

Everyday FAITH Family Page

New Testament 1

Law/Gospel

God's Law demands perfection, but I am not perfect. **As God and man, Jesus lived a perfect life to satisfy the Law in my place.**

Bible Words

For my eyes have seen Your salvation that You have prepared in the presence of all peoples.
Luke 2:30–31

Fun Facts

Why did Joseph and Mary take Jesus to the temple as an infant? There were two reasons.

- A woman made a sacrifice for purification after childbirth (Leviticus 12; Luke 2:22, 24). If a she could not afford a lamb, she could offer two turtledoves or pigeons, which is what Mary did.
- After the exodus when the Lord spared the lives of the firstborn of Israel, God said all firstborn children and clean animals belonged to Him. People could redeem them at a month old by paying the redemption price of five shekels in silver (Numbers 18:15–16; Luke 2:23).

The Presentation of Jesus

Luke 2:22–40

Led by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna, devout followers of the Lord, recognized the forty-day-old Jesus as the Lord's Christ the day He was presented to the Lord in the temple.

The Holy Spirit works through God's Word to reveal the truth to us about Jesus too. The Old Testament points to Jesus as the Messiah, the one God chose to save God's people.

Christós is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word *mashiach*, which means "the anointed." In English, we translate these words as *Christ* and *Messiah*. Prophets in the Old Testament anointed kings and prophets with oil to show they were chosen by God. God promised to send the Anointed One to save His people.

Jesus fulfilled God's Law, even becoming the Lamb of God sacrificed to pay for the sins of the world. Jesus also fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Consider these prophecies fulfilled with Jesus' birth:

Born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14; Luke 1:30–35; Matthew 1:23

From David's family: 2 Samuel 7:12–13; Matthew 1:6, 16; Luke 3:31

From Abraham's family: Genesis 17:7; Matthew 1:2; Luke 3:34

Born in Bethlehem: Micah 5:2; Luke 2:4–6

These fulfilled prophecies and many others show Jesus is the Messiah, our Savior, who suffered and died to pay for our sins and rose from the dead to give us new life with Him, now and forever.

The Probability of Fulfilled Prophecies

A science professor named Peter W. Stoner calculated the mathematical probability of one man fulfilling eight prophecies as one in a hundred million billion, or one with seventeen zeros behind it (source: Peter W. Stoner, *Science Speaks*, Moody Press, p. 107).

Check out the chart on page 1245 in *The Lutheran Study Bible* to see thirty-nine specific Old Testament messianic prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. The page also lists fifteen more about the kingly or suffering Messiah. Imagine *that* mathematical probability!

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