

Nothing Is Impossible

Messianic prophecies are scattered throughout the Old Testament. They, in many cases, introduce very explicit details about the birth, life, death, resurrection and return of Christ to earth. These bits and pieces of prophecies were written over a period of 1500 years by Holy Spirit inspired authors who did collaborate, nor did they even know each other, and were probably not fully aware of the magnitude of significance of their writing, especially regarding the coming of Messiah.

The fewest in number and detail of these Messianic prophecies are those which relate specifically to the birth of Messiah. Most, if not all, are contained in Isaiah and Micah. So much detail is given regarding the life, crucifixion, resurrection and return of Christ in the Old Testament prophecies as well as all four of the gospels and the rest of the New Testament, but so little regarding the birth of Christ is prophesied anywhere in the Old Testament and two of the gospels don't even mention a word about it. And, the best I can recall, nothing about the virgin birth, Mary, Joseph, the manger, angels, shepherds and wise men is mentioned in Acts or the rest of the New Testament. Why?

One of the primary benefits of biblical prophecies, once they are determined to have been written prior to the event prophesied, is that the events prophesied are verifiable thus giving validity to the miraculous revelation of God. Did it happen exactly the way it was predicted? **Note:** All the Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah have been determined, beyond reasonable doubt, to have been written prior to the birth of Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

So why, relatively speaking, are there so few Messianic prophecies relating to the birth of Christ, particularly the virgin birth, which is no small thing? ... Other events in the life, death and resurrection of Christ are much more verifiable, because they were much more public and observable by witnesses, which gives those prophecies a greater potential field of impact.

Let's consider one of the few messianic prophecies relating specifically to the birth of Christ.....

13 Isaiah said, "Listen, house of David! Is it not enough for you to try the patience of men? Will you also try the patience of my God? **14** Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive,^[4] have a son, and name him Immanuel. **Isaiah 7:13-14 (HCSB)**

This is one of the most amazing, miraculous and wonderful elements of the whole Christmas story. We easily understand that God chose Mary because of her physical and spiritual purity. She wasn't sinless. She wasn't perfect or Romans 3:23 is untrue. But, according to the scripture, she was living a life of moral purity. She was keeping herself sexually pure for the husband she would one day marry.

26 In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, **27** to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And [the angel] came to her and said, "Rejoice, favored woman! The Lord is with you." **Luke 1:26-28 (HCSB)**

We are not given much detail of people's reactions, only Joseph and Elizabeth. Joseph wanted to dump Mary until God straightened him out in a dream. Elizabeth seems to have had a strong sense of what was going on. Upon the angel Gabriel's departure from Mary, she went to see her relative Elizabeth who was the wife of the priest Zechariah, the mother and father of John the Baptist.

39 In those days Mary set out and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judah **40** where she entered Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. **41** When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped inside her, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. **42** Then she exclaimed with a loud cry: You are the most blessed of women, and your child will be blessed! **Luke 1:39-42 (HCSB)**

I can imagine, as Mary's pregnancy began to be impossible to conceal, how the people of Nazareth began to treat her. I'm sure the town gossips immediately assumed that Mary and Joseph had given into sexual temptation and were using this obscure prophesy of Isaiah about a virgin conceiving to cover up their indiscretion. The more compassionate people of Nazareth were probably feeling sorry for her because of her delusional dreams of immaculate conception. I wonder even about Mary's own parents. Certainly they loved and trusted her. They knew her better than anyone else. They knew of her faith, obedience and convictions, but this story was just too much, too farfetched, just impossible.

Imagine your own daughter.....

All of this came about in Mary's day with no real tangible way to prove that she was actually still a virgin. I doubt very few on earth believed her story at the time. So how can we be sure Mary accurately fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy that a virgin would conceive?

*Reliability of scripture- so much has been proven

*Fulfillment of other prophecies that were observable

*Examine the life of Jesus

On the day Mary conceived the child Jesus by the Holy Spirit, the absolutely crazy impossible became the wonderful, amazingly possible. But this is nothing new for God. Making the impossible possible has been the heavenly pattern all along. If you believe that God spoke the universe into existence, that bread fell from the sky to feed the Israelites in the desert, that the Israelites crossed the Red Sea on dry land, that Jesus walked on water and rose from the dead, you should not have any trouble believing that this young virgin conceived the baby Jesus. You see, nothing is impossible with God....Let's consider this theme....

Nothing is impossible

Gabriel to Mary concerning conception of John and Jesus

36 And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called barren. **37** For nothing will be impossible with God." **L**uke 1:36-37 (HCSB)

Two notable miracles occurred with six months of each other; the conception of John the Baptist conceived Zacharias and Elizabeth in their old age and the conception of Jesus by the Holy Spirit through the young virgin named Mary. Nothing is impossible with God.

Faith to cast out demons and move mountains

14 When they reached the crowd, a man approached and knelt down before Him. **15** "Lord," he said, "have mercy on my son, because he has seizures and suffers severely. He often falls into the fire and often into the water. **16** I brought him to Your disciples, but they couldn't heal him."
17 Jesus replied, "You unbelieving and rebellious generation! How long will I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring him here to Me." **18** Then Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and from that moment the boy was healed. **19** Then the disciples approached Jesus privately and said, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" **20** "Because of your little faith," He told them. "For I assure you: If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. [**21** However, this kind does not come out except by prayer and fasting.]" **Matt 17:14-21 (HCSB)**

In a simple matter of faith with prayer and fasting, demons could be cast out and mountains moved. Nothing is impossible with God!

Anyone can be saved (even the rich)

²³ Then Jesus said to His disciples, " I assure you: It will be hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven! ²⁴ Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁵ When the disciples heard this, they were utterly astonished and asked, "Then who can be saved?" ²⁶ But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."
Matt 19:23-26 (HCSB)

A Camel can pass through the eye of a needle and a rich person can be saved. Nothing is impossible with God!

Through the young woman Mary, the impossible became possible. The young virgin, as prophesied by Isaiah, miraculously conceived and gave birth to Immanuel- God with us. Though we have no way to verify the specific event of the miraculous conception, it is verified through the authority of the inerrant word of God, the fulfillment of many other verifiable prophecies and the record of the life of Christ Himself who proved without exception to be Messiah of prophecy.

What impossible thing do you need Jesus to do for you?

Experience the Impossible:

Accept Him

You may think, "You don't know what I've done. You don't know who I am. You don't know the hurt I've caused." You're right I don't know but God does, and He loves you and wants to save you in spite of all that.

Remember the discussion about the impossibilities of a camel passing through the eye of a needle and a rich man entering heaven? That discussion was about the miraculous powerful love of God that can make the impossible, a miserable sinner, do the possible, be wonderfully, gloriously saved. Nothing is impossible with God!

Follow Him

Did Mary fully grasp all the nuances of the heavenly visitor's message? Did she completely understand that the Son being born in her would be the Son of God, that He alone would save people from their sins, including hers? Did Mary realize that this boy she would raise would be crucified? Of course not. In fact, the scripture says...

But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. **L**uke 1:29 (HCSB)

But, in spite of all her insecurities and doubts, in spite of all she did not fully understand, she profoundly and confidently said....

38 "I am the Lord's slave," said Mary. "May it be done to me according to your word." Then the angel left her. **L**uke 1:38 (HCSB)

And she not only faithfully and dutifully fulfilled her role as the mother of the Savior of the world, she remained His truly devoted follower all the way to the cross. It was from the cross that one of the last utterances of Christ was the transfer of care for His mother to the disciple John.

Mary is finally identified with those who were assembled in Jerusalem after the resurrection praying and awaiting Pentecost.

14 All these were continually united in prayer, along with the women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, and His brothers. **Acts 1:14 (HCSB)**

Would she have been so devoted had she had any doubt that His conception was not miraculous? **Nothing is impossible with God! Follow Him!**

Worship Him

One of Mary's first reactions to all that had come upon her was an unashamed, undistracted utterance of worship... (Elizabeth visit)

46 And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, **47** and my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior, **48** because He has looked with favor on the humble condition of His slave. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed, **49** because the Mighty One has done great things for me, and His name is holy. **Luke 1:46-49 (HCSB)**

If you want to see the impossible become possible in your life, worship the Lord. Worship is not about style, form, familiarity, or even music. It is your soul proclaiming the greatness of the Lord.