

Eternal Perspective



By Rick Sibert

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For Unto Us a Child is Born

Predictions tend to cause me amusement.

For example, I read recently where the current uptick in employment has been a surprise to those who “predict” such things!

Somehow, forecasters lately have also missed the boat on the world’s oil business.

Production of oil is way up due to new technologies such as hydraulic fracturing; and because they are just now recognizing it, the International Energy Agency has *now* decided to cut its forecast for oil demand growth for the next two years! Stay tuned to see how that goes!

So where did the prognosticators go wrong? Moreover, where do they continue to go wrong?

The answer isn’t difficult. Even though we can use math and statistics and trends, as humans we are simply “guessing” when we make predictions. (As an aside, how would you like to make your living predicting NFL football games this season!?)

And a guess is a guess. There are no crystal balls. God alone knows the beginning from the end. God alone - living outside of time and space - can see down through the corridor of time as if it’s happening today.

When I first came to Christ in my mid-twenties, one of the first studies I undertook was the prophecies of Daniel. Being a history buff, I was fascinated with the world events and kingdoms that God foresaw and foretold hundreds and even thousands of years in advance, that came true down to the minutest detail.

Similarly, the foretelling of the birth of Jesus Christ is one of the most amazing phenomena in the entire Bible. God revealed this truth to His Old Testament prophets in varied different cultures and climates and times.

For instance, Micah and Isaiah were contemporaries whom God called to minister to different peoples throughout the land of Judah in the 8th century B.C., and yet each wrote down, independent of the other, some of the most inspired words about the birth of the future Messiah – that He would be born in Bethlehem and be born of a virgin! (Micah 5:2, Isaiah 7:14)

Additionally, way back in the book of Genesis, we are told that Jesus would be a descendent of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. (Genesis 12:3, Genesis 17:19)

No other leader of any of the world's major religions or cults have had their births foretold, let alone foretold with such detail.

No one predicted Buddha's birth.

No one predicted Mohammed's birth.

No one predicted Joseph Smith's birth.

No one predicted Lenin's birth.

Yet, Jesus has at least ten predictions in the Old Testament which could only have been fulfilled with His birth.

In addition to what has already been mentioned, we are told that Jesus would be called out of the land of Egypt. (Prophesied in Hosea 11:1 and fulfilled in Matthew 2:13–15)

Jesus will be a member of the tribe of Judah. (Prophecied in Genesis 49:10. Fulfilled: Luke 3:33)

Jesus will be from the lineage of King David. (Prophecy: Jeremiah 23:5; fulfilled in Matthew 1:6)

Great suffering and sorrow will accompany the birth of Jesus. (Prophecied in Jeremiah 31:15 and fulfilled in Matthew 2:16.)

Hundreds of years before His birth, foretold by different men, in different environments, the mathematical probabilities are staggering.

In fact, there are over sixty prophecies concerning the entire life of Jesus – and every one came true. *The odds of even eight of these prophecies coming true are 1 in 10 to the 7th.* That's a 1 followed by a lot of zero's!

If you are a linear thinker - someone who has to dig into facts systematically; investigate probabilities and possibilities – God has the ready information you need.

It is almost impossible (if that is possible) that all of the facts concerning the birth of Jesus would be fulfilled in any other person in the history of the world.

God sent his one and only Son – the King of the Universe - to be born as a human baby on this earth. And He said He was going to do it hundreds of years before it happened!

He would be born in an obscure little dusty town in the Middle East, not in a cosmopolitan metropolis.

He would be born not to a royal family, but to a young teenager and her carpenter husband.

Jesus was born to experience what we experience (we are told he was acquainted with grief and a man of sorrows – Isaiah 53).

He was born, ultimately, to die.

For you.

Have you accepted this truth for yourself personally? If not, won't you do it today?

God foretold the most amazing event in human history to give you the confidence to place your faith in Him for your eternal life. Say yes to Jesus, and your name, which God has known before the foundations of the world, will be written in the Book of Life, never to be erased.