

# The Seven Miracles of Christmas



# THE SEVEN MIRACLES OF CHRISTMAS

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## 1. THE MIRACLE OF ANTICIPATION – O. T. PROPHECIES OF CHRIST

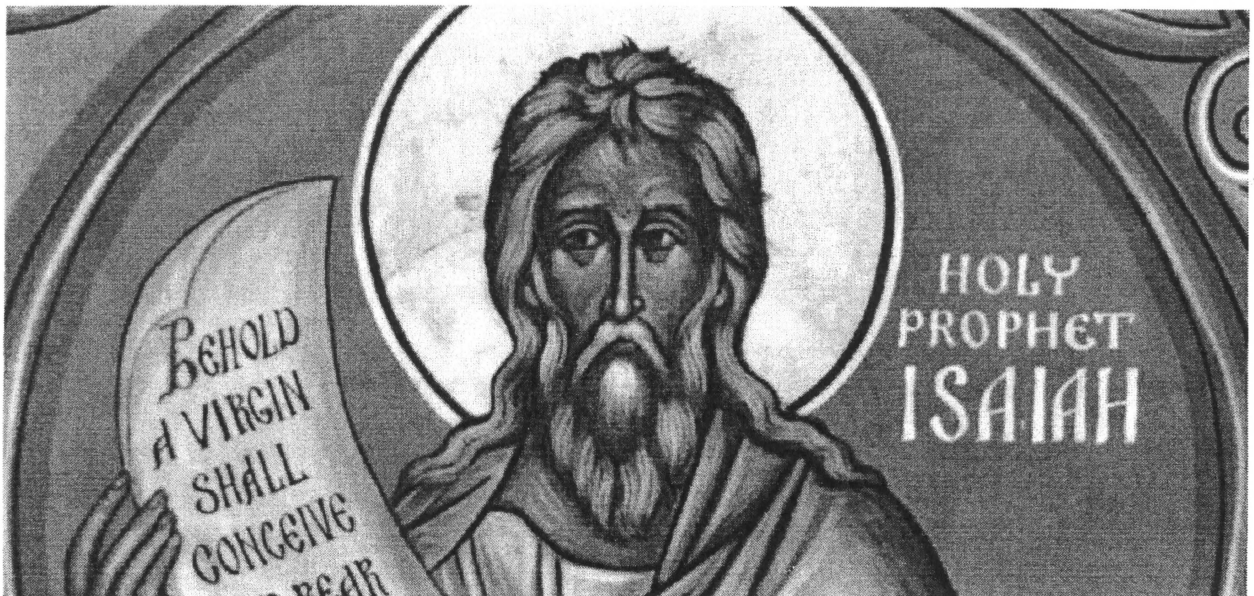
Christ saw Himself as the subject of every O. T. book:

**Luke 24:27, 44** And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself . . . Then He said to them, “These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.”

Christ’s coming was the fulfillment of prophecy. It is nothing short of miraculous that Christ in His first coming fulfilled 333 prophecies. According to the law of probabilities, there would be one chance out of 83 billion that so many predictions would be fulfilled in the case of one single individual. Needless to say, such a “chance” does not exist. No one but the most omniscient God could predict and follow through on these specifics (Rene Pache, *The Inspiration and Authority of Scripture*, 1969, 283).

The Old Testament becomes ever more specific in anticipating the coming of the Savior:

1. His race: human (Gen. 3:15)
2. His nation: in pursuit of Abraham (Gen. 22:18)
3. His tribe: the royal tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10)
4. His family: the family of David (2 Sam. 7:16)
5. The person: a virgin (Isa. 7:14)
6. The place: Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2)
7. The time: He would be cut off in A.D. 32 (Dan. 9:26) .



## 2. THE MIRACLE OF PREPARATION – THE MINISTRY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

Isaiah 40:3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. "

Mal. 3:1 "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the Lord of hosts.

Luke 1:7 But they had no child, because Elizabeth was barren, and they were both well advanced in years.

Luke 1:13 But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John."

--Prophecies as early as 700 B.C. (Isaiah) and 400 B.C. (Malachi) announced the birth of John the Baptist. An angel broke the silence of divine revelation after 400 years.

-- John's birth was miraculous. He was born to two individuals far past child-bearing age.

--John, while still a fetus, recognized the Savior as Mary visited Elizabeth.

--John introduced Christ to the Jews: John 1:29-30 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.'"





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### 3. THE MIRACLE OF ANNUNCIATION – THE ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE ANGEL

Luke 1:11-16, 19 Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing on the right side of the altar of incense. <sup>12</sup> And when Zacharias saw *him*, he was troubled, and fear fell upon him.

<sup>13</sup> But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John. <sup>14</sup> And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. <sup>15</sup> For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." . . . And the angel answered and said to him, "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God, and was sent to speak to you and bring you these glad tidings."

Luke 1:26-33 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!"

<sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Mt. 1:18-22 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. <sup>19</sup> Then Joseph her husband, being a just *man*, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. <sup>20</sup> But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." <sup>22</sup> So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet.

In the birth narratives of both John and Jesus, angels play an important part. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias while he was ministering in the Temple. Gabriel appeared some months later to Mary—in Joseph's case, the supernatural angelic revelation occurred four times:

Mt. 1:20, "Marry Mary"

Mt. 2:13 "Escape to Egypt"

Mt. 2:19 "Proceed to Palestine"

Mt. 2:22 "Go to Galilee"



#### 4. THE MIRACLE OF CONCEPTION – THE VIRGIN CONCEPTION AND BIRTH

Luke 1:23-33 So it was, as soon as the days of his service were completed, that he departed to his own house. <sup>24</sup> Now after those days his wife Elizabeth conceived; and she hid herself five months, saying, <sup>25</sup> “Thus the Lord has dealt with me, in the days when He looked on *me*, to take away my reproach among people.” Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name *was* Mary. <sup>28</sup> And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!” <sup>29</sup> But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. <sup>30</sup> Then the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. <sup>33</sup> And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

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--the Angel Gabriel was sent specifically and separately to Mary and to Joseph.

--the angelic revelation involved the purpose of Christ’s first coming, “he shall save his people from their sins,” Mt. 1:21 and the Second Advent “the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. . . of His kingdom there will be no end,” (Luke 1:32-33).

--Joseph and Mary, both righteous individuals, evidenced total unquestioning obedience to the divine instructions.

--the miracle of the virgin conception was followed by a totally normal birth.

--the Savior, in fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy (Mt. 1:21-22; Isa. 7:14) would be born of a human woman without a participating human father. The Holy Spirit wrought a two-fold miracle in the body of Mary. He caused her to be fertilized without a human participant and He kept Mary’s sin nature from being transmitted to that miracle fetus.



## 5. THE MIRACLE OF THE INCARNATION – THE ETERNAL GOD BECOMING MAN

Luke 1:31, 35 And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. 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.*”

1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

Phil. 2:5-8 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and coming in the likeness of men.* <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of death*, even the death of the cross.

Paul states the mysterious nature of Christ’s incarnation (“great is the mystery of godliness,” 1 Tim. 3:16), how, in the so-called hypostatic union, “perfect humanity and undiminished deity united in one person forever” (Charles C. Ryrie).

As the divine Son of God, Christ had no beginning; as the human Savior, He arrived in the cave of the nativity in Bethlehem and He will be man forever. As man, He took on a human nature and human body.

*For unto you is born this day  
in the city of David a Saviour,  
which is Christ the Lord.*

*(Luke 2:11)*





## 6. THE MIRACLE OF THE PROCLAMATION – THE ANGELIC EVANGEL TO THE SHEPHERDS

Luke 2:8-14 Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. <sup>10</sup> Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. <sup>11</sup> For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this *will be* the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

--The lowliest of all humans received the most exalted of all messages.

--The angel descended to a group of faithful shepherds in the field rather than to the princes or priests in Jerusalem.

--The Shekinah Glory ("the glory of the Lord," Luke 2: 9) demonstrated the presence of deity.

--The angelic choir, perhaps numbering 400 million, glorified the newborn infant.



## 7. THE MIRACLE OF VISITATION – THE ARRIVAL OF THE MAGI

Mt. 2:1-12 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, <sup>2</sup> 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."

<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard *this*, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. <sup>4</sup> And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> So they said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> 'But you, Bethlehem, *in* the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.' "

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod, when he had secretly called the wise men, determined from them what time the star appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the young Child, and when you have found *Him*, bring back word to me, that I may come and worship Him also."

<sup>9</sup> When they heard the king, they departed; and behold, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceedingly great joy. <sup>11</sup> And when they had come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down and worshiped Him. And when they had opened their treasures, they presented gifts to Him: gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

<sup>12</sup> Then, being divinely warned in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed for their own country another way.

--The Magi probably living in Persia, some 600 miles to the east of Jerusalem, received some supernatural knowledge of the birth of the Messiah-King.

--A bright light, most likely the Shekinah Glory, preceded them first to the north, then south and, after disappearing for a while, appeared for the last five miles, from Jerusalem to Bethlehem.

--They received the supernatural warning to avoid Jerusalem on their homeward journey (Mt. 2:12).

--The Magi did what the chief priests and scribes failed to do: they sought the newborn king, they found Him, they gave Him gifts, and worshiped Him.

--Let us all worship the Savior, especially this Christmas season!

