

The Case for Christmas—Part 2

DOES ARCHAEOLOGY CONFIRM OR CONTRADICT JESUS' BIOGRAPHIES?

- The Tetrarch of Abelene (cf. Luke 3)
- The Politarchs (cf. Luke 17)
- The Pool of Bethesda (cf. John 5)
- **"Erastus, the city treasurer greets you"** (Rom. 16:23)
- The Bible has 95% more archeological manuscript evidence than any other ancient book:
 - _____ Greek Manuscripts
 - _____ Latin Manuscripts
 - _____ Syriac & Coptic Manuscripts

I. The Messiah Will Be Born the King of the Jews:

- a. God started the Jewish Nation by calling Abraham and promising to make his descendants a great nation, that would in turn bless all the nations through the Messiah (cf. Gen. 4:25-26; 9:26-27; 12:1-3; 17:19; 21:12; 22:18; Num. 24:17; Sam. 16:1, 12-13; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Isa. 11:1, 10; Matt. 1:1-2, 6-7; Luke 1:32-33; 3:23-38; Rom. 9:5; Heb. 7:14)
- b. That promise was passed down to Isaac, Jacob, and then Judah (cf. Gen. 49:10)
- c. And then it was passed down over the centuries to King David, one of the most well-known Messianic prophecies in Jesus' day (cf. Jer. 23:5; 33:14-17)
- d. Jesus' incarnation and birth fulfilled this Messianic Prophecy (cf. Matt. 1:1; 21:9; Luke 1:32-33)

II. The Messiah Will Be Born with A Celestial Announcement:

- a. While trying to prophesy against the Nation of Israel for king Balak, Balaam made a Messianic Prophecy (cf. Num. 24:15-17):
 - i. Its near fulfillment was King David
 - ii. Its FAR fulfillment was Jesus the Messiah
 - iii. And its mention of a **star** was fulfilled at Jesus birth

- b. The Prophet Daniel was made "**chief prefect over all the wise men** [Magi] **of Babylon**" (cf. Dan. 2:48)
- c. Jesus' incarnation and birth fulfilled this Messianic Prophecy when the **star** [the Shekinah Glory of God] appeared for the Magi to follow and "**stood over the place where the Child was.**" (cf. Matt. 2:1-12)

III. The Messiah Will Be Born the Son of God:

- a. This Prophecy was apparently not well understood or recognized by the average Jew in Jesus' day.
 - i. But it seems like the Jewish Religious Leaders knew it well (cf. Matt. 21:37-38ff; 26:63; 27:40-43)
- b. In Psalm 2 God calls the Messiah "**My Son... Your Inheritance...the very ends of the earth**" (cf. Ps. 2:7-8)
 - i. **begotten = monogenēs** (μονογενής) = "unique, only, one and only, i.e., one of a kind" (cf. John 3:16; Heb. 11:17)
 - ii. Jesus was NOT made, He is the eternal second person of the Godhead.
- c. Also, in Psalm 2 God tells the rebellious world to "**Do homage to the Son**" (cf. Ps. 2:11-12; Prov. 30:4; Isa. 7:14; 9:6-7, Dan. 3:25; Hosea 11:1)
- d. Jesus' incarnation and birth fulfilled this Messianic Prophecy!
 - i. We see this when the Angel Gabriel came to Mary: "³² **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High...**" (Luke 1:31-32)
 - ii. We see this when God testifies at Jesus' baptism: "**This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.**" (Matt. 3:16-17)
 - iii. Satan believed it (cf. Matt. 4:3-6)
 - iv. Demons believed it (cf. Matt. 8:29)
 - v. The Jewish Religious Leaders at least believed the Messiah/Christ would be the Son of God (cf. Matt. 26:63; 27:40-43)
 - vi. The Roman Centurion believed it (cf. Matt. 27:54)