

Creation Revelation



God is in the details

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R1

Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one
of thy righteous judgments endureth forever.

Psalm 119:160

The Prophecies of the Messiah

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. 1 Timothy 3:16 KJV

We deny God as God.... If this God of the Christians were *proved* to us to exist, we should know even less how to believe in him. Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Anti-Christ*, 1895.

Testimony

As an agnostic (a want-to-be atheist), in 1975, I had been searching for proof that God did not exist, and that Jesus Christ was just another pretender. I desired to continue with my life without fear that some unseen God would ultimately hold me accountable for my life decisions. About a year earlier I had purchased a small Bible and began to read the book of Matthew, with no effect on my understanding.

At that time, we were living in Singapore, but were in the process of transferring to Pusan, Korea. Shortly after settling into our new home in Korea, we went on vacation to San Jose, California, where my dad and Mary's sister's family lived. While there, I purchased Hal Lindsey's bestseller, *The Late Great Planet Earth*, that I read sitting around the pool at the Kui Lima Hotel (now Turtle Bay) in Hawaii, on a stopover on our return to Korea. The significance was that, while the book is now somewhat dated, I realized that it was possible to read the old prophecies of the coming tribulation with understanding of their implications in today's world. Events in the Middle East began to make sense; how such a small insignificant nation (Israel) could be a "stumbling block" to the entire world.

When we finally arrived back in Korea, it was time for our young children to go to school. Even though we were not a military family, we were allowed to send our children to the school on the military base. I was even allowed to use the base library. During a visit to the library late in 1975, one book caught my attention, *The Life of Christ*, by Catholic Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.

It was in the introductory first chapter of that book that I made my commitment to Jesus Christ, to serve Him all the

days of my life. What was it that had made such an impression? It was the fact that Jesus Christ was the only person in history that had been pre-announced. None of the other founders of the world's great religions were ever pre-announced. "Reason dictates that if any one of these men actually came from God, the least thing that God could do to support His claim would be to pre-announce His coming.... Reason further assures us that if God did not do this, then there would be nothing to prevent any impostor from appearing in history and saying, 'I come from God.'"

Bishop Sheen went on to relate the various secular sources that reported people and cultures that were expecting someone of significance that would be born. The Greeks were looking for the great Logos who would be born in the East, "a savior and redeemer to unloose man from the 'primal eldest curse,'" while those in the East expected a great Saint to be born in the West. The Roman, Tacitus, said, "People were generally persuaded in the faith of the ancient prophecies, that the East was to prevail, and that from Judea was to come the Master and Ruler of the world." Suetonius agreed in his account of the life of Vespasian, "It was an old and constant belief throughout the East, that by indubitably certain prophecies, the Jews were to attain the highest power." Cicero, speaking of the ancient oracles, recounts a "King whom we must recognize to be saved." Even ancient Virgil, regarding ancient tradition, spoke of "a chaste woman, smiling on her infant boy, with whom the Iron Age would pass away." In the East, Confucius spoke of "the Saint, and from China comes this statement:

In the 24th year of Tchao-Wang of the dynasty of the Tcheou, on the 8th day of the 4th moon, a light ap-

peared in the Southwest which illuminated the king's palace. The monarch, struck by its splendor, interrogated the sages. They showed him books in which this prodigy signified the appearance of the great Saint of the West whose religion was to be introduced into their country.²

When the expected One finally appeared He split history in two, "dividing it into two periods." Buddha did not do that; and none of the other founders of great religions did that either. His purpose in coming was to die; no one else can say that. Death was a stumbling block to all other religion's founders. His death and resurrection were His validating moments. His testimony was that He was God in the flesh. You cannot get around the fact that if Jesus was not who He claimed to be, then, He was not a good man. The other possibilities to consider were that He was either a liar or a lunatic, but the evidence of His life does not support those labels.³

The testimony of pre-announcement made sense to me, especially intriguing was the evidence of secular sources attesting to an expectation of the One to be born.

Pre-announced

Approximately 2000 years ago God stepped out of eternity and dwelt among us. The Shepherds responded to a heavenly announcement by seeking the newborn King in a lowly manger. By signs, coupled with certain Messianic passages in the Old Testament, the Magi found their way to a small insignificant town in Judea to acknowledge the manifestation of God on earth. God's incarnation was pre-announced, something that no other religion in the world can say of their founder. **God's Holy Scriptures are full of the evidence that this event was pre-announced, and that the life of Jesus of Nazareth fulfills more than 300 prophecies** regarding His claim to be the Jewish Messiah.⁴

Let's now take a journey through the Old Testament and sample a few of the prophesies that announce and identify the Messiah, and see their fulfillment in the New Testament.

The Seed of a Woman

It was the same day that I made my commitment to Jesus Christ, that I was surprised to learn that my wife, Mary, had been doing her own soul searching, and had come to the same saving knowledge of Jesus Christ by reading in the book of Genesis. Her journey was a bit more complicated, because, she was a Korean, who could not yet read English, although she could speak it. She, unknown to me, had set down with a Korean-English dictionary and an English Bible storybook, and found the truth of the Gospel (the reason for Christ's death) outlined for her in Genesis chapter 3. Hunger for the knowledge of God is responsible for her learning to read English. She is testimony to the fact that man is without excuse when it comes to his responsibility to seek and learn about God. In fact, her Bible of choice is the King James Version, which many people claim is difficult to understand because of the "old" English.

The very first prophecy of the Bible, found in Genesis 3:15, is a prophecy of the Messiah. It is a prophecy uttered by God in the Garden of Eden. As God is pronouncing His curse on His creation, He is also indicating that He had planned a

way out for mankind. The prophecy is the first simple presentation of the gospel, and is therefore known as the protoevangelium. God is saying that just as sin brought God's curse on the world by a woman deceived, it would be the "seed" of a woman that would restore the world. The verse encompasses both comings of Christ and points to the continual struggle between Satan's seed (the antichrist) and God's children, and the final defeat of Satan by the Messiah. Arthur W. Pink indicates that the reference to the woman's seed refers to the miraculous birth of Christ since woman does not have seed, but man does.⁵ So we see that God would send His Son to be miraculously born of a woman for the purpose of saving of mankind.

And I will put enmity between thee and **the woman**, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15 KJV

And **she brought forth her firstborn son**, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 KJV

But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman**, made under the law, Galatians 4:4 KJV

The promise of a Messiah, in Genesis 3:15, was clearly the belief of Jewish commentators as evidenced in the Jewish Targum Onkelos and Targum Pseudo Jonathan.⁶ The Old Testament messianic prophecies give specific details regarding the lineage of the expected Messiah.

The Lineage of the Messiah

In Genesis chapter 12 we find God calling Abram (Abraham) indicating that He would make him a great nation and that He would bless all the families of the earth by Abraham's seed.

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed**. Genesis 12:3 KJV

God promised Abraham a son by Sarah, even though she was of advanced age. Sarah gives Abraham a son (Isaac), but God asks Abraham to take him to a certain place and offer him as a sacrifice. In Genesis chapter 22, Abraham, out of obedience, takes Isaac to the appointed place on a hill near what would latter be Jerusalem to offer him as a sacrifice. As Abraham was about to slay his son, an angel of the Lord calls out from heaven to stop him, and God himself provides a substitute offering, a ram caught in a thicket. Then we read these words:

And said, **By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:** That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess

the gate of his enemies; **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed my voice. Genesis 22:16-18 KJV

God was so pleased by what Abraham had done, that He sent His only Son to redeem fallen mankind. In the very opening verse of the New Testament we read:

The book of the generation of **Jesus Christ**, the son of David, **the son of Abraham**. Matthew 1:1 KJV

Paul, writing to the Galatians explained it this way

:
Now **to Abraham and his seed** were the promises made. **He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ**. Galatians 3:16 KJV

The covenant would be established with Abraham's son, Isaac, as indicated in Genesis chapter 17.

And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name **Isaac**: and **I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him**. Genesis 17:19 KJV

A number of Old Testament prophecies, supported by Jewish material, such as Targums and Talmud, give the lineage of the Messiah from Abraham to David. New Testament genealogies give the lineage of Jesus through these same descendants of Abraham. Isaac was in the lineage of Jesus, as recorded by Luke.

Which was the son of Jacob, which was **the son of Isaac**, which was the son of Abraham, which was the son of Thara, which was the son of Nachor, Luke 3:34 KJV

One of Isaac's sons was Jacob. The book of Numbers prophesies that a Star shall come out of Jacob. Jewish sources give a Messianic meaning to this verse.⁷

I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not nigh: **there shall come a Star out of Jacob**, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab, and destroy all the children of Sheth. Numbers 24:17 KJV

In the New Testament we find that Jacob was in the lineage of Jesus, as recorded in the following genealogy by Matthew:

Abraham begat Isaac; and **Isaac begat Jacob**; and **Jacob begat Judas and his brethren**; Matthew 1:2 KJV

Notice that Matthew records only the name of Judas (Judah) among the offspring (the twelve tribes) of Jacob as being in the lineage of Jesus Christ. The Messiah was to be from the tribe of Judah. Jacob prophesied concerning his sons, and specifically concerning Judah he says:

The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be. Genesis 49:10 KJV

Jewish Targums, *Targum Jonathan* and *Targum Pseudo Jonathan*, clearly indicate that the expected Messiah was to be from the tribe of Judah.⁸ Matthew and Luke, in their genealogies, confirm the lineage of Jesus.

Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and **Jacob begat Judas** and his brethren; Matthew 1:2 KJV

Which was the son of Aminadab, which was the son of Aram, which was the son of Esrom, which was the son of Phares, which was **the son of Judah**, Luke 3:33 KJV

The writer of Hebrews remarks that Jesus was of the tribe of Judah:

For it is evident that **our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood**. Hebrews 7:14 KJV

The lineage would extend through David, as we shall soon see.

Heir to the Throne of David

Finally, Isaiah narrows down the list of candidates when he records that the Messiah would come from Jesse, David's father.

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. And in that day there shall be **a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of**

the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. Isaiah 11:1-10 KJV

Here we have a clear prophecy that encompasses the full sweep of Christ's first and second comings, as well as a prophecy of the saving grace of God being extended to the Gentiles as well as the Jews. The Jewish *Targum Isaiah* corroborates this to be a reference to the Messiah.⁹

The Messiah was to be the heir to the throne of David, thus eliminating the rest of Jesse's eight sons from the Messianic lineage. Isaiah calls the Messiah "The Mighty God" in Chapter 9 of his prophetic book. This chapter has as its theme, a prophecy of a child coming to David's throne, and references to Messiah's first and second coming. Verse 6 may have a reference to the birth of the Christ child, but the context of the following verse 7 certainly points to the time of His second coming.¹⁰ The words, "unto us", together with the reference that he is "the mighty God," (i.e. "under us... is given... God") is equivalent to "Immanuel" (God with us) of Isaiah 7:14.¹¹ Jesus fits the description of David's heir in the Old Testament prophecies.

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. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6, 7 KJV

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 KJV

The angel that spoke to Mary confirmed the ancient prophecy of inheritance of the throne of David when he said:

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and **the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.** Luke 1:32, 33 KJV

Matthew's genealogy of Jesus records this confirmation:

And **Jesse begat David the king;** and David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias; Matthew 1:6 KJV

Jeremiah also confirms that the Messiah will rule and will be from the lineage of David.

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.** Jeremiah 23:5 KJV

A "righteous Branch" is a term indicating a branch of a family tree. The Messiah would be from a righteous branch of the tree of David. Paul, speaking in the synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia, says that Jesus was from the line of David and the Messiah of Israel.

And when he had removed him, **he raised up unto them David to be their king;** to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found **David the son of Jesse**, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will. **Of this man's seed hath God accorded to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:** Acts 13:22-23 KJV

The Jewish Talmuds have many references that the Messiah was to be from the house of David.¹²

Anointed and Eternal

There is a substantial amount of evidence that within twenty years of the crucifixion the earliest church belief was that Jesus was God. "Church historian Jaroslav Pelikan has pointed out that the oldest Christian sermon, the oldest account of a Christian martyr, the oldest pagan report of the church, and the oldest liturgical prayer (1 Cor. 16:22) all refer to Jesus as Lord and God.... 'Clearly it was the message of what the church believed and taught that "God" was an appropriate name for Jesus Christ.'" If not true, and if Jesus had never made such claims, the only way that this belief could have developed so soon after the resurrection of Jesus, and during the lifetime of eyewitnesses, was that His disciples, according to historian Ben Witherington, "completely forgot what the historical Jesus was like and that they had nothing to do with the traditions that start showing up twenty years after His death.... Frankly, as a historian, this would not make any sense at all."¹³ Thomas recognized Jesus as God when he said the following words in response to Jesus' resurrection evidence:

And Thomas answered and said unto him, **My Lord and my God.** John 20:28 KJV

Psalms 45 is a Psalm of the coming of the Messiah to establish His kingdom on earth. It speaks of His government and His glory. In verse 6 we see the key, the coronation of Christ. It is significant that He is called God in this verse. The wording indicates that He is eternal. In verse 7 we see that God anoints God (Messiah) with the oil of gladness. The title, Christ, refers to God's anointed. If Messiah is not God in the flesh, then how is it that He is referred to as God in these verses?¹⁴

Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre. Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore **God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows. Psalms 45:6, 7 KJV

The psalmist in Psalm 102 paints a picture of the Lord Jesus in Gethsemane, where the last few verses clearly describe His works in Creation and the destiny of the heavens and earth.

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure: yea, all of them shall wax old like a garment; as a vesture shalt thou change them, and **they shall be changed: But thou art the same, and thy years shall have no end.** Psalms 102:25-27 KJV

The writer of Hebrews, with the light of the Gospel, gives a clear picture of these Psalms.

But **unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever:** a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore **God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows. And, **Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands:** They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and **they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.** Hebrews 1:8-12 KJV

Born in Bethlehem

The prophet Micah indicated that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. Micah's verse would be the one consulted when the Magi went looking for the newborn king.

But thou, **Bethlehem** Ephratah, 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 [pre-existence].** Micah 5:2 KJV

While the Shepherds were immediately directed towards Bethlehem by angels of God, the Magi were directed towards Judea by signs in the heavens. They followed a star and arrived about one year after Jesus' birth. It should be noted that the Jew, Daniel, was considered a Magi during the time of the Babylonian captivity (Daniel 1:3-21, 2:2, 10-13). Daniel would have been aware of the prophecies of the promised Messiah, and the future generations of Magi may have learned of those prophecies as handed down from Daniel. Some sign in the heavens caused these Magi to seek the Messiah at the time Jesus was being born. These same Magi inquired of the political and spiritual leaders at Jerusalem. The Scriptures were consulted and **the Magi were directed towards Bethlehem. This prophecy even points to Him as being "from of old, from everlasting," from eternity.** Within the prophecy, of Micah 5:2, is mentioned the words "from of old" and "from everlasting." The Jewish *Targum Isaiah* refers to the phraseology as God being "from of old" in Isaiah 44:6, as similar to the reference of the Messiah in Micah 5:2.¹⁵ The deity of Christ and His pre-existence is indicated. Various parts of Micah's prophecy are fulfilled by Matthew 2:1, 4-8; John 7:42; Colossians 1:17; John 1:1, 2, 8:58, 17:5, 24; and, Revelation 1:17, 2:8, 22:13, but Luke and John report that He was born in Bethlehem.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, **into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem;** (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, **while they were there,** the days were accomplished that **she should be delivered.** And she **brought forth her firstborn son,** and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:4-7 KJV

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? John 7:42 KJV

Presented With Gifts of Gold and Incense

Amazingly, we even find the gifts that He was to receive prophesied in advance. The Magi presented Him with gifts of gold frankincense, and myrrh.

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles **shall bring presents:** the kings of Sheba and Seba **shall offer gifts.** Psalm 72:10 KJV

The multitude of camels shall cover thee, the dromedaries of Midian and Ephah; all they from Sheba shall come: **they shall bring gold and incense;** and they shall shew forth the praises of the LORD. Isaiah 60:6 KJV

We see the exact fulfillment in the following verse.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and **when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.** Matthew 2:11 KJV

Born at the Right Time

Luke records the time of Jesus birth, in Luke chapter 2, as the time when Caesar Augustus was ruler of the Roman Empire, and Cyrenius was governor of Syria.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from **Caesar Augustus,** that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when **Cyrenius was governor of Syria.**) Luke 2:1-2 KJV

Luke reported the fact of the birth of Jesus, and later would record His death, but the most astonishing thing though, is how it correlates exactly with one of the most amazing prophecies in the Bible concerning the time of the Messiah. The prophet Daniel gave clues to the time of the Messiah within the verses of Daniel 9:24-27:¹⁶

Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for

iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to **anoint the most Holy**. Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of **the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks**: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And **after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off**, but not for himself: and the people of the prince [antichrist] that shall come [Romans] shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. Daniel 9:24-27 KJV

The "weeks" mentioned are weeks of years, so that seventy weeks is seventy times seven, or four hundred ninety years. This interpretation is well supported by other instances in the Bible where weeks of years it is clearly evident. This prophecy has an exact fulfillment to the very day of Christ's entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, 6 April 32 AD. The calculations are quite detailed, and will not be repeated here. For those that are interested, please see the Spring 2002 (Volume 6, Issue 1) issue of Creation Revelation, The Seventy Sevens.

When Israel rejected her Messiah, God's prophetic clock stopped. One "week" or seven years remain. The time in between is the "Church Age." The remaining seven years, Daniel's seventieth week awaits future fulfillment in the seven years of tribulation. Blindness in part befell the nation of Israel so that she cannot recognize her Messiah "until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:21-26).¹⁷

For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that **blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in**. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, **There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob**: Romans 11:25, 26 KJV

Born of a Virgin

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would be born of a virgin and He would be called "God with us" (God in the flesh). In Isaiah 7:14, the Hebrew word translated "virgin" is "almah", meaning "young woman of marriageable age." This combines the ideas of virgin and marriageable age into one word. The Jewish translators of the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament) translated this word as parthenos (virgin), indicating that the Jewish translators understood that the Messiah would be born of a virgin.¹⁸

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, **a virgin shall conceive**, and bear a son, and

shall call his name **Immanuel [God with us]**. Isaiah 7:14 KJV

In Genesis 3:15 we find early evidence that the Messiah would be born of a virgin when God, addressing Satan, speaks of the "Seed" of the woman. It should be noted that woman does not have seed, man does.¹⁹

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and **her seed**; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. Genesis 3:15 KJV

The New Testament shows the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Now **the birth of Jesus Christ** was on this wise: When as his mother **Mary** was espoused to Joseph, **before they came together**, she was **found with child of the Holy Ghost**. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for **that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost**. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, **Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us**. Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: 25 And **knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son**: and he called his name JESUS. Matthew 1:18-25 KJV

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a **virgin** espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and **the virgin's name was Mary**. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, **thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son**, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be **called the Son of the Highest**: and **the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David**: And **he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever**; and **of his kingdom there shall be no end**. Then said Mary unto the angel, **How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?** And the angel answered and said unto her, **The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall over-**

shadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. Luke 1:26-35 KJV

But when the fulness of the time was come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman**, made under the law, Galatians 4:4 KJV

The Way Prepared by a Messenger

Old Testament Scriptures indicate that a messenger would precede and prepare the way of the Messiah.

The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: **And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together:** for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. Isaiah 40:3-5 KJV

The words of Isaiah the prophet were literally fulfilled by John the Baptist, as reported by Luke and Matthew.

And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins; As it is written in the book of **the words of Esaias the prophet**, saying, **The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; **And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.** Luke 3:3-6 KJV

In those days came **John the Baptist**, preaching in the wilderness of Judaea, And saying, Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. For this is he that was spoken of by **the prophet Esaias**, saying, **The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.** Matthew 3:1-3 KJV

Malachi, only a few hundred years before the birth of Christ wrote these words:

Behold, **I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple**, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. Malachi 3:1 KJV

Announcing the conception of John the Baptist, an angel spoke these words to his father:

And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just;

to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. Luke 1:17 KJV

Speaking of John the Baptist, Matthew wrote:

For this is he, of whom it is written, **Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.** Matthew 11:10 KJV

John the Baptist spoke these words:

He said, **I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias.** John 1:23 KJV

Jesus validated the ministry of John the Baptist when He answered the people concerning him.

And when the messengers of John were departed, he began to **speak unto the people concerning John**, What went ye out into the wilderness for to see? A reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? A man clothed in soft raiment? Behold, they which are gorgeously apparelled, and live delicately, are in kings' courts. But what went ye out for to see? **A prophet? Yea, I say unto you, and much more than a prophet. This is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.** Luke 7:24-27 KJV

The Ministry of the Messiah

It would be fitting that we should receive some sign of validation from God concerning the ministry of God's Son. At the beginning of the ministry of Jesus we find Him at the Jordan River being baptized by John, when suddenly a voice is heard from heaven:

And lo a voice from heaven, saying, **This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.** Matthew 3:17 KJV

In the Old Testament we find that the Messiah will be known as the "Son of God."

I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, **Thou art my Son**; this day have I begotten thee. Psalms 2:7 KJV

Isaiah prophesied that the Messiah would have a Galilean ministry.

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, **in Galilee of the nations.** The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Isaiah 9:1, 2 KJV

Matthew records the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, **Galilee of the Gentiles**; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. Matthew 4:13-16 KJV

The Messiah was to heal the brokenhearted.

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me **to preach good tidings unto the meek**; he hath sent me **to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD**, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; Isaiah 61:1, 2 KJV

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry He spoke in the synagogue and read from Isaiah these words:

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me **to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.** Luke 4:18-19 KJV

An interesting thing here is that he did not finish the Isaiah quote. The "day of vengeance" would be reserved for His second coming.

At the end of His ministry, Jesus made a triumphal entry into Jerusalem as prophesied by Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, **O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.** Zechariah 9:9 KJV

And they brought the colt to Jesus, and cast their garments on him; and he sat upon him. And many spread their garments in the way: and others cut down branches off the trees, and strawed them in the way. And they that went before, and they that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna; Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Blessed be the kingdom of our father David, that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest. And Jesus entered into Jerusalem, and into the temple: and when he had

looked round about upon all things, and now the even-tide was come, he went out unto Bethany with the twelve. Mark 11:7-11 KJV

The Passion and Death of the Messiah

The recent Mel Gibson movie, *The Passion of the Christ*, may have had some non-scriptural embellishments, but the severity of Roman crucifixions was not one of them. It was the most brutal of deaths imaginable.²⁰ The Old Testament has much to say concerning the passion and death of the Messiah. Old Testament prophecies indicate that His own people, the Jews, would reject Him. The Jews may have rejected Him and sought His death, but the Gentiles put Him to death. In this way all mankind shared responsibility.

He is **despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.** Isaiah 53:3 KJV

He came unto his own, and his own received him not. John 1:11 KJV

They would not believe Him.

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? Isaiah 53:1 KJV

But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: **That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?** John 12:37-38 KJV

In yet other prophecies, a friend would eventually betray the Messiah for money.

Yea, **mine own familiar friend**, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath **lifted up his heel against me.** Psalms 41:9 KJV

And I said unto them, If ye think good, **give me my price**; and if not, forbear. So **they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.** And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And **I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.** Zechariah 11:12, 13 KJV

We see the fulfillment in the following verses of the New Testament.

Then **one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.** Matthew 26:14, 15 KJV



The **Judas, which had betrayed him**, when he sav it he was condemned, repented himself, and **bro it again the thirty pieces of silver to the chi riests and elders**, Saying, I have sinned in that ive betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, Wh s that to us? see thou to that. And **he cast do he pieces of silver in the temple**, and de-par and went and hanged himself. And **the chief pri s took the silver pieces, and said, It is not law for to put them into the treasury, because it is e price of blood. And they took counsel, and ough with them the potter's field**, to bury ers in. Matthew 27:3-7 KJV

And hile he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he tha as called **Judas, one of the twelve, went bef a them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss hin** But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?** Luke 22:47, 48 KJV

ter His betrayal, Jesus was taken to trial before the high prie and was accused by false testimony.

Fal witnesses did rise up; they laid to my cha ge things that I knew not. Psalms 35:11 KJV

And here arose certain, and **bare false witness ag st him**, saying, We heard him say, I will destrc this temple that is made with hands, and within thre days I will build another made without hands. Mar 14:57-58 KJV

esus refused to answer the accusations made against Him, so at Pilate marveled, fulfilling another Old Testament prophec

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he **open ed not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb u to ne slaughter, and as a sheep before her she arers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.** Isaiah 53:7 KJV

And Pilate asked him again, saying, **Answerest thou nothing? behold how many things they wit less against thee. But Jesus yet answered not ning; so that Pilate marvelled.** Mark 15:4-5 KJV

Christ was to be the ultimate vicarious sacrifice, as seen in the following Old Testament prophecy and New Testa-ment fulfillment.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 KJV

For when we were yet without strength, in due time **Christ died for the ungodly.** For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But **God**

commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:6-8 KJV

Whoever will receive Him will have life everlasting. Messiah was to be crucified with transgressors.

Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and **he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.** Isaiah 53:12 KJV

And **with him they crucify two thieves**; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. And the scrip- ture was fulfilled, which saith, And **he was numbered with the transgressors.** Mark 15:27-28 KJV

Messiah would be pierced through hands, feet, and side.

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: **they pierced my hands and my feet.** Psalms 22:16 KJV

And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitter- ness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his first- born. Zechariah 12:10 KJV

Then **saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side:** and be not faith- less, but believing. John 20:27 KJV

But one of **the soldiers with a spear pierced his side**, and forthwith came there out blood and water. John 19:34 KJV

Not a bone would be broken.

He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is bro- ken. Psalms 34:20 KJV

Then came the soldiers, and **brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him. But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:...** For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, **A bone of him shall not be broken.** John 19:32, 33, 36 KJV

The Resurrection and Ascension

Belief in the Resurrection was a fundamental belief of the early Church. This belief was in general circulation and given to the Apostle Paul as early as two years after the event. Paul's conversion was approximately two years after the crucifixion, at which time he was received among Christians in Damascus.

Within five years after the crucifixion Paul was in Jerusalem. Because of the wording in the opening verses, a good case can be made that during this time period the following creed, already used by the Church, was given to Paul:²¹

Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you **the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received**, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For **I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received**, how that **Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. And last of all he was seen of me also**, as of one born out of due time. 1 Corinthians 15:1-8 KJV

Messiah would be removed from the cross and buried with the rich, but death would not hold Him in the grave.

And **he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death**; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Isaiah 53:9 KJV

When the even was come, there came **a rich man of Arimathaea, named Joseph**, who also himself was Jesus' disciple: He went to Pilate, and begged the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be delivered. And when **Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, And laid it in his own new tomb**, which he had hewn out in the rock: and he rolled a great stone to the door of the sepulchre, and departed. Matthew 27:57-60 KJV

On the third day after He was crucified, Jesus rose from the dead.

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; **neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption**. Psalms 16:10 KJV

But **God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave**: for he shall receive me. Selah. Psalms 49:15 KJV

And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek **Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here**: behold the place where they laid him. But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you. Mark 16:6, 7 KJV

Jesus ascended to heaven in plain sight of His disciples.

Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them. Psalms 68:18 KJV

So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, **he was received up into heaven**, and sat on the right hand of God. Mark 16:19 KJV

And that **he was buried, and that he rose again the third day** according to the scriptures: 1 Corinthians 15:4 KJV

Wherefore he saith, When **he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men**. Ephesians 4:8 KJV

And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, **he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight**. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven**. Acts 1:9-11 KJV

Our High Priest

The entire Scripture, the Old Testament and New Testament, points toward an ultimate vicarious sacrifice to be made for the redemption of mankind from the ancient curse. The way was prepared by the first slaying of animals by God as a covering for the shame of Adam and Eve. Throughout the Old Testament we find that sins were covered by the priest's shedding of the blood of animals in the temple sacrifices. We were thus being prepared for the once-for-all sacrifice to be made on the same hill that Abraham was willing to offer his only son of promise, Isaac.²² We know that God prepared a way out for mankind's rebellion at Eden before the foundations of the earth when we read in First Peter these words:

Forasmuch as ye know that **ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold**, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; **But with the precious blood of Christ**, as of **a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world**, but was **manifest in these last times for you**, Who by him do believe in **God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God**. 1 Peter 1:18-21 KJV

In the preceding verse we are directed to understand the meaning of the blood sacrifice (a lamb without blemish and spot) first instituted by God as a covering for Adam and Eve's sin, which was the precursor to the formal temple sacrifice outlined by God in Leviticus, and fulfilled once and for all by Christ's atoning death. In Hebrews 7 and 8 we find that Jesus Christ is

the High Priest of the New Covenant after the order of Melchizedek and in Hebrews 9 we then see that Aaronic priesthood went into the temple once each year with the blood of animals offered up for the errors of the people, but then we are told that:

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: **How much more shall the blood of Christ,** who through the eternal Spirit **offered himself without spot to God,** purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? Hebrews 9:11-14 KJV

Remarkable as these prophecies are, there are more. Other prophecies say that He will be a miracle worker (Isaiah 35:5, 6 and 32:3, 4); He will teach in parables (Psalms 78:2); He will be a "stone of stumbling" to Jews (Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14, 28:16); a "light" to Gentiles (Isaiah 49:6, 60:3). He would be spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Matthew 26:67), mocked (Psalm 22:7, 8; Matthew 27:31). Men would divide His garments (Psalms 22:18; John 19:23, 24).

With more than 300 prophecies specifically fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth it is amazing that men willfully choose to reject Jesus as Lord.

What Should You Do?

If you are like I was, not certain, seeking to explain away the possible existence of God and that Jesus was God in the flesh come to redeem us from the ancient curse, then you need to ponder carefully the evidence that you have just read. Consider if it is beyond coincidence that one man could fulfill all of the Messianic prophecies of Scripture, unless that man was sent from God. Professor Peter W. Stoner, in his book *Science Speaks*, says that the chance that for one man to fulfill just eight of the prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. The odds are staggering. If we were to take the same amount of silver dollars, they would cover the state of Texas two feet deep!²³

You need to consider the evidence that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies pointing toward the Messiah of Israel, and that He claimed to be God Himself. The Scriptures are clear that He did just that, and His disciples and the earliest church believed it.

One other evidence that convinced me that Jesus is who He claimed to be, God in the flesh, is that His closest disciples and many other eyewitnesses to the events of His life, death, resurrection, and ascension were willing to stake their lives on that truth. They were so sure that they were willing to die painful deaths rather than betray their Lord. No one willingly dies for a lie.²⁴

If you believe now that Jesus is God manifested in the flesh, then He is your Savior. You must accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior to be saved, and avoid the penalty of your sins - Hell! Christ died in your place so that you can be made

righteous to God. You cannot save yourself through good works. God did not include that as an option, otherwise He didn't need to send His Son to die on that cross for you.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God. John 3:16-21 KJV

He sent His Son as the ransom for the souls of men. It is a free gift.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. Ephesians 2:8, 9 KJV

We cannot avoid the fact that we are all sinners in need of a Savior.

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Romans 3:23 KJV

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Romans 6:23 KJV

If we confess our sins, ask for forgiveness, and truly accept Jesus Christ into our hearts, then He has freed us from the ancient curse.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 KJV

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1, 2 KJV

Jesus Christ is the solution to mankind's ancient problem.

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the

righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth. Romans 10:3-4 KJV

All that remains is to accept the free gift of God.

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, **the word of faith**, which we preach; **That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** For the scripture saith, **Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.** For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. **For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.** Romans 10:8-13 KJV

Be a seeker, and you will surely find the truth. Too many have rejected a book that they have never read, because of the influence of others who have hardened their hearts or have never read the Word of God themselves. The Bible says clearly:

I love those who love me, **And those who seek me diligently will find me.** Proverbs 8: 17 NKJV

Don't believe it just because you read it here, check it out. What have you to loose? Read the Bible, beginning with the book of John.

The following is a short reading list for seekers, seeking answers to questions that they may have (If you want to read only one or two books at most, then my recommendation would be the two books by Lee Strobel. Those two books together give a rather thorough treatment of the subject):

The Old and New Testaments

Basic

- Lee Strobel, *The Case For Christ*
- Lee Strobel, *The Case For Faith*
- Josh McDowell, *More Than A Carpenter*
- Josh McDowell, *The Resurrection Factor*
- Frank Morison, *Who Moved The Stone?*
- D. James Kennedy, *Why I Believe*
- Paul Little, *Know Why You Believe*
- Paul Little, *Know What You Believe*
- C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Intermediate

- Josh McDowell, Bill Wilson, *A Ready Defense*
- Josh McDowell, *The New Evidence That Demands A Verdict*
- John Ankerberg, John Weldon, *Ready With An Answer, For the Tough Questions About God*
- Norman Geisler, Ron Brooks, *When Skeptics Ask, A Handbook on Christian Evidences*
- Norman Geisler, Ron Rhodes, *When Cultists Ask, A Handbook on Cultic Misinterpretations*
- Norman Geisler, Thomas Howe, *When Critics Ask, A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties AΩ*

¹ Fulton J. Sheen, *THE LIFE OF CHRIST*, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1958, p. 11.

² Fulton J. Sheen, *THE LIFE OF CHRIST*, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1958, pp. 13, 14.

³ Fulton J. Sheen, *THE LIFE OF CHRIST*, New York, NY: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1958, pp. 14, 15. See also: C. S. Lewis, *MERE CHRISTIANITY*, New York, NY: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1943, 1945, 1952, p. 56. Josh McDowell, *MORE THAN A CARPENTER*, Wheaton, IL: Living Books, 1977, pp. 25-27.

⁴ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 144.

⁵ Arthur W. Pink, *GLEANINGS IN GENESIS*, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1922, 1950, p. 43.

⁶ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 145.

⁷ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, pp. 147, 148.

⁸ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 148.

⁹ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 148.

¹⁰ J. Vernon McGee, *THRU THE BIBLE*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982, Vol. III, p. 219.

¹¹ Robert Jamieson, A.R. Fausset, and David Brown, *A COMMENTARY, Critical, Experimental, and Practical on the Old and New Testaments*, Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1973, reprinted 1993, Vol. II, Part 1, pp. 586, 594.

¹² Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 149.

¹³ Lee Strobel, *THE CASE FOR CHRIST*, grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998, p. 139.

¹⁴ J. Vernon McGee, *THRU THE BIBLE*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1982, Vol. II, pp. 750, 751.

¹⁵ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, p. 151.

¹⁶ For a more complete treatment of this prophecy see: *THE SEVENTY SEVENS*, *Creation Revelation*, Spring 2002, Vol. 6, Issue 1.

¹⁷ Grant R. Jeffery, *ARMAGEDDON - APPOINTMENT WITH DESTINY*, Toronto, Ontario, CAN: Frontier Research Publications, 1988, pp. 31, 32.

¹⁸ Josh McDowell, *EVIDENCE THAT DEMANDS A VERDICT*, San Bernardino, CA: Here's Life Publishers, Inc., 1972, 1979, pp. 145, 146.

¹⁹ Arthur W. Pink, *GLEANINGS IN GENESIS*, Chicago, IL: Moody Press, 1922, 1950, p. 43.

²⁰ Regarding crucifixion see: *CREATION REVELATION*, *Crucifixion*, July-September 1999, Vol. 3, Issue 3, pp. 5-7.

²¹ Lee Strobel, *THE CASE FOR CHRIST*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998, p. 35.

²² For a more thorough treatment of the purpose and meaning of the sacrifice see: *CREATION REVELATION*, *The Sacrifice*, January-March 2000, Vol. 4, Issue 1, pp. 7-12.

²³ Josh McDowell, Bill Wilson, *A READY DEFENSE*, Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, Inc., 1993, pp. 212, 213.

²⁴ See: Josh McDowell, *MORE THAN A CARPENTER*, Wheaton, IL: Living Books, 1977, pp. 60-71.

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