

- I) V3 INTRO: Therefore He shall give them up until the time that she who is in labor has given birth
- II) WHEN LAST TOGETHER: We closed by looking at the prophecy of Jesus found in V2
- a) I mentioned to you that the bible is unique in that it contains prophecy
 - 1) Is 42:9 See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you.
 - 2) Is 46:9-10 Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. *I make known the end from the beginning*, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say: My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.
- III) I HAVE MENTIONED: That the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling prophecy is astronomical
- IV) Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, Peter Stoner, has calculated the probability of one man fulfilling the major prophecies made concerning the Messiah. The estimates were worked out by 12 different classes, representing some 600 students. The students weighed all the factors, discussed each prophecy, and examined the circumstances which might indicate that men had conspired together to fulfill a particular prophecy. Professor Stoner then took their estimates, and made them even more conservative. He also encouraged other scientists to make their own estimates to see if his conclusions were more than fair. Finally, he submitted his figures for review to a committee of the American Scientific Affiliation. Upon examination, they verified that his calculations were dependable and accurate in regard to the scientific material presented (Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*, Chicago: Moody Press, 1969, 4).
- Concerning Micah 5:2, where it states the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, Stoner and his students determined the average population of Bethlehem from the time of Micah to the present; then they divided it by the average population of the earth during the same period. They concluded that the chance of one man being born in Bethlehem was one in 300,000. After examining only eight different prophecies they estimated that the chance of one man fulfilling all eight prophecies was one in 10^{17} .
- 10^{17} th power is a figure with 17 zeros. Stoner said:
- If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all 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. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They'll 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 as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would've 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 them in their own wisdom.
- V) THIS PROPHECY: Was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lu 2:4-6)
- a) *From House of Bread came the Bread of Life*
- VI) MICAH: Now speaks of what will occur in the years following the giving of Messiah
- VII) V3 THEREFORE: He shall *give them up* until the time that *she who is in labor* has given birth

- a) When Jesus was given to the people, their immediate response was rejection
 - 1) Jn 1:10-11 But although the world was made through him, the world didn't recognize him when he came. Even in his own land and among his own people, he was not accepted.
 - 2) Is 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and *we esteemed him not*.

VIII) KEY: The rejecting of Messiah resulted in difficult times for the nation: it ends in the Tribulation

I) V3 THEN: The remnant of His brethern shall return to the children of Israel

- a) *Ultimately*, the Jews will be regathered from the ends of the earth
 - 1) Jer 30:3 For the time is coming when I will restore the fortunes of my people of Israel and Judah. I will bring them home to this land that I gave to their ancestors, and they will possess it and live here again. I, the LORD, have spoken!"
 - 2) Ezek 36:24 For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land.
 - 3) Zeph 3:20 At that time I will gather you; at that time I will bring you home. I will give you honor and praise among all the peoples of the earth when I restore your fortunes before your very eyes," says the LORD.
 - 4) Lu 21:24 They [the Jews] will be brutally killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be conquered and trampled down by the Gentiles until the age of the Gentiles comes to an end. (From Babylon, concluding at the 1,000 year reign)

II) V4 AND: He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of

- a) This describes the Lord Jesus, who is the Good Shepherd who feeds His sheep
 - 1) Ezek 34:12-14 As a shepherd looks after his scattered flock when he is with them, so will I look after my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places where they were scattered on a day of clouds and darkness. I will bring them out from the nations and gather them from the countries, and I will bring them into their own land. I will pasture them on the mountains of Israel, in the ravines and in all the settlements in the land. I will tend them in a good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing land. There they will lie down in good grazing land, and there they will feed in a rich pasture on the mountains of Israel.
 - 2) Is 40:11 He will feed his flock like a shepherd. He will carry the lambs in his arms, holding them close to his heart. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their young.

III) V5 AND: This One shall be peace When the Assyrian comes into our land and when he treads

- a) The Assyrian speaks of the enemies of Israel that come against the nation in the last days
 - 1) The speaks of God providing protection for the nation through valiant and caring leaders

IV) V6 THEY SHALL: Waste with the sword the land of Assyria and the land of Nimrod at its entrance

- a) At the end of the Tribuation, Israel will be strengthened by her Shepherd
 - 1) The confederation of nations will come against Israel, but she will be protected and delivered
 - 2) Nimrod was a mighty hunter before the Lord, associated with the Tower of Babel

- V) V7-8 THEN: The remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many peoples like dew from the Lord
- a) In the future, when Israel returns to God in obedience, once again the nation is blessed
- VI) AT THAT TIME: They will no longer be despised by other nations, but will once again be honored
- a) She will be respected, highly regarded, and admired by all
 - 1) Dt 28:9-13 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear (be in awe of) you. The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity--in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground--in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom.
 - I) V9 YOUR HAND: Shall be lifted against your adversaries and all your enemies shall be cut off
 - a) No enemy will prevail against them, because God has restored them and protects them
 - II) V10-11 AND: It shall be in that day says the Lord That I will cut off your horses from your midst'
 - a) This simply means that God will remove the things Israel has leaned on for support
 - III) FACT: They will not rely on their military might nor their fortified cities for protection
 - a) They will completely trust in Him
 - 1) Ps 20:7 Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God
 - 2) Pr 21:31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.
 - 3) Ps 68:20 Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign LORD comes escape from death.
 - IV) V12-14 I WILL: Cut off sorceries from your hand and you shall have no soothsayers Your carved
 - a) The land will finally be completely cleansed of its idolatry and occultism
 - 1) All false religion will be done away with, and they will worship God in Spirit and in truth
 - V) V15 AND: I will execute vengeance in anger and fury on the nations that have not heard (obeyed)
 - a) God will deal with the nations that have harmed His people, and Messiah will bring peace
 - 1) During the Tribulation, God will bring vengeance and anger on those who attacked Israel
 - VI) KEY: Their rejection of Him results in their judgment by Him
 - a) They have not heard literally speaks of not obeying, or actively rejecting
 - 1) This rejection results in judgment
 - 2) 2 Th 1:8 He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

3) Ro 5:9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!