

## 2. Jesus: His Coming Foretold!

The coming of Jesus into this world was not unexpected, especially for those who studied the *Old Testament*. It has been estimated that there are *more than 300 prophecies* in the Old Testament that refer to **Jesus Christ**, most of which He has fulfilled and many others He has yet to fulfill at a future time.

**Dr. Peter Stoner** (d. 1980), former Professor of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College, calculated the probability of **Jesus** fulfilling just eight of these prophecies at **1 chance in 10<sup>28</sup>**. The latter number (**10<sup>28</sup>**) is larger than the number of stars in the entire Universe. It is also larger than the estimated total number of grains of sand in all the beaches and deserts of the Earth. In fact, it is larger than all the grains of sand in ten billion Earths! It is safe to say that probability favors **Jesus** as the **Messiah** prophesied in the Old Testament. Let us look at some of these prophecies.

### Jesus' Coming Foretold in the Garden of Eden!

**Did you know** that the first mention of **Jesus** is in the *Garden of Eden*? Maybe not by name, but certainly by what He accomplished with His life! It is found in **Genesis 3:15**. Here, God is declaring a curse upon the serpent for deceiving Eve in the Garden.

***“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman,  
and between thy seed and her seed;  
it shall bruise thy head,  
and thou shalt bruise his heel.”***

***The word “enmity” describes a state of hostility that exists between the Devil and Christ. Can you recall what incident involving the Devil occurred shortly after Christ was baptized?***

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***Though there is a natural enmity between most people and serpents, Genesis 3:15 singles out one descendant of the woman who would be struck on the heel while He strikes the serpent on the head. In what way does Christ fulfill this prophecy?***

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FYI  
10<sup>28</sup>  
=10,000,000,000,000,000,000,  
000,000,000  
= Ten Octillion

**Genesis 3:15 (Observations)**  
**Circle** what God placed between the serpent and the woman.  
**Circle** where the woman's seed will bruise the serpent.  
**Circle** where the serpent will bruise the woman's seed.

The word **“bruise”** means ‘to crush’ or ‘to break’. Of the two instances of this word used in Genesis 3:15, which would be the more decisive blow?

**1 John 3:8**  
***“He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”***

## Jesus' Manner of Coming Foretold

The following prophecy from Isaiah is one of the most quoted, especially during the Christmas season.

### Isaiah 7:14

***"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign;  
Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son,  
and shall call his name Immanuel."***

The above prophecy was given to a skeptical King Ahaz who did not fully trust God's promise to deliver him from his enemies. So God offered to give him a **"sign"**, or a miraculous display, to prove that He would fulfill His word. Knowing this, how can we be sure the correct interpretation is that a **"virgin"** will **"bear a son"**, and not just any young woman as some believe?

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But if anyone doubts that God meant a 'virgin' would conceive and bear a son, we have the testimony of Scripture itself. The passage below provides the ultimate fulfillment of the prophecy, and the correct interpretation as God intended.

### Luke 1:30-31, 34-35

**30** Then the angel said to her,

***"Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.***

**31** "And behold,

***you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son,  
and shall call His name JESUS. ...***

**34** Then Mary said to the angel,

***"How can this be, since I do not know a man?"***

**35** And the angel answered and said to her,

***"The Holy Spirit will come upon you,  
and the power of the Highest will overshadow you;***

***"therefore, also,***

***that Holy One who is to be born  
will be called the Son of God."***

***How does the passage in Luke 1:30-31;34-35 fulfill Isaiah 7:14?***

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### Isaiah 7:14 (Observations)

**Circle** what the "Lord Himself shall give".

**Circle** who will "conceive".

**Underline** what she will do.

**Circle** what she will call Him.

(What does 'Immanuel' mean?)

**Some have suggested** that the Hebrew word translated "virgin" could also mean any young woman of marrying age, virgin or not, which is true. But in every other case where it is used in the Old Testament, it refers to a young woman who is a virgin.

### Luke 1:30-31, 34-35

(Observations)

**V30**

**Circle** who was speaking to Mary.

(See Luke 1:26 to confirm his identity.)

**V31**

**Underline** what the angel told Mary.

**Circle** what she was to name her Son.

(Jesus = Heb. Yeshua = Yahweh Saves)

**V34**

**Underline** Mary's response.

(What does her response imply?)

**V35**

**Underline** how God would effect the

miracle of a virgin conceiving and

"bringing forth a Son".

**Circle** how the angel describes the One who will be born.

(What does 'Holy One' imply?)

**Underline** what He will be called.

(We will address what 'Son of God' means in a later lesson.)

**Luke 1:30-31, 34**, fulfills the first part of **Isaiah 7:14**, while **Luke 1:35** fulfills the second part.

## Jesus' Coming Foretold by Moses

**Moses, of course**, is one of the greatest figures in the Old Testament 'Hall of Fame'. He was the **Deliverer**, the **Law Giver**, the **Intercessor** who pleaded with God on Israel's behalf, the **Prophet** who spoke to Israel on God's behalf and the **Shepherd** who led them to the **Promised Land**. Now that's a **resumé!** But as impressive as it is, everything related *only to this World*. So near the end of Moses' life, God reveals to him His future plan in the verse below.

### Deuteronomy 18:18

**"I (God) will raise up for them a Prophet like you (Moses)  
from among their brethren,  
and (I) will put My words in His mouth,  
and He shall speak to them all that I command Him."**

### John 1:45

**"Philip found Nathanael and said to him,  
We have found Him of whom Moses in the law,  
and also the prophets, wrote—  
Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."**

**Jesus is the Prophet** God promised to raise up, giving Him a ministry related more toward the Heavenly compared to Moses' which was related more toward the Worldly.

**Using Moses' "resumé" listed in the first paragraph, in what ways was Jesus like, and even greater than, Moses?**

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**The first disciples were actually searching for the One spoken of by Moses and the Old Testament prophets. What does this reveal about them?**

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**Next, we will look at** another prophecy that the disciples may have been using to predict Messiah's appearing!

### Deuteronomy 18:18 (Observations)

**Underline** who God will raise up.  
**Circle** from among whom the future Prophet would be raised.  
**Underline** what God will do .  
**Underline** what He will do.

### John 1:45 (Observations)

**Circle** the two men mentioned at the start. (Who are they?)  
**Underline** Whom Philip and the others found.  
**Underline** the name and lineage of Jesus.  
(How does Jesus' identification fulfill the prophecy in Deuteronomy 18:18?)

## Jesus' Coming Foretold by Daniel

We now come to one of the most amazing Old Testament prophecies that establishes *the time frame* in which the true Messiah must appear. **One caution:** There are various ways to interpret the prophecy, which demonstrates the difficulty in using Bible prophecy to **predict** future events. As the saying goes,

***"It is a difficult thing to prophesy,  
Especially about the future."***

The best way to utilize Prophecy as **confirmation**, rather than **prediction**, of future events. This is how the Gospel writers most often view the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies in **Jesus**.

Daniel's prophecy, which he received from the angel Gabriel, appears to provide the *time* of Messiah's appearance. Let us examine it!

### Daniel 9:25

***"Know therefore and understand,  
That from the going forth of the command  
To restore and build Jerusalem  
Until Messiah the Prince,  
There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;  
The street shall be built again,  
and the wall, Even in troublesome times."***

The angel Gabriel wisely instructs Daniel, and any student attempting to understand this prophecy, to **"Know"** and **"Understand"**.

The prophecy announces the appearance of the Messiah *after* a certain **"command"** is issued concerning the *restoration of Jerusalem*. It then cryptically provides the time period in **'weeks'** that would transpire between the issuing of the *'command'* and the Messiah's coming. That time period is revealed in the following formula.

**7 weeks (49 years) + 62 weeks (434 years) = 69 weeks or 483 years**

***What missing information is needed to solve this prophecy?***

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While reading **Jeremiah's 70 year Prophecy** and its imminent fulfillment, the prophet **Daniel** begins to pray earnestly for Israel's People, the desolated Sanctuary and Jerusalem. God responds by sending His angel, **Gabriel**, to reveal to Daniel the restoration of Jerusalem and the time of **Messiah's** appearing. This prophecy has become the **"Rosetta Stone"** of **Eschatology**, and an enigma for **Theologians**.

### Daniel 9:25 (Observations)

**Circle** the two things we must do first.

(Why does Daniel begin with this?)

**Circle** what will go forth to mark the starting point.

**Underline** what the 'command' includes.

**Circle** until Who arrives.

**Underline** how many 'weeks' will transpire between the "command" and the "Messiah".

(See discussion below on "Weeks".)

### "Know" and "Understand"

**"Know"** means to discern or distinguish, emphasizing the analytical skills of our Minds, while **"Understanding"** means wisdom, emphasizing the spiritual wisdom that only comes from our Relationship with God.

**"Weeks" = Hebrew "Shabua" = a group of seven**, much like the English words **Dozen** means twelve or **Score** means twenty. So **7 'Shabua'** would be **49** and **62 'Shabua'** would be **434**.

**The crucial information** necessary to solve the prophecy is:

"When was the command to restore Jerusalem issued?"

## Solving for Messiah

There were four commands issued allowing the Israelites to return to restore Jerusalem and rebuild the Temple. Depending on which you choose and how you calculate the years, your ending point may differ by nearly a century ranging from 53 BC to 40 AD.

The most famous solution was presented by Sir Robert Anderson in his 1895 book entitled *"The Coming Prince"* in which he used **483 Prophetic Years**, consisting of 360 days/year, and choosing **445 BC**, the year Nehemiah returned, to arrive at **April 6, 32 AD**, the supposed day of Messiah's Triumphant Entry.

[http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Edit\\_Sir.Robert.Anderson.html](http://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/Fellowship/Edit_Sir.Robert.Anderson.html)

Another solution would be to use **483 solar years** ( $\cong 365.25$  days/year), such as what the Julian, Gregorian and Intercalated Calendars do, and **start in 458 BC**, the year Ezra returned. This brings us to **26 AD**, the year Jesus was baptized.

[http://theos-sphragis.info/daniel\\_69\\_weeks\\_proof.html](http://theos-sphragis.info/daniel_69_weeks_proof.html)

Either way, we arrive at the period of time Jesus walked this Earth. *The true Messiah had to have appeared 2000 years ago according to Daniel's prophecy! Could it be the early disciples had solved this prophecy which explains why they were looking for the Messiah?*

### Conclusion:

We started this study with the probability of someone fulfilling just eight of the more than three hundred Messianic prophecies in the Old Testament at **1 in 10 octillion (10<sup>28</sup>)**. The chance of fulfilling **Isaiah 7:14**, regarding the virgin birth, alone would take a miracle since a male human parent is necessary to provide the Y chromosome allowing Mary to bear a son. (I still remember when my Biology Professor mocked Mary's virgin birth by correctly stating that a virgin birth, if possible, would always result in a daughter since human mothers only carry the X chromosome.)

**If Jesus alone fulfills these prophecies, what should we conclude about Him?**

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**How would this Lesson help you to spot False Messiahs?**

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## Commands to Restore Jerusalem

1. **Cyrus in 536 BC**
2. **Darius I in 520 BC**
3. **Artaxerxes I in 458/457 BC**
4. **Artaxerxes I in 445/444 BC**

*Cyrus the Mede, who conquered Babylon 70 years after Israel was exiled, is mentioned in **Isaiah 44:28**, two hundred years before he lived.*

*"That saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure: even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid." **Isaiah 44:28***

*Daniel may have shared this prophecy with Cyrus, prompting him, in 536 BC, to permit the Jews, if they wished, to return to Jerusalem to begin the restoration of the City and the Temple as prophesied. About 50,000 Jews accepted the offer and returned at that time, completing the rebuilding of the second Temple by 515 BC.*