

**SLIDE 1**

# A Reason to Hope

---

*How One Man Fulfilled the Prophecies of Christmas in One Night!*

*Gen 3:15; 2 Samuel 7:13-14, Isaiah 7:12-16,9:6-7;14; Micah 5:2-5*

**David J Dahms**

Lazy Mountain Bible Church

November 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

## Introduction

In 2004, a Hindu seer almost incited a riot by failing to die as foretold.

World Magazine reported in its December 4 issue of that year that the chief cleric of Sriguru Ashram in eastern India had predicted that his soul would leave his body sometime on the morning of November 17, 2004.

Well the morning arrived, and 15,000 people showed up to watch.

The crowd was quiet as the cleric sat down to meditate at 6:00 a.m., but turned violent when he was still alive at noon. A police baton-charge was required to disperse the crowd.

The seer was apologetic: "I wanted to leave my mortal body, but I could not. Please forgive me."

*World Magazine (12-04-04), p. 13; submitted by Phil Wood, Carol Stream, Illinois*

What comes to mind when you hear this story? Just another quack prophecy!

Today we are going we are going see how one man fulfilled the prophecies of Christmas. His name is Jesus Christ.

**SLIDE 2**

**What would it take for you to trust prophecy?**

For many people, it is just two things. Was it predicted, and did it happen as it was predicted.

But there is a key ingredient missing from that standard. The Bible gives us three standards for prophecy we can trust.

Do you know what they are?

### SLIDE 3

1. That the prophecy was spoken prior to the event.
2. That the prophecy agrees with God's Word.
3. That the prophecy occurs just as predicted.

If you would like to look into these three requirements, see Deuteronomy 13:1-5.

Today we are going we are going focus on how:

### SLIDE 4

**How one man fulfilled the prophecies of Christmas in one night! His name is Jesus Christ.**

Accordingly, Jesus Christ fulfills over three hundred prophecies of the Bible. Just some of them are:

### SLIDE 5

- Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:21-23)
- A descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3; 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16)
- Of the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23, 33; Hebrews 7:14)
- Of the house of David (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Matthew 1:1)
- Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2, Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4-7)
- Taken to Egypt (Hosea 11:1; Matthew 2:14-15)

### SLIDE 6

- Herod's killing of the infants (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16-18)
- Anointed by the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16-17)
- Heralded by the messenger of the Lord (John the Baptist) (Isaiah 40:3-5; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 3:1-3)
- Would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 9:35)
- Would preach good news (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:14-21)
- Would minister in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1; Matthew 4:12-16)
- Would cleanse the Temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12-13)

### SLIDE 7

- Die a humiliating death (Psalm 22; Isaiah 53) involving:
  1. rejection (Isaiah 53:3; John 1:10-11; 7:5,48)
  2. betrayal by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:3-4; John 13:18)
  3. sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:14-15)
  4. silence before His accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-14)
  5. being mocked (Psalm 22: 7-8; Matthew 27:31)
  6. beaten (Isaiah 52:14; Matthew 27:26)
  7. spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 27:30)
  8. piercing His hands and feet (Psalm 22:16; Matthew 27:31)
  9. being crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38)

10. praying for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34)
11. piercing His side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)
12. no broken bones (Psalm 34:20; John 19:32-36)
13. buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)

#### SLIDE 8

- Would rise from the dead!! (Psalm 16:10; Mark 16:6; Acts 2:31)
- Ascend into Heaven (Psalm 68:18; Acts 1:9)
- Would sit down at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

What does this show?

He fits the finger print of Divine Prophecy<sup>1</sup> Especially when we come to Christmas. Let's look.

#### SLIDE 9

But as I mentioned, today we are going to look at three prophecies about his birth to and see **how one man fulfilled the Prophecies of Christmas in just one night**—and why that gives us reason to hope.

#### SLIDE 10

## The First Christmas Prophecy – We have reason for hope because God has a plan to rescue us from evil.

It might surprise you to discover that the first prophecy of Christmas occurs just after the first week of creation. It was because God knew we would need rescue from our sins. So he said to the Devil:

#### SLIDE 11

#### The Woman's Seed

#### Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

**15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."**

In [Gen. 3:15](#) as God is giving out the consequences of Adam and Eve's sin, the first victim of man's sin is the Tempter—the one who minimized the consequences of sin. So in the first Biblical record of the consequence of sin, Lord first curses the serpent, and in doing so, prophesies the coming of a Savior, the Messiah, who will do battle with the Devil, and rescue us from sin. God says:

---

<sup>1</sup> The Case for Christ, Lee Strobel, <http://www.leestrobel.com/videos/Christ/CCNT1446.htm>

**“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.”**

This is a famous and well-known verse because it is the first place in the Bible that the Messiah is mentioned. Theologians often use a big word to refer to this text. They call it the “proto-evangelium,” proto meaning first, and evangelium meaning gospel i.e., the first Gospel. One of the unique qualities of [Gen. 3:15](#) is the phrase her seed. What is unique about these words is that they only appear here in this text. Nowhere else in the Bible is a woman said to have “a seed.” It is always the man who is said to have “a seed.” But here, God says, the woman's seed will bruise the serpent's head.

## **SLIDE 12**

But if you know the Christmas story, you know that Mary the mother of Jesus was **“found to be with child by the Holy Spirit”** ([Mt.1:18](#)).

**Matthew 1:18 (NKJV)**

### **Birth of Christ**

**18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.**

The power of the Most High overshadowed Mary and she conceived a child and gave birth as a virgin never having known a man.

## **SLIDE 13 – Prophecy Spoken, Prophecy Fulfilled**

This is what [Gen. 3:15](#) is referring to. Mary is “her” and Jesus is her “seed.” The virgin birth of Jesus Christ fulfilled the promise of [Gen. 3:15](#) given thousands of years before. Eve was deceived by the serpent but her hope was that one day her seed would crush the serpent's head. Jesus defeated Satan through His death on the cross.

## **SLIDE 14**

**The First Christmas Prophecy – We have reason for hope because God has a plan to rescue us from evil.**

*The Guardian* is about the heroic and sacrificial efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard.

In a DVD bonus feature, Rescue Swimmer Joseph Flythe comments: "Hurricane Katrina really brought out what a Coast Guard Rescue Swimmer is because we were plastered all over the national media. It was the Coast Guard Rescue Swimmers you saw go down to the roofs, pulling people out. We were all working 18–24 hour days, around the clock, pushing ourselves to the limit."

Helicopter pilot Nevada Smith comments as more rescue scenes are shown: "I've been flying for over ten years, and Katrina was always this theoretical fictional story that everybody had in their minds—'What if we had to save 33,000 people?' And sure enough, that's what the Coast Guard ended up doing."

We have hope because this fulfilled prophecy of Christmas shows us right from our first mistake; God had a plan in place to rescue all of us from our sin!

#### **SLIDE 15**

## **The Second Christmas Prophecy – We have Hope because Nothing is Impossible with God**

### **A Virgin Gives Birth to God With Us**

The virgin birth itself was predicted in [Isa. 7:14](#). Isaiah the prophet prophesied during the reign of Ahaz King of Judah. Judah was being attacked by Rezin, king of Aram and Pekah king of the northern kingdom of Israel. But God was not ready to let Jerusalem be captured, so He sent Isaiah and his young son Shear-jashub, whose name means "a remnant will return," to relay a message to King Ahaz. Isaiah tells King Ahaz that within 65 years nothing would be left of the two kings who threatened Judah.

#### **SLIDE 16**

God knew that this would be difficult for Ahaz to believe, so God says this to Ahaz in

#### **Isaiah 7:10-11 (NKJV)**

#### **The Immanuel Prophecy**

**10 Moreover the Lord spoke again to Ahaz, saying, 11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."**

This is a unique opportunity for Ahaz. God, like a mythological genie, is giving Ahaz a chance to ask for anything he wishes so that God can prove what He promised would come true. But Ahaz, in rebellion and false piety replies to God's gracious command,

#### **SLIDE 17**

#### **Isaiah 7:12 (NKJV)**

**12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the Lord!"**

God then responds, not just to Ahaz, but to the entire house of David and says:

#### **SLIDE 18**

**Isaiah 7:13-14 (NKJV)**

**13 Then he said, “Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

Because Ahaz refused to ask for a personal sign, God promised a sign, not only for Ahaz but for the entire house of David. David came from Judah, and Judah was the tribe that the promised Messiah and King would come from ([Gen. 49:10](#)).

God wanted Ahaz to ask for a sign that was **“as deep as sheol or as high as heaven.”** This is another way of saying, “ask for something huge, incredible, unimaginable, something so impossible that only God could do it.” And, since Ahaz is unwilling to ask for a sign which is **“as deep as sheol or as high as heaven,”** God provides one. God's sign is amazing in two specific ways. First, a virgin will have a child-- something impossible and something that had never happened before. And secondly, the child's name would be “God with us.”

This second Prophecy of Christmas fulfilled in Matthew 1:23 when God spoke first to Mary

**SLIDE 19****Luke 1:34-35 (NKJV)****Mary Miraculously Conceives**

**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.**

The house of David received the sign of the virgin birth of Jesus by Mary. Mary was literally a virgin when she gave birth to Jesus and Jesus was literally the Son of God ([Lk. 1:32, 35](#)).

So we see the second prophecy of Christmas if fulfilled.

**SLIDE 20 – Prophecy Spoken in the Old Testament, Prophecy Fulfilled in the New Testament**

Prophecy Spoken	Prophecy Fulfilled
Isaiah 7:14 (NKJV) 14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.	Luke 1:34-35 (NKJV) Mary Miraculously Conceives 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.

**SLIDE 21**

## **The Second Christmas Prophecy – We have Hope because Nothing is Impossible with God**

### Illustration

Here's a little experiment: start a sentence with the words "I believe...," and then finish it with something deeply heartfelt. It is impossible to do without feeling uplifted and stirred.

The need to declare our deeply held beliefs is an irrepressible aspect of being human. In the act of defining what we believe, we define ourselves. I am one who can discern what is true and real and noble and bind myself to it. I believe.

I don't know what impossible situation you are facing. Divorce, Debt, Wayward Children, Wayward Parents, job loss, caring for someone who cannot help themselves anymore.

When the despair comes. State the truth, "I believe nothing is impossible with God. The miracle Mary learned at Christmas will be my truth to get me through: Nothing is impossible with God."

**SLIDE 22**

## **The third Prophecy of Christmas – We have reason to hope because even after we are judged we have a deliverer.**

Another of the significant prophecies about the birth of Christ is found in [Mic. 5:2](#).

**SLIDE 23**

Micah 5:2 (NKJV)

The Coming Messiah

2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
Though you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me  
The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
Whose goings forth are from of old,  
From everlasting."

Micah was a prophet and a contemporary of Isaiah. He preached judgment to both the northern and southern tribes of Israel and Judah.

**SLIDE 24**

Yet, in [Mic. 5:2](#) the Lord gives hope to His people and promises that after they are judged a deliverer will be born.

Micah predicts, “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 25

This prophecy was fulfilled on Christmas.

#### Matthew 2:1-2 (NKJV)

##### Visit of Wise Men

**2** Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, **2** saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”

#### SLIDE 26

This prophecy is significant because it tells us

- 1) the place of Messiah's birth — “Bethlehem,”
- 2) the function of the Messiah — “to be ruler in Israel,”
- 3) and the identity of the Messiah — “His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity.”

To prove that the prophecy of the Deliver to come is true, God tells exactly where he would be born, his exact role, and his identity.

And it all originated as a promise from God to Israel that he would first discipline them for their sin and then rescue them from their sin. So that they would know He is God.

I don't know about you, but I do not “sign up” for discipline. I want to avoid it. But I have to remember the words of Scripture.

#### SLIDE 27

#### Hebrews 12:5-7 (NIV)

**5** And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons:

“My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline,  
and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,

**6** because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son.”

**7 Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?**

No one likes to sign up for discipline. No one likes hardship.

This week I sinned in an area of my life that has been a reoccurring trouble for me. Have any of those? I do, and what made it so bad is I knew it was sin and I proceeded anyway. I did the very thing I didn't want to do. And worse, after I sinned, I said to myself, "Oh, I will never have victory in that area. Despite all my attempts to change, I fell again." So then I tried to justify it. "God is just going to have to love me anyway."

He did love me, but not in the way I expected. He came down hard. So hard in fact it was impossible to ignore what had just happened.

But do you know what happened as a result? God became more real to me than I had experienced in months.

Now I know my redeemer lives—because he disciplined me. And I knew it was Him. There was no mistaking the hand of God. And I wouldn't give it up for anything.

Is there an area of your life in which you are constantly tumbling and falling and getting back up? Have you lost hope? Are you trying to "justify it" with the same excuse I used, "Oh, I will never have victory in that area."

What are we to do? We need to remember.

**SLIDE 28**

**Revelation 3:19 (NIV)**

**19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest, and repent.**

Let us pray. And confess our sins, and repent and ask for forgiveness.

**SLIDE 29 Reasons: A Reason to Hope**

Remember the fulfilled prophecies of Christmas. They give us real reason for Hope! Here they are:

**SLIDE 30**

**The First Christmas Prophecy – We have reason for hope because God has a plan to rescue us from evil.**

**The Second Christmas Prophecy – We have Hope because Nothing is Impossible with God**

**The Third Prophecy of Christmas – We have reason to hope because even after we are judged we have a deliverer.**