

A Super Christmas

- Need a Back-Story -legend
 - Spiderman
 - Superman
 - Batman
 - Hulk
 - Captain America
- Our greatest REAL superhero has a good back story, too
 - ~~Legend~~ Prophecies (Evidence That Demands a Verdict – Josh McDowell)
 - Born of a virgin
 - "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." Isaiah 7:14
 - **700 years BC**
 - Location of birth
 - "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." Micah 5:2
 - **735 – 700 BC**
 - Family Lineage
 - Tribe of Judah
 - "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." Genesis 49:10
 - Line of Jesse
 - "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit." Isaiah 11:1
 - House of David

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- 'Behold, the days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'When I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land.'" Jeremiah 23:5
- Gifts
 - "Let the kings of Tarshish and of the islands bring presents; The kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts." Psalms 72:10
 - **1000 years BC**
- On and on
- Fulfilled!
 - Born of a virgin
 - ". . . She was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit And Joseph . . . kept her a virgin until she gave birth to a Son; and he called His name Jesus." Matthew 1:18,24,25
 - Location of birth
 - Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea " Matthew 2:1
 - Family Lineage
 - Matthew 1
- Gifts
 - Magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem... and they fell down and worshiped Him; and opening their treasures they presented to Him gifts... ." Matthew 2:1,11
- **456** Prophecies concerning the birth, life, death, and resurrection of the Messiah FULFILLED and confirmed in Scripture, historical record, and literature and documentation from the time.
- The Odds
 - Coincidence?
 - Peter Stoner (1969)– Professor Emeritus of Science at Westmont College, has calculated the probability of one man fulfilling the major prophecies made concerning the Messiah. The estimates were worked out by twelve different classes representing some 600 university students.

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- Odds that a person could have randomly fulfilled only 8 of the hundreds of prophecies is 1 in 10^{17} (17 zeros)
- Cover the entire state of Texas (268,580 sq mi) with silver dollars... 2 feet deep... mark 1, then thoroughly mix them all up. Blindfold someone and have them try to pick the marked one on 1st try.
 - 48? 1 in 10^{157}
 - 456?
 - Once you go beyond 1 in 10^{50} it becomes not only extremely improbable, but statistically speaking, impossible....
- Arranged?
 - May be able to arrange individual facts to fit a prophecy, but not ALL of them
 - How does one "arrange" to be born in a specified city, in which their parents don't actually live? How does one "arrange" their own death - and specifically by crucifixion, with two others, and then "arrange" to have their executioners gamble for His clothing (John 16:19; Psalms 22:18)? How does one "arrange" to be betrayed in advance? How does one "arrange" to have the executioners carry out the regular practice of breaking the legs of the two victims on either side, but not their own? Finally, how does one "arrange" to be God? How does one escape from a grave and appear to people after having been killed?
- As Stoner concludes, 'Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact, proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world'
 - Staunch Athiests and unbelievers in the studies could not deny the findings
 - In fact, if anybody can find someone, living or dead, other than Jesus, who can fulfill only half of the

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predictions concerning the Messiah given in the book "Messiah in Both Testaments" by Fred J. Meldau, the Christian Victory Publishing Company is ready to give a ONE thousand dollar reward! As apologist Josh McDowell says, "There are a lot of men in the universities that could use some extra cash!"

- The mission
 - We can see the proof that Jesus was the Messiah foretold from the beginning- we can be convinced by the overwhelming Scriptural and historical data that confirms this... but will we then believe what it says that He came to do?
 - 10 For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." Luke 19:10 ESV
 - 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God Romans 3:23 ESV
 - ²³ **For the wages of sin is death**, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23
 - 8 but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8 ESV
 - ¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have **eternal life**. John 3:16 ESV
 - Not what our heroes thought
 - Not what the Jews thought
- The gift
 - ²³ For the wages of sin is death, **but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord**. Romans 6:23
 - 18 Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one Man's righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. 19 For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous. Romans 5:18-19

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What are you going to do with this?

Bad movie if the damsel in distress were to wave off the hero and tell him that help is not needed... that she has it under control...

...if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10 :9 – 10 NKJV