Micah 5:2 – "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting." These words were written about 500 years before the birth of Jesus. Beginning with the first promise of the Savior in Genesis 3 there were more than 190 such prophecies that were literally fulfilled at Christ's first coming. Peter Stoner, in the book Science Speaks, examines the mathematical probabilities of only eight of these predictions coming true: The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. He would be preceded by a messenger. He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. He would be betrayed by a friend and his hands and feet pierced. His betrayer would be given thirty pieces of silver. The betrayal money would be thrown in the house of God and used to buy a potter's field. He would be pierced and he would die accounted among criminals. He found that the chance that these eight prophecies could be fulfilled in one man is 1 to the 17th power). That would be in 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (17 zeroes after the 1). Stoner illustrated the staggering possibility by supposing we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the coins thoroughly all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the marked silver dollar, and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of picking the right coin? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had in making these eight predictions and having them fulfilled in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them according to their own wisdom. Think of that the next time you sing O Little Town of Bethlehem. Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night. HA