazed  
at the things which were being said about  
Him.

that difficult night searching for a place when  
they needed to know that GOD was watching.  
Here was another time when they had little to  
bring to GOD and could only bring the offering  
of the poor. Perhaps in a measure of hidden  
shame when they meet one sent from GOD  
before the birth and spoke of the blessings this  
child would be! GOD chooses what conditions  
He wishes for the children that He gives us.  
How many have failed to receive GOD's  
blessings because they wished to control the  
circumstances before having children.

GOD will later provide for all that they would  
need to travel and live in another country and as  
GOD had instructed for the husband to spend a  
year with a new wife GOD also provided for the  
entire family and Joseph would be there as GOD  
intends for every family. The presence of the  
father is GOD's design and we can disregard His  
design to only experience the sad results of our  
decisions. A new mother is overwhelmed and  
needs time to hear from GOD! The husband's  
presence would assure the proper bonding with  
the child and also reveal to his wife what kind of  
father and husband he would be in the future  
when difficult times occurred.

Luke 2:34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother,  
"Behold, this <sup>Emphatic</sup> *Child* is appointed for the fall and rise <sup>\*\*\*</sup> of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--

<sup>35</sup> and a sword will pierce even your own soul-- to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

<sup>36</sup> And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with *her* husband seven years after her marriage,

Verse 34. "This One" <sup>Emphatic</sup> is appointed Fall and Resurrection \*\*\* This verse is the *only* place where it is not translated "Resurrection" in 42 locations!

"Appointed" Lit. Laid down; given

"Opposed" "Spoken against"(Robertson's Word Pictures) (Plummer). Jesus is the magnet of the ages. He draws some, he repels others. This is true of all epoch----making men to some extent. Spoken against (antilegomenon). Present passive participle, continuous action.

Verse 35 Here we see that Jesus would be used by GOD as the one revealing the contents of the hearts of men.

Verse 36 Clearly Simeon and Anna are instruments that GOD had used for His Glory. They were allowed to see the LORD of Glory. Simeon had been told that he would see the Christ and HE DID. Anna is declared to be a Prophetess. There is no indication of what she did but as GOD's Word is the only source of GOD's revelation to man and the source of His Truth; we can be certain that GOD had revealed all that was needed in early revelation to instruct us!

The Old Testament ministry of Prophets was not abandoned nor were they missing among GOD's people!

Luke 2:37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She <sup>Emphatic</sup> never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.

<sup>38</sup> At that very moment she came up and *began* giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

<sup>39</sup> When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.

Verse 37

The life of Anna points to a life of service in and among GOD's people. She lives a life within the guidelines of GOD's word. Marrying and upon becoming a widow she dedicated her life to the LORD completely with prayer and fasting!

Greek has

“And ‘SHE’ (Emphatic) ‘a widow’ ‘She’ (Emphatic) never left the Temple serving day and night.

Verse 38 She was honored by GOD to be the vessel to speak of Jesus to those who came into the temple looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
TRUE seekers of GOD!

Verse 39 This small statement declares that Jesus came and completely obeyed the Law of the LORD.

It must be understood that the current “laws” that we see the Jewish people follow are NOT all from the scriptures! Many are expanded explanations from the Rabbi-that were considered great teachers. Based on oral law. See CODE OF JEWISH LAW; 1927 The Complete ArtScroll – Siddur; 1984

Matthew 2:1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,

<sup>2</sup> "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him."

Verse 1 "Magi"

A caste of wise men specializing in astronomy, astrology, and natural science. There is no number given to the magi, and the custom has dominated of three because of the three gifts. But three men is nowhere stated in the text!

The Oracle of Balaam to Balak

Numbers 24:17 "I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

They had come to "WORSHIP" Him! Here we see the response of the waiting Gentiles that were looking for the star! They took the words "literally" and began to search the heavens for His coming.

We as Christians must be careful with our interpretation of a "literal" text that we view as symbolic. Here in this passage the "Star" was to be literally looked for and Only the Magi saw it. It was clearly there for centuries. Some may have doubted because it was beyond their capacity to see a GOD who controlled all of Creation.

Here is a CLEAR WARNING if we are to be prepared to meet our returning LORD!

We must follow the LITERAL MEANING stated in the Word of GOD! If the wise men moved away from a LITERAL understanding of GOD's Word they would have missed the role that GOD intended for them in His redemption story!

Are we, searching for the one who is coming! Somehow we have lost this response of being ready for the coming of the Savior.

GOD NEVER has a personal need but GOD often delights to use us. Where we supply the resources to bring about the conditions that He wishes when He returns! GOD did this with the materials for the Tabernacle. The gifts and wealth that they received when they left Egypt could be GIVEN back to GOD on they could keep them for themselves.

Have we accumulated our possessions for ourselves or do we have them the Glory of GOD as His steward. When what we have saved is needed to meet the needs of the savior are we READY to place them into the LORD's hands at any moment!

They were ALSO ready to receive further instructions from GOD as they followed the word of GOD! When further revelation from GOD's word was provided they followed it!

They also clearly stated the relationship that they had to the coming Child. He was the one that they wanted to worship. They were fully convinced of who he was from the portions of the word that was available to them.

Matthew 2:3 When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

Verse 3 GOD used the troubling of Unbelievers as the vehicle to cause them to search GOD's word. The King that was to be born would change the POLITICAL conditions of all of humanity and because their position was in jeopardy they wished to destroy Him!  
We must search GOD's word for His clearly stated instructions to be prepared for Him!

Matthew 2:4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'AND YOU *Emphatic*, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.'

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

Verse 5 "Written by" is "written THROUGH" indicating that the men that were used were not the source of what was written, They were moved by GOD and responded to His moving!

Verse 6 Emphatic "YOU" singular

Verse 7 It should be noted that the Magi were watching for centuries. When a change was noticed they took note!

They were continually watching!

Numbers 24:17

"I see him, but not now;  
I behold him, but not near;  
A star shall come forth from Jacob,  
A scepter shall rise from Israel,  
And shall crush through the forehead of Moab,  
And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

Matthew 2:8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully <sup>Imperative</sup> for the Child; and when you have found *Him*, report <sup>Imperative</sup> to me, so that I too may come and worship Him."

<sup>9</sup> After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over *the place* where the Child was.

Verse 8 "Search carefully" Imperative  
"report to me" Imperative  
Greek "And I" context will reveal if Emphatic.

The Emphatic would give validity to his false words that he wanted to worship him. A lie, his desire was to kill Him

This direct quote of Herod reveals the heart of the enemy. He commands the Magi to search carefully and when they find him he commands them to report to him, and then proclaims the lie "so that \*I\* (Emphatic) too will worship him."

The enemy wishes to appear as righteous!

Verse 9 "And BEHOLD" the star  
Behold is missing in the NASB Translation  
"LO" is in the ASV and "Behold" is in the NKJV

The reappearing of the Star was not something that went unnoticed!

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) Hence the surprise marked by "lo" at the appearance of the star. The tense in the expression "which they saw in the east" (see v. 2), implies: and not since then. At that time they saw it "in the east," i.e., in that direction; now it "was going before them," προῆγεν, the descriptive imperfect. But this imperfect, picturing the movement as going on, requires that we be told how it ended. So the clause with the aorist follows: "until, having come, it stood," etc. The star moved as a guide; the star arrived (ἔλθών); the star stood (ἑστάθη). It is all perfectly plain, absolutely miraculous, unlike any star that ever existed.

Matthew 2:10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

<sup>11</sup> After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> And having been warned *by God* in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

Verse <sup>10</sup> (Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) Luther thinks the magi felt sad before this, yet they seem to have been happy enough. But when the star appeared and moved as it did, their joy knew no bounds; for not only was God directing them miraculously, they also knew they would soon be in the presence of the King. That star has left a radiance of "joy exceedingly great" which has never grown dim.

Verse <sup>11</sup> Coming into the house! This was a long way from the manger. The Greek states clearly that they came into THE HOUSE not the stable.

The WORSHIP was first! Then the gift giving is second! We do not need to bring anything to Jesus but our love for Him! The Shepherds came with nothing. Only their praise as they Glorified GOD telling them the good news!

Today too many feel that they must bring something to GOD. All Our Heavenly Father waits for is the love from our heart!

Luke 2:10 And the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid (*stop being afraid - Present Imperative & Negative*); for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which shall be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> "And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths, and lying in a manger."

Verse <sup>12</sup> We can see clearly that GOD controls the movement of men. The plans of the enemy were not permitted to be carried out! The Magi did not inform Herod and GOD spoke to Joseph in a dream and he left THAT SAME NIGHT! We must be ready to QUICKLY respond to the directions of the LORD! GOD directs all who will listen to His counsel!

Matthew 2:13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."

Verse 13 A quick response may be needed!

The enemy of our LORD seeks to devour us!

1 Peter 5:8 (NASB)

Be of sober *spirit* (spirit added by translators) be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

To escape the enemy we must be ready to respond to the LORD's clear directions! We may be told to stand or we may be told to flee!

When the Egyptians were coming to destroy GOD's children they were clearly directed to stand!

Exodus 14:13-14 (NASB)

But Moses said to the people, "Do not fear! Stand by and see the salvation of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you will never see them again forever. The Lord will fight for you while you keep silent."

But we also see that Joseph was directed BY GOD to flee!

Matthew 2:13-14 (NASB Strong's)

Now when they (the Magi) had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord \*appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him."  
So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

Matthew 2:14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

Verse 14 Note that Joseph did not delay! He did not wait around for the morning light, to leave!

You and I must clearly know when the LORD speaks to us! Only GOD can direct us in these final hours! And Jesus will guide us!

Jesus has assured us!

John 10:27-30 (NASB)

My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me; and I give eternal life to them, and they \*will never\* perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”

\*will never\* this is a Double Negative. There is No way for His sheep to perish!

Beloved listen for His words to YOU! Be ready to stand and also ready to flee, He WILL direct you!

Matthew 2:15 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."

Verse 15 It is hard for us to see and BELIEVE how GOD may choose to fulfill His word before an evil world! Yet here the word of GOD is being fulfilled as Joseph obeys the LORD's directions. No man saw these events with an understanding that The Eternal GOD was fulfilling His word. Men's perceptions are not the concern of GOD! His WORD will not return void and fail to accomplish HIS WILL!

Isaiah 55:10-11 (NASB Strong's)

<sup>10</sup> "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven,  
And do not return there without watering the earth  
And making it bear and sprout,  
And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;  
<sup>11</sup> So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth;  
It will not return to Me empty,  
Without accomplishing what I desire,  
And without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.

<sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

<sup>18</sup> "A VOICE WAS HEARD IN RAMAH,  
WEEPING AND GREAT MOURNING,  
RACHEL WEEPING FOR HER CHILDREN;  
AND SHE REFUSED TO BE COMFORTED,  
BECAUSE THEY WERE NO MORE."

Verse 16 The enemy's plan to destroy us will not happen! GOD has given us life to fulfill His Purpose! The enemy cannot change GOD's plan for our lives if we are willing to obey His voice!

We know that it was the enemy behind Herod propping him, and note how he sets him in rage he felt "tricked" "mocked" and "ridiculed". So the rage is forced on to the innocent that have no way to fight back!

We must watch when our "anger" flares up! It will lead to being vented on the innocent!

Matthew 2 <sup>19</sup> But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,  
<sup>20</sup> "Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child's life are dead."

<sup>21</sup> So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Verse <sup>21</sup> We often wonder how GOD worked in the hearts of men to bring about His Perfect will. The following provides a glimpse into the Working of GOD and the decisions of man that are followed without the awareness that we will be fulfilling a previously declare Word of GOD! Joseph's fear leads him to Nazareth! Joseph was not trying to fulfill a scripture with his choice of where to stay. We can still trust GOD when our fears and concerns arise. GOD still worked all things together then and He STILL works all things together NOW!

<sup>22</sup> But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned *by God* in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,  
<sup>23</sup> and came and lived in a city called Nazareth. *This was* to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Luke 2:40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

*Text Continues on Page 30*

(Matthew Henry's Complete Commentary)  
But, (1.) Whereas other children are weak in understanding and resolution, he was strong in spirit. By the Spirit of God his human soul was endued with extraordinary vigour, and all his faculties performed their offices in an extraordinary manner. He reasoned strongly, and his judgment was penetrating. (2.) Whereas other children have foolishness bound in their hearts, which appears in what they say or do, he was filled with wisdom, not by any advantages of instruction and education, but by the operation of the Holy Ghost; every thing he said and did was wisely said, and wisely done, above his years. (3.) Whereas other children show that the corruption of nature is in them, and the tares of sin grow up with the wheat of reason, he made it appear that nothing but the grace of God was upon him (the wheat sprang up without tares), and that, whereas other children are by nature children of wrath, he was greatly beloved, and high in the favour of God; that God loved him, and cherished him, and took a particular care of him.

(Calvin's Commentary) Luke 2:40.  
And the child grew. From the infancy of Christ Matthew passes immediately to his manifestation. Luke relates here a single fact, which well deserved to be recorded. In the midst of his boyhood, Christ gave a specimen of his future office, or at least indicated, by a single attempt, what he would afterwards be. The child grew, and

was invigorated in spirit. These words show, that the endowments of his mind grew with his age. Hence we infer, that this progress, or advancement, relates to his human nature: for the Divine nature could receive no increase.

But a question arises. From the time that he was conceived in his mother's womb, did he not abound in all fullness of spiritual gifts? for it appears absurd to say, that the Son of God wanted any thing that was necessary to perfection. The reply is easy. If it takes nothing from his glory, that he was altogether, emptied," (ἐαυτὸν ἐκένωσε, Philippians 2:6,) neither does it degrade him, that he chose not only to grow in body, but to make progress in mind. And certainly when the Apostle declares, that, "in all things he was made like unto his brethren," (Hebrews 2:17,) and "was in all points tempted like as we are, sin excepted," (Hebrews 4:15,) he no doubt includes, that his soul was subject to ignorance. There is only this difference between us and him, that the weaknesses which press upon us, by a necessity which we cannot avoid, were undertaken by him voluntarily, and of his own accord. Christ received, in his human nature, according to his age and capacity, an increase of the free gifts of the Spirit, that "out of his fullness" (John 1:16) he may pour them out upon us; for we draw grace out of his grace.

Some excessively timid persons restrict what is here said to outward appearance, and make the meaning to be, that Christ appeared to make progress, though, in point of fact, no addition was made to his knowledge. But the words have a quite different meaning, and this mistaken opinion is still more fully refuted by what Luke shortly afterwards adds, that he grew in age and wisdom with God and man, (ver. 52.) We are not at liberty to suppose, that knowledge lay concealed in Christ, and made its appearance in him in progress of

time. There is no doubt whatever, that it was the design of God to express in plain terms, how truly and completely Christ, in taking upon him our flesh, did all that was necessary to effect his brotherly union with men.

And yet we do not in this way suppose a double Christ: for, though God and man are united in one person, it does not follow, that the human nature received what was peculiar to the Divine nature: but, so far as was necessary for our salvation, the Son of God kept his divine power concealed. What Irenaeus says, that his Divine nature was quiescent when he suffered, I understand to refer, not only to bodily death, but to that amazing distress and agony of soul, which drew from him the complaint, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" (Matthew 27:46.) In a word, if we do not choose to deny, that Christ was made a real man, we ought not to be ashamed to acknowledge, that he voluntarily took upon him everything that is inseparable from human nature.

It is a foolish objection, that ignorance does not apply to Christ, because it is the punishment of sin: for the same thing might be said of death. Scripture declares, on the contrary, that he performed the office of Mediator: for all the punishment which we deserved was transferred from us to him. Besides, it is a foolish mistake to say, that ignorance is the punishment of sin. For we must not suppose that Adam, while he remained in innocence, knew all things. Angels also are, to some extent, ignorant, and yet they do not endure the punishment of sin.

A more refined argument is employed by some, that there was no ignorance in Christ, because ignorance is sin. But those persons assume a principle which is altogether false and groundless: otherwise, the angels must either be equal to God, or they must be sinful. There is no doubt a sinful blindness of the human mind, which is justly reckoned

a part of original sin: but here we ascribe to Christ no other ignorance than what may fall upon a man who is pure from every taint of sin.

He was invigorated in spirit, and was full of wisdom. Luke thus declares, that whatever wisdom exists among men, and receives daily accessions, flows from that single fountain, from the Spirit of God. The following phrase is more general, and the grace of God was upon him: for it includes all the excellence of every description that shone brightly in Christ

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) Luke 2: 40)

Now the child kept on growing and kept on gaining strength by being filled with wisdom; and God's grace was on it.

We naturally compare what Luke says about the child with what he states about John in 1:80 and note both the similar bodily and mental growth and the difference in what is added about wisdom and God's grace being upon Jesus. The verbs are imperfect and denote continuance, and this includes also the participle. We refer ἠϋξανε to physical growth and ἐκραταιοῦτο to mental and spiritual increase in strength, for it would be superfluous to add a second verb to tell of the physical development and to leave only a participle for the mental and spiritual growth. The Savior of the world, God's Son incarnate, grew up physically in the most normal way with nothing to mar his bodily development. He grew mentally in the same way and attained more and more strength of mind, understanding, and reason. But a modifier is necessary here (in 1:80 it is πνεύματι in the case of John) lest we think only of mere intellectual strength: "by being filled with wisdom," the participle modifying the verb and its subject. The participle is passive (not middle, R. V. margin) and durative and describes the

process of filling. The young lad attained more and more wisdom, σοφία (the genitive after a verb of filling) in the Biblical sense as the right knowledge of God and his salvation coupled with its application to life. In the case of Jesus this included the realization of his own relation to God in connection with the saving thoughts of God. A clear view of this wisdom of Jesus flashes out in v. 49.

It is impossible for us to penetrate the mystery of this development in Jesus-body and soul untouched by sin, unchecked and unretarded by any result of sin, his mind and his soul absorbing the wisdom of God's Word as a bud drinks in the sunshine and expands. His mind and his soul, which were truly human indeed, grew in strength and in the range of wisdom but in perfection and in power beyond anything that is possible to sinful mortals. His development was absolutely normal, that of all others is to a great degree abnormal. We see his mind and his soul in full action during his ministry, a mind and a soul that are vastly beyond those of mere man. He sees through every error and deception, all truth is his glorious possession, he is master of every situation. This came to him by degrees, but every degree of the growth was perfect. When Luke adds that God's grace was upon the child (αὐτό instead of τὸ παιδίον) he aims to say that this was evident from the way in which the child developed. The word χάρις is used in the wider sense of God's favor, not in the narrower sense of undeserved favor for sinners. As a man Jesus was under God and dependent upon him for all things just as we are; but because he was sinless, God's favor never turned from him to discipline and chastise him. From his childhood onward he lived in the undimmed sunshine of God's blessed favor.

(Robertson's Word Pictures) The child grew (euxane). Imperfect indicative of a very ancient verb (auxano). This child grew and waxed strong (ekrataiouto, imperfect middle), a hearty vigorous little boy (paidion). Both verbs Luke used in 1:80 of the growth of John the Baptist as a child. Then he used also pneumatī, in spirit. Here in addition to the bodily development Luke has "filled with wisdom" (pleroumenon sophiai). Present passive participle, showing that the process of filling with wisdom kept pace with the bodily growth. If it were only always true with others! We need not be troubled over this growth in wisdom on the part of Jesus any more than over his bodily growth. "The intellectual, moral, and spiritual growth of the Child, like the physical, was real. His was a perfect humanity developing perfectly, unimpeded by hereditary or acquired defects. It was the first instance of such a growth in history. For the first time a human infant was realizing the ideal of humanity" (Plummer). The grace of God (charis theou). In full measure.

Luke 2:41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

<sup>42</sup> And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast;

<sup>43</sup> and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,

<sup>44</sup> but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day's journey; and they *began* looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

<sup>45</sup> When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

<sup>46</sup> Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

<sup>47</sup> And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

<sup>48</sup> When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, "Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold, Your father and I <sup>Emphatic</sup> have been anxiously looking for You."

Verse 41 Jesus lived under the Law.

Verse 43 "Full number of days" would be 7 days

Verse 48 "And I" Emphatic

Luke 2: 49 And He said to them, "Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father's *house*?"

Verse 49 "Did you not KNOW" Pluperfect Jesus is pointing to past perfect knowledge that they had!!!

(Robertson's Word Pictures) And note "my," not "our." When the boy first became conscious of his peculiar relation to the Father in heaven we do not know. But he has it now at twelve and it will grow within him through the years ahead in Nazareth.

(Lenski's Commentary on the New Testament) The second past perfect ἤδειτε is always used as an imperfect: "were you not aware all along?" The question implies surprise at finding his parents ignorant on this vital matter.

The actions of the past perfect (pluperfect) is the same as in the perfect tense. The difference is that it refers to this 'completed' condition at some time in the past. It may seem strange, based upon the foregoing discussion of action versus time, to define his tense as something that happened in past time. This is due to the fact that the pluperfect is used exclusively in the indicative mood - thus the past time element - and the discussion of the perfect tense explains the actions of the past perfect also. The use of the pluperfect is rare in the New Testament.

<sup>50</sup> But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

<sup>51</sup> And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

<sup>52</sup> And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Verse 51 "These things" Rhema Plural

# The Odds of Eight Messianic Prophecies Coming True

In 1957 Moody Press in Chicago, Illinois published a book by Professor Peter W. Stoner, called *SCIENCE SPEAKS, An Evaluation of Certain Christian Evidences*.

Stoner introduces the chapter on “The Christ of Prophecy” with a salient quote from John 5:39, “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me...” We will return to this passage.

On page 71 Stoner notes, “I am making use of the well-known principle of probability. If the chance of one thing happening is one in M and the chance of another, and independent thing happening is one in N, then the chance that they both shall happen is one in M times N.

...Suppose one man in every ten is bald, and one man in 100 has lost a finger, then one man in every 1,000 ( the product of 10 and 100) is both bald and has lost a finger.”

In an e-mail correspondence I had with attorney Lee Stroebel. in January of 2007, the former agnostic and author of *THE CASE FOR CHRIST, THE CASE FOR FAITH* and *THE CASE FOR EASTER* noted that the statistical odds of select Messianic prophecies coming true as documented in *SCIENCE SPEAKS*, gave him confidence to believe in Christ.

It is precisely because I wish to encourage you, my dear reader, to also believe in Christ, that I summarize some of Stoner’s findings. In his forward to this book H. Harold Hartzler, Ph.D, the Secretary-Treasurer to “American Scientific Affiliation” writes the following. “The manuscript *SCIENCE SPEAKS* has been carefully reviewed by a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation members...and Executive Council...and has been found, in general, to be dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented. The mathematical analysis included is based upon principles of probability which are thoroughly sound and Professor Stoner has applied these principles in a proper and convincing way.”

As we identify specific prophecies, we will inquire what would the statistical probability be that “One man in how many men has fulfilled this prophecy?” (p. 99f) The odds Stoner notes were initially proposed by a Pasadena City College class in Christian Evidence conducted by Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship. As each prophecy was discussed, students “agreed unanimously on a definite estimate as being both reasonable and conservative.” (p. 100) Stoner taught this same class on Christian Evidence 12 times and merged the odds which each group of students proposed to come up with the statistics used in the chapter he titles “The Christ of Prophecy.”

The following eight prophecies were considered:

1) “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, though you be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.” (Micah 5:2) (Note: today the population of the earth is larger than the 2 billion figure used when Stoner made his model.) To arrive at the answer Stoner started with the average population of Bethlehem from the days of the prophet Micah to this present time and divided it by the average population of the earth for the same period. It was discovered that this

ratio was 1 to 280,000. Since that time the earth has had an average population of 2,000,000,000. So the answer would be one man in 7,150/2,000,000,000 or one man in 2.8 X10 to the fifth power was born in Bethlehem.

2) “Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me...” (Malachi 3:1) How many men who have been born in Bethlehem have had a forerunner sent by God to prepare his way? We will use the conservative estimate of 1 in 1,000 or 1 in 10 to the third power.

3) “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon...a colt the foal of an ass.” (Zechariah 9:9) The question now becomes, “One man in how many, who was born in Bethlehem and had a forerunner, entered into Jerusalem as a king riding on the colt, the foal of an ass?” Because this question is too restrictive, we will broaden it to read, “One man in how many, who has entered Jerusalem as a ruler, has entered riding on a colt, the foal of an ass?” We will use 1 in 10 to the second power.

4) “And one shall say unto him, ‘What are these wounds in thine hands?’ Then he shall answer, ‘Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.’” (Zechariah 13:6) One man in how many all over the world has been betrayed by a friend and as a result suffered wounds in his hands? We will use 1 in 10 to the third power.

5) “And I said unto them, ‘If ye think good, give me my price; and if no, forbear. So they weighed for my price, thirty pieces of silver.’” (Zechariah 11:12) Of all the people who have suffered betrayal, how many have been betrayed for exactly thirty pieces of silver? We will use 1 in 1,000 or 1 in 10 to third power.

6) “And the Lord said unto me, ‘Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.’” (Zechariah 11:13) This specifies that the price is not to be returned, but rather cast down in the house of the Lord. Then, without the person throwing them down doing anything, those to whom the silver was returned would have to give the silver to the potter. The reason the priests to whom the remorseful Judas returned the money he received from them to betray the Messiah did not put the funds back into the temple treasury was because it was not money obtained in a kosher, an appropriate way. There was a provision that the priests could spend discretionary funds to meet specific needs. The field they purchased from the potter was subsequently used as a cemetery for travelers and low income people. None of the students had ever heard of another incident involving all these criteria. So we used the estimate as 1 in 100,000 or 10 to the fifth power.

7) “He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before the shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth” (Isaiah 53:7) What are the odds that an innocent man who has been betrayed, oppressed and afflicted and is on trial for his life will not offer a single word in his own defense?” We will use 1 in 1,000 or 1 in 10 to the third power.

8) “For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet” (Psalm 22:16) When David wrote these words, death by crucifixion had yet to be invented. The question is, “One man in how many from the time of King David on, has been crucified?” (p. 105) We estimated that it would have been 1 in 10,000 or 1 in 10 to the fourth power.

Next, “If these estimates are considered fair, one man in how many men, the world over, will fulfill all eight prophecies? Let’s run the math. We have 1 in  $2.8 \times 100,000 \times 1,000 \times 100 \times 1,000 \times 1,000 \times 100,000 \times 1,000 \times 10,000$ . This gives us 1 in  $2.8 \times 10$  to the twenty-eighth power. Let us simplify it by calling it 1 X 10 to the twenty-eighth power. Written out we have 1 in 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.” (p.105f)

What are the odds that any man living from the day of these prophecies down to the present time? To get this answer, we divide our 10 to the 28th power by the total number of people who have lived since the time of these prophecies. At the time this book was published we come up with 88 billion people or  $8.8 \times 10$  to the tenth power. To simplify it let’s round it off to 10 to the 11th power. The odds of any one man who lived from the time the prophecies were made until the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the seventeenth power.

Can we visualize this with an illustration? Suppose we took an atheistic professor, blindfolded him and covered the state of Texas two feet deep with silver dollars. Then we put a check on one of those silver dollars and mixed them up. The odds of one person fulfilling just these eight prophecies would be the same as this atheistic professor selecting the silver dollar upon which we have placed a check, in his first try.

There are some 300 – 350 prophecies which were written in the Old Testament to help us identify which person is the promised Messiah. Suppose we add eight more prophecies to our list? And assume that their chance at being fulfilled by just one man is the same as the eight prophecies just considered. Those odds would be 10 to the 28th power X 10 to the 17th power or 1 in 10 to the 45th power.

How big would a ball of silver dollars be using this number? Its diameter would be thirty times the distance from the center of the earth to the sun. Let’s take that same atheistic professor, put a space suit on him, place a check on one of those silver dollars and shoot him out into space. Do you think he would pick the silver dollar with a check on it the first time? Maybe if we left his blindfold off.

Now let’s keep the same odds and chose 48 prophecies. The odds of one person fulfilling them all would be 1 in 10 to the 157th power. The silver dollar is too large to make a comparison. It takes  $2.5 \times 10$  to the 15th power of electrons laid side by side to make a line single file one inch long. Light travels at 86,000 miles per second. Suppose we made a solid ball of electrons extending all directions from the earth to the distance of 6 billion light years.

Dr. Stoner continues, “Suppose again we had this great amount of electrons, 10 to the 157th power of them, and we were abler to make 500 of these tremendous balls, 6 billion light-years in

radius, each minute. If we worked day and night it would take us 10 to the 10th times the 6 billion years back to creation to use up our supply of electrons.” (p. 111) Please put a check on one of these electrons. Now let's take this same atheistic professor and ask him to find the marked electron on his first try.

Remember, these are the odds of one man fulfilling just 48 of the 300-350 Messianic prophecies. Whom among us can deny Christ's credentials? The universe is not large enough to contain the evidence.

Let's simplify it. Suppose we took all the Messianic prophecies and placed the odds of any one man fulfilling them at 1:4. We would end up with a number larger than the one we obtained by calculating the odds from the 48 prophecies. Stoner adds, “Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world.” (p. 112)

Suppose you were a highway patrol officer and you stopped a person for going 80 in a 60 mph zone. Suppose the person said, “But I know the law says the speed limit is 60, therefore, I ask you not to ticket me.” What would you say to the driver? Let us return to the opening passage where Christ is teaching in John 5. “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me. And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life...Do not think that I will accuse you to the father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?” Now that you have learned additional facts which document the Messiah's identity, you most likely will give intellectual assent that what the scriptures say is true. In the same way, the person caught speeding may give intellectual assent regarding the posted speed limit. But even as knowledge will not be enough so that the policeman decides to not ticket the speeder, so knowledge of the Messiah's identity is not enough. I must also come to the Messiah of whom Moses writes in order to get eternal life. So must we all.

{Aside: Some of my scholarly readers are experts on Moses and the creation account in Genesis. They will enjoy chapter 1 of this book. The odds of Moses correctly guessing the sequence and substance of 13 aspects of creation (as he recorded it in Genesis) by chance are 1 in 331,351,040. (p. 47) There is enough fascinating evidence here to make many outstanding lectures. Stoner adds, “If you wish to know the definiteness of the evidence in chapters 1-3 combined, you will have to multiply all of the individual probabilities together. The result is an astonishingly large number, 1 in  $1.7 \times 10$  to the 245th power.” (p. 113)}

# Christ: The Fulfillment of Prophecy

by D. James Kennedy

(Taken from Apologetics Study Bible)

Some time ago I had the opportunity to speak to a man who had no belief whatsoever in the Scriptures as any sort of divine revelation from God. He was a writer who was articulate and well-educated. While he was well-read, he was completely ignorant of any evidences for the truthfulness of the Christian faith and the Scriptures which reveal it. He said the Bible was simply a book written by men, just like any other book. I said, "That's very interesting. I would like to read some statements to you about someone and have you tell me, assuredly, without question, about whom I am reading."

He agreed and I began to read:

- 📖 "Those who hate me without cause are more numerous than the hairs of my head" (Ps 69:4).
- 📖 "The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers conspire together against the LORD and His Anointed One" (Ps 2:2).
- 📖 "Even my friend in whom I trusted, one who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me" (Ps 41:9). "Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered" (Zch 13:7).
- 📖 "Then I said to them, 'If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them.' So they weighed my wages, 30 pieces of silver. 'Throw it to the potter,' the LORD said to me—this magnificent price I was valued by them. So I took the 30 pieces of silver and threw it into the house of the LORD, to the potter" (Zch 11:12-13).
- 📖 "They are striking the judge of Israel on the cheek with a rod" (Mc 5:1).
- 📖 "I gave My back to those who beat Me, and My cheeks to those who tore out My beard. I did not hide My face from scorn and spitting" (Is 50:6).
- 📖 "They pierced my hands and my feet" (Ps 22:16).
- 📖 "My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?" (Ps 22:1).
- 📖 "Everyone who sees me mocks me; they sneer and shake their heads: 'He relies on the LORD; let Him rescue him; let the LORD deliver him, since He takes pleasure in him'" (Ps 22:7-8).
- 📖 "They gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink" (Ps 69:21).
- 📖 "I am poured out like water, and all my bones are disjointed; my heart is like wax, melting within me" (Ps 22:14).
- 📖 "Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted" (Is 53:4).
- 📖 "He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth. Like a lamb led to the slaughter and like a sheep silent before her shearers, He did not open His mouth" (Is 53:7).
- 📖 "They divided my garments among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing" (Ps 22:18).
- 📖 "He submitted Himself to death" (Is 53:12). "He bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels" (Is 53:12). "You may not break any of its bones" (Ex 12:46). "He protects all his bones; not one of them is broken" (Ps 34:20).
- 📖 "They will look at Me whom they pierced" (Zch 12:10).

- 📖 “They made His grave with the wicked, and with a rich man at His death, although He had done no violence and had not spoken deceitfully” (Is 53:9).
- 📖 “For You will not abandon me to Sheol; You will not allow Your Faithful One to see the Pit” (Ps 16:10).
- 📖 “You ascended to the heights, taking away captives; You received gifts from people, even from the rebellious, so that the LORD God might live there” (Ps 68:18).
- 📖 “The LORD declared to my Lord: ‘Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies Your footstool’ ” (Ps 110:1).

I said to him, “About whom did I read?”

He replied, “Well, you obviously read of the life and ministry and suffering and death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth.”

I said, “Is there any question in your mind about that?”

He answered, “No, that could refer to no one else.”

I replied, “Well then, I would want you to understand that all of the Scriptures I just read to you are taken from the Old Testament, which was completed some four hundred years before Jesus was born. No critic, no atheist, no agnostic has ever once claimed that any one of those writings was written after His birth. In fact, they were translated from Hebrew into Greek in Alexandria some 150 years before He was born. If this is merely a book written by men, would you please explain to me how these words were written?”

He said, “I haven’t the faintest idea.” He was completely nonplussed. He had never heard those things before in his life. Indeed they cannot be explained by any purely humanistic presuppositions.

It is noteworthy that in no other religious writings in the world do we find any specific predictive prophecies like we find in the Scripture. You will find no predictive prophecies whatsoever in the writings of Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, Lao-Tse, or Hinduism. Yet in the Scripture there are well over two thousand prophecies, most of which have already been fulfilled. They are so specific in nature that they burn all the bridges behind them. If they are not fulfilled, it leaves no room for excuse. How can these be explained? Of all the attacks that have ever been made upon the Scripture, there has never been one book written by a skeptic to disprove the prophecies of the Scripture. Though the Bible has been attacked at every other place, the one place where God rests His inspiration is that the things He foretells come infallibly to pass. The Bible prophecies are altogether unexpected! I know of no one ever prophesying that any other human being would rise from the dead and ascend into heaven. That is exceedingly improbable. The chance of it happening by coincidence is incalculable. No, the Bible is not merely a book written by men; it is a book written by God through men, and the heart of its prophetic message is Jesus Christ.