



The Case for Christmas

“Was that really God in that manger?”



“What happens when you’ve been following a star, and it leads you to a stable? What happens when all of a sudden, after thinking that something grand and glorious would be at the other end, you end up in a backyard of a barn? And there, instead of a palace and a king on a throne, you find a little baby held by his mother. It’s nothing like what you had anticipated. How do you react when you follow the star and find a stable?” John Maxwell

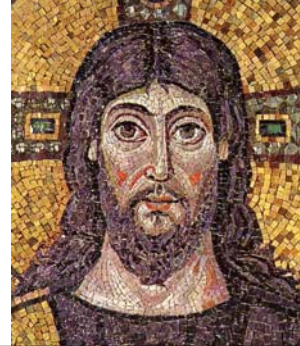
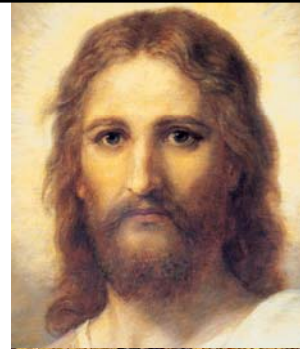
- Exhibit 1 – Eyewitness testimony
- Exhibit 2 – the time interval
- Exhibit 3 – Archaeological discoveries
- Exhibit 4 – Sources outside the Bible

Lk 2:15-17 So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷ Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child.

Jn 1:1-3,14 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. ... And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.



If God were to
come to the
earth as a man,
what would he
be like?



He would be different:

- Jn 7:46 The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this Man!”

He would claim equality with God:

- Jn 10:30 “I and My Father are one.”
- 17:22 “that they may be one just as We are one:”



He would be sinless:

- Jn 8:46 “Which of you convicts Me of sin?”
- Jn 14:30 “for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me.”
- Jn 18:38 Pilate said ... “I find no fault in Him at all.
- Mt 27:4 [Judas] saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”
- Heb 4:15 but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.
- 1 Pet 1:18-19 the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.



He would claim to forgive sin:

- Ps 51 “against You and You only have I sinned”
- Mt 9:2,5-6 He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you. ... For which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’? ⁶But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”

He would be omniscient:

- Jn 16:30 “Now we are sure that You know all things, and have no need that anyone should question You. By this we believe that You came forth from God.”

He would be omnipresent:

- Mt 18:20 “For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.”
- 28:20 “I am with you always”

He would be omnipotent:

- Mt 28:18 “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

He would be a miracle worker:

- Jn 3:2 “Rabbi, we know that You are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that You do unless God is with him.”
- Acts 2:22 “Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst,”

He would be unworldly wise:

- Lk 2:46-47 Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

He would be a change agent:

- Acts 17:6 “These who have turned the world upside down have come here too.”

He would rankle the establishment:

- Jn 11:53 Then, from that day on, they plotted to put Him to death.
- 18:14 Now it was Caiaphas who advised the Jews that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.
- Mk 11:18 And the scribes and chief priests heard it and sought how they might destroy Him;

He would fulfill the O.T. prophecies

How many in history have met the qualifications of the Jewish Messiah?

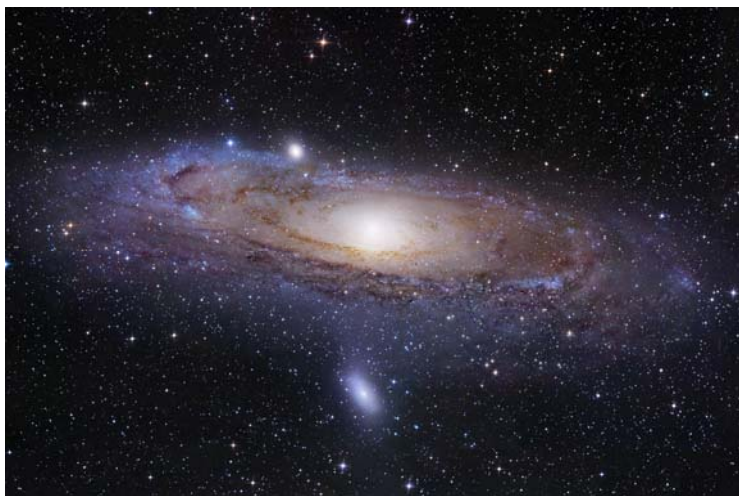
The odds that anyone in history could, by chance, fulfill 8 of the Messianic prophecies =

One chance in one hundred, million, billion

The odds that anyone in history could, by chance, fulfill 48 of those prophecies =

One chance in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion

That's roughly the number of atoms in a trillion, trillion, trillion, trillion, billion universes the size of ours



- Born of a virgin: Is 7:14, Mt 1:18
- Of the seed of Abraham: Gen 12:3, Mt 1:1-16
- From the tribe of Judah: Gen 49:10, Mt 1:1-3
- Heir to the throne of David: Is 9:6-7, Jer 23:5, Mt 1:1
- Born of the seed of a woman: Gen 3:15, Mt 1:18
- Born in Bethlehem: Mic 5:2, Mt 2:5
- Called “Mighty God/Everlasting Father”: Is 9:6, Mt 1:23
- Called Immanuel, “God with us”: Is 7:14, Matt 1:23

- Presented with gifts: Ps 72:10, Matt 2:1, 11
- Slaughter of the children: Jer 31:15, Matt 2:18
- Called out of Egypt: Hos 11:1, Matt 2:15
- Preceded by a messenger to prepare His way: Is 40:3, Mal 3:1, Matt 11:7-11
- Rejected by His own: Is 53:1-3, Matt 21:42, Mk 8:31, 12:10, Lk 9:22, 17:25
- Preached to the poor/brokenhearted/captives: Is 61:1 Matt 11:5
- Came to bring a sword not peace: Mic 7:6, Mt 10:34-35

- Entered Jerusalem as a king riding on an ass: Zech 9:9, Mt 21:5
- Betrayed by a friend: Ps 41:9, Jn 13:21
- Sold for 30 pieces of silver: Zech 11:12, Mt 26:15, Lk 22:5
- Spat upon, smitten and scourged: Is 50:6, 53:5, Mic 5:1, Mt 27:30,26, 30
- Wounded for our sins: Is 53:5 Jn 6:51
- Not killed for Himself: Dan 9:26 Mt 20:28
- Crucified with criminals: Is 53:12 Mt 27:35

- Given vinegar and gall for thirst: Ps 69:21 Mt 27:34
- Soldiers gambled for his garment: Ps 22:18 Mt 27:35
- Cried, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?": Ps 22:1 Mt 27:46
- Darkness over the land: Amos 8:9 Mt 27:45
- No bones broken: Ps 34:20, Num 9:12 Jn 19:33-36

- Body was pierced: Zech12:10; Ps. 22:16 Jn 20:25, 27
- Buried with the rich: Is 53:9 Mt 27:57, 60
- Resurrected from the dead: Ps 16:10-11; 49:15 Mk 16:6
- Ascended to right hand of God: Ps 68:18 Lk 24:51

The Evidence:

- Eyewitness testimony
- The Reliability of Scripture
- Archaeological discoveries
- Secular sources
- Was everything one would expect
- Fulfillment of O.T. prophecy
- The Empty Tomb
- The Witness of the Church

The Verdict: True!



That really was God in that manger