

The Savior Foretold (Part one)

Predictions. Predictions. They are so common this time of year. At the start of the season, the Packers had 12-1 odds to win the Super Bowl. Now? 40-1. And that seems way too low. The Vikings? Started at 25-1 and now? 6-1. Third best odds! Who would have thought? Not even the people who make a living doing this. I'm not advocating for betting. This just shows how fickle and futile predictions are. Does anyone really know? Can anyone really be sure?

We are going to hear God make some predictions. Some outlandish! A virgin will be with child! And will give birth to a son? Uh, God, maybe you don't know how these things work. Let me explain it to you. But is anything too hard for the Lord? Is anything impossible for God? Christmas, the very fact of God coming to earth is no less outlandish. God becoming a real human is just as far out there. Here's the wildest part. God didn't just make a prediction. God made it happen. God sent his Son. God became a real human. God's own Son was born. Of a virgin!

After making that prediction, and making it come true, maybe the other details we are going to hear seem kind of tame. Born in Bethlehem. Born Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God. The government will be on his shoulders. But maybe these were just lucky guesses by people who claimed to be prophets. Maybe they were just vague horoscope ideas that could come true any number of ways. Listen as these predictions are made. Not just Bethlehem, but the one and only Bethlehem in Ephratha. That's pretty specific.

Just a lucky guess? Consider this. Scholars at MIT, like the smartest university in the country, calculated the odds that one person could just randomly fulfill the prophecies God made about Jesus. They only chose eight prophecies to do their calculations, because after eight the numbers just got crazy. Do you know how they described the odds with just eight prophecies? Imagine the entire state of Texas, covered with silver dollars, two feet deep. Texas. Silver dollars. Two feet deep. One of those coins has a special, invisible mark on it. Your job is to find that one, on the first try. You can walk as far as you want. Fly over and land anywhere. But you only get one try. What are the odds? The same as one person randomly fulfilling just eight of God's prophecies. This is no lucky guess. Jesus is our Savior. Just as God predicted.