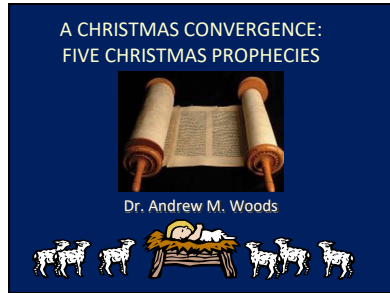
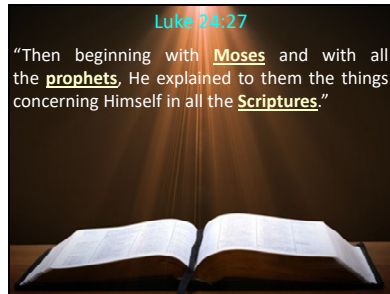


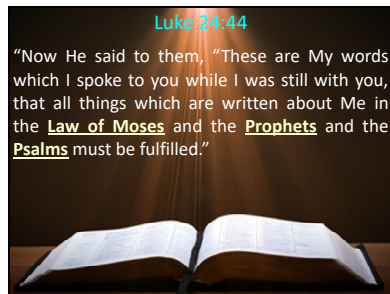
Slide 1



Slide 2




Slide 3



Slide 4

John 5:39, 46


³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that testify about Me...⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me.”



Slide 5

Acts 17:1-3

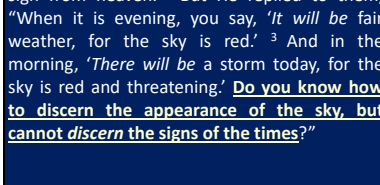
“Now when they had traveled through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews.² And according to Paul’s custom, he went to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,³ explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and saying, “This Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you is the Christ.””



Slide 6

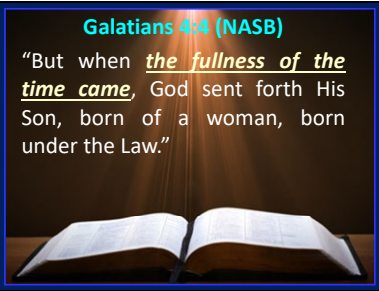
Matthew 16:1-3

¹ The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven. ² But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘*It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.*’³ And in the morning, ‘*There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.*’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?”



Slide 7

Galatians 4:4 (NASB)
"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law."



Slide 8

Messiah Must Be:

1. A man (Gen 3:15)
2. From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)
3. Appear prior to A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
4. Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:13-14)
5. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)



Slide 9

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5. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)



Slide 10

1. Messiah must be a man


■ Genesis 3:15



Slide 11

Genesis 3:15 (NASB)


“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Slide 12

1. Four Issues (Gen. 3:15)


- A. A messianic prophecy?
- B. Gender of the Messiah?
- C. A Virgin Birth Prophecy?
- D. Importance of the Virgin Birth?



Slide 13

1. Four Issues (Gen. 3:15)


- A. A messianic prophecy?
- B. Gender of the Messiah?
- C. A Virgin Birth Prophecy?
- D. Importance of the Virgin Birth?



Slide 14

Genesis 4:1 (NASB)


“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with *the help of* the LORD.’”



Slide 15


Genesis 4:1 (NASB)

“Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, ‘I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.’”




Slide 16

Genesis 5:29 (NASB)
“Now he called his name Noah, saying, ‘This one will give us rest from our work and from the toil of our hands *arising* from the ground which the LORD has cursed.’”



Slide 17

Genesis 3:17 (NASB)
“Then to Adam He said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.’”



Slide 18


Daniel 11:37 (NASB)
“He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers or for the desire of women, nor will he show regard for any *other* god; for he will magnify himself above *them* all.”



Slide 19

1. Four Issues (Gen. 3:15)

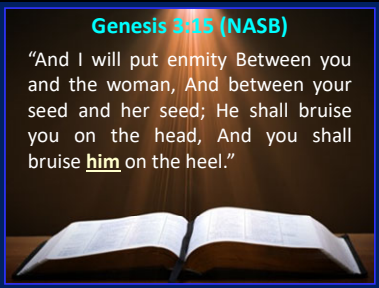
- A. A messianic prophecy?
- B. Gender of the Messiah?**
- C. A Virgin Birth Prophecy?
- D. Importance of the Virgin Birth?



Slide 20

Genesis 3:15 (NASB)


“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Slide 21

1. Four Issues (Gen. 3:15)


- A. A messianic prophecy?
- B. Gender of the Messiah?
- C. A Virgin Birth Prophecy?**
- D. Importance of the Virgin Birth?




Slide 22

Genesis 3:15 (NASB)

“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”



Slide 23




Arnold Fruchtenbaum
Messianic Christology, Page 14, 36-37

“The fact that Moses traced this genealogy through the woman tells us that there will be something very different about the Messiah, something that necessitates tracing His ancestry through His mother, not His Father. Moses gives no explanation here, and none will be given for several centuries until the time of the Prophet Isaiah—when he will prophesy (in chapter 7) that Messiah is to be born of a virgin and have no human father...Contrary to the biblical norm, the Messiah would be reckoned after the Seed of the Woman. Why? Because He would have no human father; His would be a virgin conception and birth.”

Slide 24

1. Four Issues (Gen. 3:15)

- A. A messianic prophecy?
- B. Gender of the Messiah?
- C. A Virgin Birth Prophecy?
- D. Importance of the Virgin Birth?**



Slide 28

Why the Virgin Birth? 

- To fulfill OT prophecy
- To emphasize Christ's humanity and deity
- To emphasize Christ's eternity
- To maintain Christ's sinlessness
- To protect the bodily atonement
- To circumvent the curse of Jeconiah
- To maintain Scripture's inerrant record


Slide 29

Messiah Must Be:

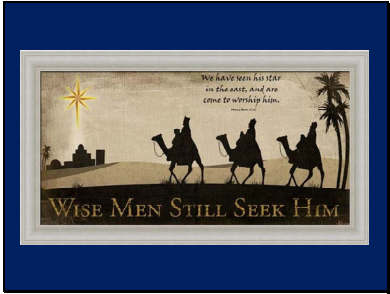
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3. Appear prior to A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
4. Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:13-14)
5. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)

Slide 30

2. Messiah must be Jewish or from the line of Jacob

- Numbers 24:17 

Slide 31



Slide 32

East = Babylon

- Genesis 2:8
- Genesis 11:2
- Matthew 2:2



Slide 33



Slide 34



Slide 35



Slide 36

Balaam's 7 Oracles Blessing Israel (23-24)

- 1) First oracle (23:1-12), Balaam explained that God's blessings upon Israel were irrevocable.
- 2) Second oracle (23:13-26), Balaam explained that the source of Israel's blessing was her unique relationship to Yahweh.
- 3) Third oracle (23:27-24:14), Balaam extolled Israel's beauty.
- 4) Fourth oracle (24:15-19), Balaam explained that a future messianic deliverer (Gen 49:10) would spring forth and exercise dominion from Israel.

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Balaam's 7 Oracles Blessing Israel (23-24)

5. Fifth oracle (Num 24:20) predicts Amalek's destruction. Amalek was the first foe that Israel had to fight against after leaving Egypt (Exod 17).
6. Sixth oracle (24:21-22) predicts the destruction of the Midianite group known as the Kenites as well as Assyria.
7. The nations of the seventh oracle are difficult to identify (24:23-24).

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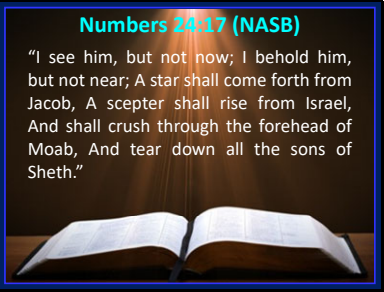
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Slide 39

Numbers 24:17 (NASB)


"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."



Slide 40

Numbers 24:17 (NASB)


"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."



Slide 41

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Slide 42

Numbers 24:17 (NASB)


"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."



Slide 43

Deuteronomy 23:4 (NASB)

"because they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you **Balaam** the son of Beor from Pethor of **Mesopotamia**, to curse you."



Slide 44

Daniel 1:2 (NASB)

"The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of **Shinar**, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god."



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3. Messiah must come before A.D. 70

■ Malachi 3:1



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Malachi 3:1 (NASB)

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.”



Slide 54

Malachi 3:1 (NASB)

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Slide 55

ISRAEL'S FOUR TEMPLES

1. Solomon's pre exilic temple (Kings and Chronicles)
2. **Zerubbabel's post exilic temple (Ezra 1-6; John 2:20)**
3. Antichrist's temple (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15; 2 Thess 2:4; Rev 11:1-2)
4. Millennial temple (Ezek 40-48)

Slide 56


Matthew 24:1-2

"¹Jesus came out from the temple and was going away when His disciples came up to point out the temple buildings to Him. ²And He said to them, "Do you not see all these things? Truly I say to you, **not one stone here will be left upon another, which will not be torn down.**"

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Luke 19:42-44

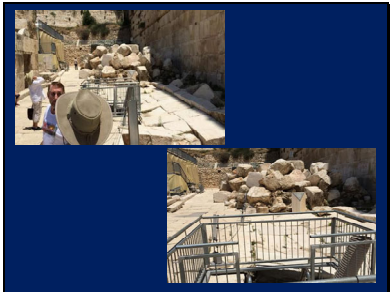
"⁴²saying, 'if you had known in this day, even you, the things which make for peace! But now they have been hidden from your eyes. ⁴³For the days will come upon you when your enemies will throw up a barricade against you, and surround you and hem you in on every side, ⁴⁴and they will level you to the ground and your children within you, and **they will not leave in you one stone upon another,** because you did not recognize the time of your visitation."



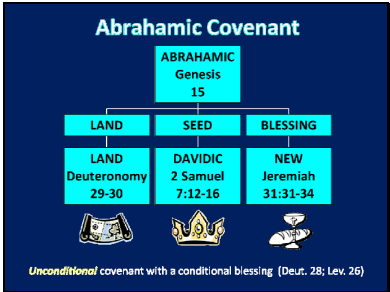
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Slide 60



Slide 61

Messiah Must Be:

1. A man (Gen 3:15)
2. From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)
3. Appear prior to A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
4. **Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:13-14)**
5. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)



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4. Messiah must be born of a virgin


■ Isaiah 7:13-14



Slide 63

Isaiah 7:13-14 (NASB)


“Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”



Slide 64

Isaiah 7:13-14 (NASB)


“Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”



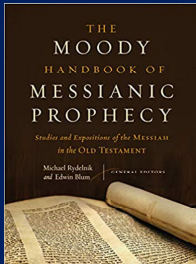
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Three Arguments Against the Virgin Birth (Isa. 7:13-14)

1. The Hebrew word is *Betulah* and not *Almah* (Joel 1:8)!
2. The Hebrew word *Almah* does not mean virgin!
3. No relevance to Isaiah’s day!



Slide 66




THE MOODY HANDBOOK OF MESSIANIC PROPHECY
Studies and Expositions of the MESSIAH in the OLD TESTAMENT
Michael Rykleck and Edwin Blum

Slide 67

Three Arguments Against the Virgin Birth
(Isa. 7:13-14)


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3. No relevance to Isaiah's day



Slide 69

To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

- *Almah*
 - ◆ OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)
 - ◆ LXX
 - ◆ Matt 1:23




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To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

- **Almah**
 - ◆ **OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)**
 - ◆ **LXX**
 - ◆ **Matt 1:23**



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Arnold Fruchtenbaum
Messianic Christology, Page 64

“Almah means ‘a virgin,’ ‘a young virgin,’ a ‘virgin of marriageable age.’ This word is used seven times in the Hebrew Scriptures and not once is it used to describe a married woman; this point is not debated...Since all of the above six verses mean ‘a virgin,’ what reason is there for making Isaiah 7:14 the only exception?”

Slide 72

To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

- **Almah**
 - ◆ **OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)**
 - ◆ **LXX**
 - ◆ **Matt 1:23**



Slide 73

To Fulfill Old Testament Prophecy

- Almah
 - ◆ OT uses (Gen 24:43; Exod 2:8; Ps 68:25; Song of Solomon 1:3; 6:8; Prov 30:18-19)
 - ◆ LXX
 - ◆ Matt 1:23



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Matthew 1:23


“BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN [PARthenOS] SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,” which translated means, “GOD WITH US.””



Slide 75

2 Timothy 3:16-17


“All Scripture is inspired by God [theopneustos] and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work.”



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INSPIRATION OF SCRIPTURE
2 Peter 1:20-21

- Men Wrote as they were inspired by Holy Spirit
"phero" = to carry
Acts 27:15,17
- Opposite of Knowledge of False Teachers
 - ◆ Which is their own imagination
 - ◆ Jer. 23:16



Slide 77

Matthew 5:18


"For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished."



Slide 78

Three Arguments Against the Virgin Birth
(Isa. 7:13-14)


1. The Hebrew word is *Betulah* and not *Almah* (Joel 1:8)!
2. The Hebrew word *Almah* does not mean *virgin*!
3. **No relevance to Isaiah's day!**



Slide 79

Isaiah 7:13-14


- Ahaz' Day?
 - ◆ Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35
 - ◆ Sign (Isa 7:14)
 - ◆ Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)
 - ◆ *Shear Jashub* (Isa. 7:3)
 - ◆ David (Isa 7:13)
 - ◆ From the singular to the plural "you"
 - ◆ Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)



Slide 80

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 - ◆ Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35
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 - ◆ Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)
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Slide 81

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 - ◆ Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)
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Isaiah 7:13-14 (NASB)

“Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a **sign**: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”



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ISAIAH 7 AND 8 DIFFERENCES

| ISAIAH 7 | ISAIAH 8 |
|------------------------------|---|
| Immanuel | Maher-shalal-hash-baz |
| Blessing | Judgment |
| Born to a virgin | Born to Isaiah's wife |
| Age 12 | Age 1-2 |
| Assyrian judgment upon Judah | Assyrian judgment upon Syria and Israel |

Slide 84

Isaiah 7:13-14

- Ahaz' Day?
 - ◆ Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35
 - ◆ Sign (Isa 7:14)
 - ◆ **Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)**
 - ◆ *Shear Jashub* (Isa. 7:3)
 - ◆ David (Isa 7:13)
 - ◆ From the singular to the plural “you”
 - ◆ Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)



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Isaiah 7:1-2 (NASB)


¹Now it came about in the days of **Ahaz**, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it, but could not conquer it. ²When it was reported to the **house of David**, saying, "The Arameans have camped in Ephraim," **his heart** and the hearts of his people **shook as the trees of the forest shake with the wind.**"

Slide 86

Isaiah 7:13-14

■ **Ahaz' Day?**

- ◆ Isaiah 53 in Acts 8:31-35
- ◆ Sign (Isa 7:14)
- ◆ **Two threats (Isa. 7:1-2)**
 - ◆ **Shear Jashub (Isa. 7:3)**
 - ◆ David (Isa 7:13)
 - ◆ From the singular to the plural "you"
- ◆ Extended context (Isa 9:6; 11:1-5)



Slide 87

Isaiah 7:3 (NASB)


"Then the Lord said to Isaiah, 'Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your **son Shear-jashub**, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller's field.'"



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Isaiah 7:13-14 (NASB)

“Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”



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Isaiah 9:6-7

⁶ For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.

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Isaiah 11:1-5

“¹Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse. And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.²The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding. The spirit of counsel and strength. The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear.”

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Isaiah 11:1-5

“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.”

Slide 98

Messiah Must Be:

1. A man (Gen 3:15)
2. From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)
3. Appear prior to A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
4. Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:13-14)
5. **Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)**



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5. Messiah must be born in Bethlehem

■ Micah 5:2



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Micah 5:2 (NASB)
"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."




Slide 101

Micah 5:2 (NASB)
"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."




Slide 102

Psalms 90:2
"Before the mountains were born Or You gave
birth to the earth and the world, Even from
everlasting (olam) to everlasting (olam), You are
God."



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 **Arnold Fruchtenbaum**
Messianic Christology, Page 64

“As regards His human origin, He is to be born in Bethlehem, but regarding His divine origin, He is said to be ‘from long ago, from the days of eternity.’ The Hebrew words for ‘from long ago, from the days of eternity’ are the strongest Hebrew words ever used for eternity past. They are used of God the Father in Psalm 90:2. What is true of God the Father is also said to be true of this One who is to be born in Bethlehem.”

Slide 104

Birth of the Messiah
(Micah 5:2)


1. The exact nation: Israel
2. The exact tribe: Judah
3. The exact city: Bethlehem



Slide 105

Birth of the Messiah
(Micah 5:2)

1. The exact nation: Israel
2. The exact tribe: Judah
3. The exact city: Bethlehem

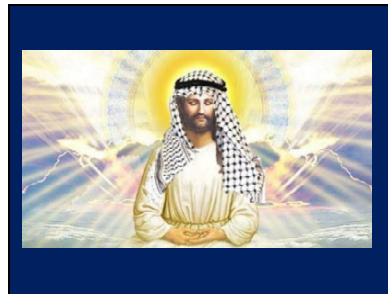


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"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Too little to be among the clans of Judah,
From you One will go forth for Me to be
ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from
long ago, From the days of eternity."



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Slide 108

Birth of the Messiah
(Micah 5:2)

1. The exact nation: Israel
2. **The exact tribe: Judah**
3. The exact city: Bethlehem



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Slide 111



Slide 112

Messiah must be from the tribe of Judah


- Genesis 49:10
- Revelation 5:5



Slide 113

Birth of the Messiah
(Micah 5:2)


1. The exact nation: Israel
2. The exact tribe: Judah
3. The exact city: Bethlehem



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Micah 5:2 (NASB)

"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."



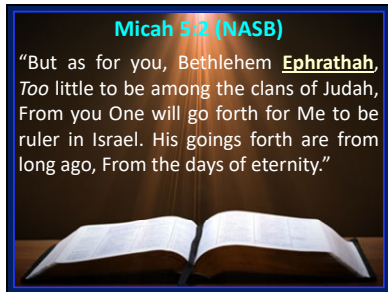
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Arnold Fruchtenbaum
Messianic Christology, Page 64

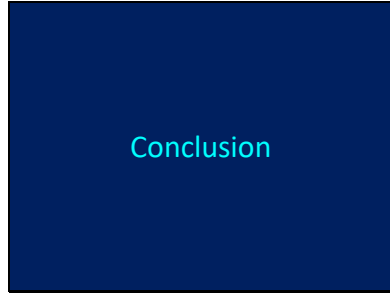
“Messiah is to be born, not in Jerusalem as might have been expected, but in Bethlehem... This is Bethlehem Ephrathah, as distinguished from another Bethlehem in Galilee. This Bethlehem is the Bethlehem of David and of Judah, situated south of Jerusalem.”

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Matthew 2:4-6 (NASB)

“⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ ‘AND YOU, 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.’”

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Messiah Must Be:


1. A man (Gen 3:15)
2. From Jacob's line (Num 24:17)
3. Appear prior to A.D. 70 (Mal 3:1)
4. Be born of a virgin (Isa 7:13-14)
5. Be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)



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Modern Example

- Hemisphere
- Country
- State
- County
- City
- Zip code
- Street name
- Street address
- Person





Intro

Peter Stoner- In 1969, Dr. Peter Stoner published a book called "Science Speaks." Dr. Stoner was the Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena City College until 1953, when he became Chairman of the Science Division at Westmont College. In other words, he was a capable mathematician. And in "Science Speaks," Dr. Stoner calculated the probability that any one man could fulfill just these eight prophecies to be 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power, meaning a 1 with 17 zeros after it. To illustrate how unlikely a chance that would be, Stoner gave this illustration. Cover the entire state of Texas with silver dollars to a level of two feet deep. The total number of silver dollars needed would be 10 to the 17th power. Now, choose just one silver dollar, mark it, and put it back. Then thoroughly stir all the silver dollars all over the state. Now, blindfold someone and tell them they can travel wherever they want in Texas, but sometime they must pick one of the silver

dollars. The chance of finding that one silver dollar that we marked in a pile 2 feet deep covering the state of Texas would be the chance the prophets had for these eight prophecies coming true in any one man in the future. (Peter Stoner, Science Speaks: Scientific Proof of the Accuracy of Prophecy and the Bible 107 (Chicago, Moody Press, 1969).

Matthew 16:1–3 – The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.
² But He replied to them, “When it is evening, you say, ‘It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.’³ “And in the morning, ‘There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.’ Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times?

Galatians 4:4 –But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.

1. Gen. 3:15

GENESIS 3:15 –And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”

Genesis 4:1-Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with the help of the LORD.”

Genesis 5:29-Now he called his name Noah, saying, “**This one will give us rest** from our work and from the toil of our hands arising **from the ground which the LORD has cursed.**”

Gen. 3:17- Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’; **Cursed** is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.

Daniel 11:37-He will show no regard for the gods of his fathers **or for the desire of women**, nor will he show regard for any other god; for he will magnify himself above them all.

1st FRUCHTENBAUM QUOTE-*Messianic Christology* pp. 14, 36-37 – “The fact that **Moses traced this genealogy through the woman** tells us that there will be something very different about the Messiah, something that necessitates tracing His ancestry through His mother, not His Father. Moses gives no explanation here, and none will be given for several centuries until the time of the Prophet Isaiah—when he will prophesy (in chapter 7) that Messiah is to be born of a virgin and have no human father...Contrary to the biblical norm, **the Messiah would be reckoned after the Seed of the Woman**. Why? Because He would have no human father; His would be a virgin conception and birth.”

Virgin birth not necessarily literal, only a symbol against patriarchy, says Brian McLaren

by JOSHUA ARNOLD

December 11, 2018

<https://juicyecumenism.com/2018/12/11/virgin-birth-not-literal-symbol-vs-patriarchy-brian-mclaren/>

Pastor Brian McLaren meditates on the virgin birth in the “Be Still and Go” podcast of The Riverside Church in New York City. In a segment titled “**A Post-Patriarchal Christmas,**” McLaren took issue with the virgin birth as a “**science-defying miracle that proved something about Jesus.**” He protested, “**This approach never really worked for me. How can you use something you can’t prove—a virgin birth long ago—to prove something else—the unique identity of Jesus?**” McLaren draws a different conclusion. He says the virgin birth’s “**greatest value isn’t in proving something, but in meaning something.**” McLaren said God got so tired of men “**messing things up**” that he said, “**I’m going to work directly with women for a change. I’m taking a step to overthrow the patriarchy.**” Whether you believe the “**virgin birth story**” or not, McLaren said, its “**literal factuality**” is “**not the point.**” McLaren concluded the virgin birth is “**about a profound rejection of violence,**” the notion that peace can never come through the old, blood-stained path of patriarchy.

ANDY STANLEY’S APPROACH TO THE VIRGIN BIRTH

December 27, 2016 Gerald Harris

<https://christianindex.org/andy-stanleys-approach-to-the-virgin-birth/>

“One of the challenging things about the Christmas season and one of the challenging things about the Christmas story is, in fact, the Christmas story – the Christmas story as it relates to the birth of Jesus. Because there is so much miraculous, there is so much amazing, there is so much that’s really unbelievable about it and a whole lot of people just don’t believe; and I understand that.” Stanley continued, “Maybe the thought is that they had to come up with some myth about the birth of Jesus to give him street cred later on.” “It is interesting because Matthew gives us a version of the birth of Jesus. Luke does, but Mark and John don’t even mention it; and a lot has been made of that.” “And you have heard me say some version of this a million times, but if somebody can predict their own death and resurrection, I’m not all that concerned about how they got into the world, because the whole resurrection thing is so amazing and, in fact, you should know this. Christianity does not hinge on the truth or even the stories about the birth of Jesus, it really hinges on the resurrection of Jesus.”

2. Num. 24:17

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

Genesis 2:8-⁸ The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed...
2:14 The name of the third river is Tigris; it flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

Gen. 2:14-The name of the third river is ^[k]Tigris; it ^[l]flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the ^[m]Euphrates.

Genesis 11:2-² It came about as they journeyed east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

NUMBERS 24:17-¹⁷ “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.

Deuteronomy 23:4-⁴ because they did not meet you with food and water on the way when you came out of Egypt, and because they hired against you Balaam the son of Beor from Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse you.

Daniel 1:2-² The Lord gave Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the vessels of the house of God; and he brought them to the land of Shinar, to the house of his god, and he brought the vessels into the treasury of his god.

Daniel 2:48-⁴⁸ Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts, and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon and chief prefect over all the wise men of Babylon.

Daniel 9:25-²⁵ “So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until

Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

Luke 2:25; 36-38-²⁵ And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was **Simeon**; and this man was righteous and devout, **looking for** the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.,... ^{2:36} 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, ³⁷ and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. ³⁸ 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.

3. MALACHI 3:1

Malachi 3:1- Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,” says the Lord of hosts.

4. ISAIAH 7:13-14

Isa. 7:13-14-Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself

will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Joel 1:8-Wail like a virgin girded with sackcloth For the bridegroom of her youth.

2nd FRUCHTENBAUM QUOTE- Fruchtenbaum in *Messianic Christology* p. 64 – “Almah means ‘a virgin,’ ‘a young virgin,’ a ‘virgin of marriageable age.’ This word is used seven times in the Hebrew Scriptures and not once is it used to describe a married woman; this point is not debated. i. Genesis 24:43...it is used of Rebekah who was obviously a virgin at the time of her marriage to Isaac. ii. Exodus 2:8. Used in reference to Moses’ sister Miriam, who was a virgin. iii. Psalms 68:25. Used in reference to the royal procession of virgins. Since the King in this context is God Himself, absolute virginity is required; it is unthinkable that God would allow unchaste, unmarried women in His procession. iv. Song of Songs 1:3. The context here is purity in marriage. v. Song of Songs 6:8. The word is used here in contrast to wives and concubines who would obviously be non-virgins. vi. Proverbs 30:18–19. The word is used in verse 19 in contrast to an adulteress in verse 20. vii. Isaiah 7:14. Since all of the above six verses mean ‘a virgin,’ what reason is there for making Isaiah 7:14 the only exception?”

Matthew 1:23⁻²³ “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.”

Isaiah 53¹ Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no *stately* form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.³ He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself *as* a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will

prosper in His hand. ¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

Acts 8:31–35⁻³¹ And he said, “Well, how could I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. ³² Now the passage of Scripture which he was reading was this: “HE WAS LED AS A SHEEP TO SLAUGHTER; AND AS A LAMB BEFORE ITS SHEARER IS SILENT, SO HE DOES NOT OPEN HIS MOUTH. ³³ “IN HUMILIATION HIS JUDGMENT WAS TAKEN AWAY; WHO WILL RELATE HIS GENERATION? FOR HIS LIFE IS REMOVED FROM THE EARTH.” ³⁴ The eunuch answered Philip and said, “Please tell me, of whom does the prophet say this? Of himself or of someone else?” ³⁵ Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning from this Scripture he preached Jesus to him.**

Isaiah 7:14⁻¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a **sign**: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Is 7:1-2- Now it came about in the **days of Ahaz**, the son of Jotham, the son of Uzziah, king of Judah, that **Rezin the king of Aram and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, went up to Jerusalem to wage war against it**, but could not ^[a]conquer it.

²When it was reported to **the house of David**, saying, “The Arameans ^[b]have camped in Ephraim,” his heart and the hearts of his people shook as the trees of the forest shake ^[c]with the wind.

Isaiah 7:3-³ Then the LORD said to Isaiah, “Go out now to meet Ahaz, you and your son **Shear-jashub**, at the end of the conduit of the upper pool, on the highway to the fuller’s field.

Isa. 7:13-14-Then he said, “Listen now, **O house of David!** Is it too slight a thing for you to try the patience of men, that you will try the patience of my God as well? ¹⁴ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

3rd FRUCHTENBAUM QUOTE – in *Messianic Christology* p. 36 –
‘In verse 13, Isaiah turns from addressing Ahaz as an individual and addresses the entire House of David. The English language does not distinguish between ‘you’ addressed to one person and ‘you’ addressed to many people. In Hebrew there is a difference, and there is a clear change between the singular ‘you’ of verses 9, 11, 16, 17 and the plural ‘you’ of verses 13–14. The sign therefore is not just for Ahaz, but for the whole House of David. This becomes clearer if we state the passage again with the singular [s] and plural [pl] words indicated:

Isa. 7:9 ... and the head of Ephraim is Samaria and the head of Samaria is the son of Remaliah. If **you** [s] will not believe, **you** [s] surely shall not last.” ’ ” 10 Then the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 “Ask a sign for **yourself** [s] from the Lord your God;

make it deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” 12 But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!” 13 Then he said, “Listen now, O house of David! Is it too slight a thing for **you** [pl] to try the patience of men, that **you** [pl] will try the patience of my God as well? 14 “Therefore the Lord Himself will give **you** [pl] a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel. 15 “He will eat curds and honey at the time He knows enough to refuse evil and choose good. 16 “For before the boy will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings **you** [s] dread will be forsaken. 17 “The Lord will bring on **you** [s], on your people, and on your father’s house such days as have never come since the day that Ephraim separated from Judah, the king of Assyria.”

Isa. 9:6-7- For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will [rest](#) on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.⁷ There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. the zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

Isa. 11:1-5- Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.³ And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, 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.

5. Micah 5:2

Micah 5:2⁻² “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.”

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Psalms 90:2⁻² Before the mountains were born Or You gave birth to the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.

4th FRUCHTENBAUM QUOTE – *Messianic Christology* p. 64 – “As regards His human origin, He is to be born in Bethlehem, but regarding His divine origin, He is said to be ‘from long ago, from the days of eternity.’ The Hebrew words for ‘from long ago, from the days of eternity’ are the strongest Hebrew words ever used for eternity past. They are used of God the Father in Psalm 90:2. What is true of God the Father is also said to be true of this One who is to be born in Bethlehem.”

Micah 5:2-2 “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.”

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Genesis 49:10-“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.

Revelation 5:5-and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

Micah 5:2-2 “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.”

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Conclusion

Num. 6:24-26- The LORD bless you, and keep you;²⁵ The LORD make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you; ²⁶ The LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace.’