

***1 Micah 5:2 – The Birth of God**

***2 WASHINGTON, D.C., December 1, 2017 -- President Trump gave the following address at the lighting of the National Christmas Tree on Thursday, November 30, 2017.**

In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed legislation making Christmas a Federal holiday. And I sort of feel we are doing that again. That's what's happening. From the earliest days of our nation, Americans have known Christmas as a time for prayer and worship, for gratitude and good will, for peace and renewal.

***3 For Christians, this is a Holy season – the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christmas story begins 2000 years ago with a mother, a father, their baby son, and the most extraordinary gift of all, the gift of God's love for all of humanity.**

Whatever our beliefs, we know that the birth of Jesus Christ and the story of this incredible life forever changed the course of human history. There's hardly an aspect of our lives today that His life has not touched: art, music, culture, law, and our respect for the sacred dignity of every person everywhere in the world.

***4 Micah 5:2 (NASB95) 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.**"**

This passage in Micah is quoted by the NT writers as a prophetic Messianic scripture written 700 years before the birth of Jesus.

***5 Matthew 2:1–12 (NLT) ¹ Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod...³ King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, **"Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?"** ⁵ **"In Bethlehem in Judea,"** they said, **"for this is what the prophet wrote: ⁶ 'And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.'**"**

***6** Bethlehem (House of Bread) Ephrathah (Fruitful). Ephrathah (Ephrath) was an old name for the area later occupied by Bethlehem in Judah, in contrast to other Bethlehems in the Promised Land (cf. Gen. 35:16–19; 48:7; Josh. 19:15; Ruth 4:11).¹

Why Bethlehem?

The place the Messiah was to be born was determined by God according to the tribal land areas and His earthly ancestor. He would be born the descendant of a specific tribe; Judah, a descendant of a specific King – David, and from a specific place, David’s birth place, Bethlehem. Notice all this was foretold accurately in the OT. **“His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”**

**This means God has been clear from the beginning about this Messiah Ruler and has given details about Him.

***7** The Old Testament, written over a period of 1000 years and written several hundred years before the time of Christ, **contains some three hundred prophecies of the coming Messiah.** The fact **that** these prophecies were written at least two hundred years before Christ is proven by the Septuagint [LXX], the Greek translation of the Old Testament written in 200 B.C., and by the Dead Sea Scrolls, some of which are dated over 200 years before Christ as well. All of these ancient prophecies were fulfilled in the one person of Jesus Christ. (Bible.org)

***8** First, Jesus is from the tribe of Judah, in other words is a descendant of Judah – Jacob’s son. Jacob himself told of this Ruler **who would bring peace (“Shiloh”) to be born** that He would be a descendant of Judah: **Genesis 49:10 (NASB95)**¹⁰ **“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes, And to Him shall be the obedience of the peoples.** [Note: about the time of **Jesus’** appearance in His ministry, Rome removed the right of capital punishment from **Israel**, and it was said that the religious rulers wailed in the streets because they didn’t see a Messiah but the scepter had departed! - *“A little more than forty years before the destruction of the Temple, the power of pronouncing capital sentences was taken away from the Jews.”*– *Jerusalem Talmud, Sanhedrin, folio 24*]

***8a Revelation 5:4–5 (NLT)**⁴ Then I began to weep bitterly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll and read it.⁵ But one of the twenty-four elders said to me, “Stop weeping! Look, **the Lion of the tribe of Judah**, the heir to David’s throne, has won the victory. He is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals.”

¹ Tom Constable, [Tom Constable’s Expository Notes on the Bible](#) (Galaxie Software, 2003), Mic 5:2.

Secondly, more specifically, this King was said to be a descendant of King David himself.

***9 Isaiah 11:1–5 (NASB95)** ¹ Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse (David’s father), and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of YaHWeH will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of YaHWeH. ³ And He will delight in the fear of YaHWeH, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear; ⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, and decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; and He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked. ⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, and faithfulness the belt about His waist.

Since He would be a descendant of Judah, Jesse, and David, He would of necessity be born in King David’s ancestral home – Bethlehem.

The Jews were very clear on this fact, and because of that, rejected Jesus because they thought He had been born in Galilee.

***10 John 7:37–42 (NASB95)** ³⁷ Now on the last day, the great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ ” ³⁹ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified. ⁴⁰ **Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, “This certainly is the Prophet.”** ⁴¹ **Others were saying, “This is the Christ.”** **Still others were saying, “Surely the Christ is not going to come from Galilee, is He? ⁴² “Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”**

In fact Jesus was not born in Nazareth, but rather in Bethlehem. And His earthly parents were of the tribe of Judah and both descendants of King David, as the NT genealogies tell us.

***11 Luke 1:26–33 (NLT)** ²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, ²⁷ **to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David.** ²⁸ Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!” ²⁹ Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. ³⁰ “Don’t be afraid, Mary,” the angel told her, “for you have found favor with God! ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and **you will name Him Jesus.** ³² **He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David.** ³³ **And He will reign over Israel forever; His Kingdom will never end!”**

***12** **Isaiah 7:13-14 (ESV)** ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, **O house of David!** Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ **Therefore YaHWeH Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

***13** **“Immanuel”** Jesus is God, He is the second member of a triune God, One God, Three Persons. **Galatians 4:4–5 (ESV)** ⁴ **But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman,** born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

***13a** This means that from the very beginning, Jesus was in glory with His Father. **There was never a time when Jesus did not exist.** **John 1:1–3 (NASB95)** ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

The events of His birth and the predictions of those events hundreds of years before they happen are a major part of the infinite proof that He is God. There has been much research done in the area of probability and statistics concerning the person of Jesus, His birth, life, death and resurrection. Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, Peter Stoner, did a thorough mathematical, scientific (verified by the scientific community) study of the probability of one man fulfilling 8 of the OT prophecies of Jesus. We know these prophecies were in writing at least 200 years before His birth (Septuagint & Dead Sea Scrolls), but were actually spoken and written 500-1300 years before that.

***14** “One man in how many men has fulfilled these eight prophecies? But we are really concerned with the answer to the question: What is the chance that any man might have lived from the day of these prophecies down to the present time and have fulfilled all of the eight prophecies? ...we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} . (1 in 10 with 17 zeros = 10, 000,000,000,000,000, 00.)

***15** Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. (100 tickets – 1 in a 100, etc.) **So how do we represent 1 in 10^{17} ?**

***16** Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. **Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far he wishes, but he must pick up the one marked silver dollar. What chance would he have of getting the right one? [1 in 10^{17}] Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the**

present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom. ***17 Pic *17a Praire**
http://sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/Christ_of_Prophecy.html

18** “The reason why prophecy is an indication of the divine authorship of the Scriptures, and hence a testimony to the trustworthiness of the Message of the Scriptures, is because of the minute probability of fulfillment. Anyone can make predictions. Having those prophecies fulfilled is vastly different. In fact, the more statements made about the future, and the more the detail, then the less likely the precise fulfillment will be...18a** For example, how does someone "arrange" to be born in a specific family? How does one "arrange" to be born in a specified city, in which their parents don't actually live? David Williams

But let's just address this one prophecy – the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

What's the likelihood of a person predicting today the exact city in which the birth of a future leader (700 years from now) would take place, well into the 28th century? This is indeed what the prophet Micah did 700 years before the Messiah.

It would be like if you had to find the right mother and father out of all the people on the earth, **700 years from now**, pick your exact date of conception and birth to coincide with events involving nations, movement of stars, named individual leaders and other phenomenon that will take place at that time. Then have your parents leave their home, while you are in the womb and travel to another city where you need to be born to fulfill things you said – before you were born. *****YOU WOULD HAVE TO BE GOD!**

So, the world was accurately told where God's Son would be born, at least 700 years before it happened. History has proven, the Bible is accurate and supernatural and could only have been written by divine inspiration. You can trust God's Word to us! Since you can trust your Bible & you can trust the God who inspired it to be written. **He is the One telling us the future before it happens.**

***19** Isaiah 46:8–10 (ESV) ⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; **for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,** ¹⁰ **declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all My purpose,’**

Secondly, since the Bible is proven true on this prophetic issue, there is another very clear question to ask. ***Is the God of eternity, who came to be born in Bethlehem – your God?*** He said ***“I AM God and there is no other”!*** He is going to rule for eternity as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **But have YOU come under His authority?**

***19a** Micah 5:2 (NASB95) 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."

We celebrate Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and for the most part people get warm and fuzzy about "Christmas". We watch movies about the nativity, or wonderful lives, or miracles on 34th where Santa becomes real. The cultural takes a deep breath and tries to be good and express good for a season. Think about it most people are drawn to babies and puppies even if they are godless!

But this baby carries with Him a fearful power and glory for He is the King who will rule the world. He is God and He was God even in that manger and one day all will acknowledge that fact.

***20 Isaiah 9:6–7 (ESV)** ⁶ For to us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ **Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.**

***21** **This means our Savior will be in charge – complete control of the world and all its peoples! **Isaiah 11:10 (NLT)** ¹⁰ In that day **the heir to David's throne will be a banner of salvation to all the world.**

***21a Daniel 7:13–14 (NASB95)** ¹³ "I kept looking in the night visions, And behold, with the clouds of heaven **One like a Son of Man was coming, And He came up to the Ancient of Days And was presented before Him.** ¹⁴ "And to Him was given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all the peoples, nations and *men of every* language might serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion which will not pass away; and His kingdom is one which will not be destroyed.

This One who has dominion will sit in judgment in the last days over all mankind. Later Daniel was shown:

***22 Daniel 12:1–2 (NASB95)** ¹ "...And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² **"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.**

Which will it be for you: **everlasting life or everlasting disgrace and contempt?** You see, this baby born in Bethlehem as the OT predicted is in practicality the Ruler of this universe and will sit in judgment of those who pridefully reject Him and His offer of forgiveness.

***22a John 5:21–23 (ESV)** ²¹ For as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whom He will. ²² For the Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son,

²³ that all may honor the Son, just as they honor the Father. Whoever does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him.

Have you humbled yourself before this One born in Bethlehem? Have you not yet realized your own inadequacy and lack in running your own life? Do you really think you are smarter than God?! Surrender your life to Him now, and receive His peace in this Holy Season celebrating His miraculous birth.

COME TO BETHLEHEM AND SEE,
HIM WHOSE BIRTH THE ANGELS SING,
COME ADORE ON BENDED KNEE,
CHRIST THE LORD, THE NEWBORN KING.