

U P K L E U N A M M E Z I
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 X C B N N I A O Z O M Q U
 C Q G U A X B A S M L T R
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 A F S U T J E K A K A H S
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 F Y E P M N I G R I V T K
 F B A N G E L T D W A M R
 M S D R E H P E H S Z J D
 Z Y S H Q A V Q O U W L W

Words to Find:
 Angel
 Augustus

Bethlehem
 Emmanuel
 Inn
 Jesus

Joseph
 Manger
 Mary
 Nazareth

Shepherds
 Tax
 Virgin

Jesus' Birth

C. H. Spurgeon

We esteem every day alike, but still, as the season suggests thoughts of Jesus, let us joyfully remember our dear Redeemer's glorious birth. Who but He was ever longed for by such a multitude of hearts? When else did angels indulge in midnight songs, or did God hang a new star in the

sky? To whose cradle did rich and poor make so willing a pilgrimage, and offer such hearty and unsought oblations? Well may earth rejoice; well may all men cease their labor to celebrate "the great birthday" of Jesus. Let gladness rule the hour; let holy song and sweet heart music accompany our soul in the raptures of joy.

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Prophecies about Christ's Birth

Bill Brinkworth

Long before Christ's birth, the Bible described His coming. Here are some of the many prophecies and the approximate dates they were foretold:

1872 B. C. was when it was told He would be of Abraham's lineage. Genesis 22:18

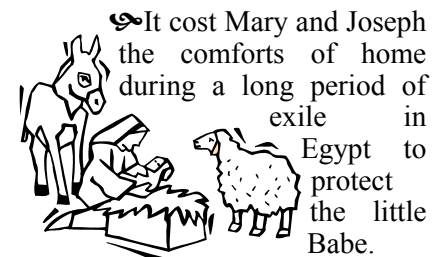
742 B. C. was when Isaiah said the Child would be born of a virgin. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

740 B. C. was when Isaiah foretold that the child would be God in the flesh, amongst His other abilities. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6 Some of this verse was fulfilled at Jesus' birth.

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Costly Christmas

Author Unknown



It cost Mary and Joseph the comforts of home during a long period of exile in Egypt to protect the little Babe.

It cost mothers, in and around Bethlehem, the massacre of their babies by the cruel order of Herod (Matthew 2:16).

It cost the shepherds the complacency of their shepherds' life, as they had to drop their watching of sheep to see the Christ child.

It cost the early apostles and the early church persecution and sometimes death.

It cost missionaries for Christ untold suffering to spread the Good News that the promised Messiah had come.

More than all this, it cost God the Father His only Son. He sent Him to Earth to save men from hell.

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Costly Christmas

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☞ It cost Jesus a life of sacrifice and service. He died a very cruel death.

Is Christmas Too Costly?

☞ It is, if all that it means is gift exchanges.

☞ It is, if all that it means is tinsel.

☞ It is, if all that it means is millions spent on the commercialized Christmas.

☞ It is, if all that it means is a holiday.

It Wasn't Too Costly

☞ If it means the hope of the world.

☞ If it means the forgiveness of sin

☞ If it means peace among men.

Prophecies about Christ's Birth

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☞ 740 B. C. was when Hosea said the Child would live in Egypt, and would be called out of it, Hosea 11:1. This prophecy was fulfilled in Matthew 2:13-14.

☞ 713 B. C. was when it was told (Isaiah 11:1) that the child



would be of Jesse's family line.

☞ 590 B. C. was when it was told that He would be a descendant of King David. *Jeremiah 23:5-6*

☞ 510 B. C. was when it was prophesied that the Saviour would be born in Bethlehem, and of the tribe of Judah. *"But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."* *Micah 5:2* The prophecy was fulfilled in Luke 2:4-7.

☞ Psalms 2:7 states He would be the Son of God. Luke 3:22 tells of the fulfillment of that prophecy.

The birth of Jesus was not an ordinary birth of just any person. It was a well-planned, special event by God. The birth of Christ ushered in God's promise that a Saviour would come, and through Him, any could have

"Christmas began in the heart of God. It is complete only when it reaches the heart of man." — *Religious Telescope*

God's promise of eternal life.

The Borrower

Kenneth McKenzie

He borrowed a stable in which to be born;

And later confessed that he had no bed.

He borrowed a basket that bright spring morn;

Sent the people away, their hunger fed.

He borrowed a boat from which to preach

His Father's love to sinful men;

*They stood that day on Galilee's beach,
Longing to hear his message again.*

He borrowed a donkey, on which to ride

With royal blessings from on high;

*To hear the proud city his name deride,
Scornfully bidding him pass by.*

He borrowed a room in which to meet

His friends, the sacred feast to keep of old;

But the towel to dry his disciples' feet

Was not his; nor the holy table His to hold.

He borrowed a cross on which to die,

A ransom from sin, a life laid down.

He borrowed a tomb in which to lie

Yet the great universe was his own.

His and Our Birth

Oswald Chambers

"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." Luke 1:35

Jesus Christ was born into this world, not from it. He did not evolve out of history. He came into history from the outside. Jesus Christ is not the best human being. He is a being who cannot be accounted for by the human race at all. He is not man becoming God, but God Incarnate, God coming into human flesh, coming into it from outside. His life is the Highest and the holiest entering in at the lowliest door.

"My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you," Galatians 4:19

Just as our Lord came into human history from outside, so He must come into me from the outside. Have I allowed my personal human life to become a "Bethlehem" for the Son of God? I cannot enter into the realm of the Kingdom of God unless I am born from above by a totally "unnatural" birth.

"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again." John 3:7

"Xmas is the season without the reason!"