Who is Jesus Christ?

Who Do They Say That He Is?

Who is Jesus Christ?

When we take into account all of the evidence and historical information about Jesus Christ's life, we can only come to a only 2 conclusions about who He really was.

He was either:

- The resurrected Son of God; God incarnate, or
- ◆ A liar, a madman, and a false prophet

Let's take a look at the evidence.

What did the people say?

Matthew 16:13-14

"When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, "Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?" 14 So they said, "Some *say* John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

The people of Jesus day saw something special about Him. They put Him into a category with some of the greatest men in Jewish history!

What did the people say?

The people realized that His teaching was with authority (Mark 1:22)

Some believed Him to be the Christ, the Savior of the world (John 4:42)

What do these people have in common?

- The wise men \rightarrow Matthew 2:11
- The cleansed leper \rightarrow Matthew 8:2
- Man whose daughter was raised \rightarrow Matthew 9:18
- Disciples in the boat \rightarrow Matthew 14:33
- ♦ Syrophoenician woman→ Matthew 15:25
- Women at Jesus' tomb \rightarrow Matthew 28:9
- ♦ 11 Disciples → Matthew 28:17
- Man born blind \rightarrow John 9:38

All of these people worshipped Jesus, and He didn't tell one of them to get up. Jesus accepted worship! (cf. Acts 10:25-26; Rev. 19:10)

What do they say today?

People today say that Jesus is:

- A good moral teacher
- A prophet (Islam)

Can these be true considering the things that Jesus taught and did? Can He be just a teacher and a prophet?

What do they say today?

- C.S. Lewis, Oxford Professor and Writer (1898-1963) wrote:
 - "I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Him [Jesus],
- 'I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God.'
- That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic, on...

What do they say today?

...the level with the man who says he is a poached egg, or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher." (Mere Christianity, pg. 56)



What did the people say?

As already stated at the outset of this study, when we examine the evidence that we have about the life of Jesus of Nazareth, we can only come to 2 conclusions.

• He is either the Son of God, or a liar.

Let's continue looking at the evidence.

What did John the Baptist say?

John claimed to be the prophesied forerunner of the Lord (John 1:15,19-23; Isaiah 40:3)

He claimed that Jesus was the:

- The Lamb of God (John 1:29) (cf. Isaiah 53:7; Exodus 12:1-11)
- The Son of God (John 1:34)

Jesus, speaking of John, said...

"There is another who bears witness of Me, and I know that the witness which He witnesses of Me is true. 33 You have sent to John, and he has borne witness to the truth. 34 Yet I do not receive testimony from man, but I say these things that you may be saved. 35 He was the burning and shining lamp, and you were willing for a time to rejoice in his light (John 5:32-35)."

Peter, one of the Apostles of Christ, wrote:

"For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty (*2 Peter 1:16 (NKJV*)."

The Apostle John wrote:

And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe (*John 19:35 (NKJV))*". (cf. 1Jn 1:1-3)

These men claimed to be eyewitnesses of the things Jesus said and did.

These eyewitnesses wrote that Jesus is:

- The Christ, The Son of the living God (Matthew 16:16)
- God incarnate (John 1:1-5; 1 Timothy 3:16; Titus 2:13)
 - Lord (Master, one with authority) (1 Corinthians 8:6; Acts 10:36; Philippians 2:9-11)

- The Savior of the world (1 John 4:14)
- The Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16–17; John 1:3; Hebrews 1:2, 3)(cf. Genesis 1)
 - Sinless (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 4:15)

These claims are either true, or these men are false prophets and teachers. Which is true?

They proved their claims and what they preached with miracles (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:2-4), proving what they were speaking was from God.



What did demons & unclean spirits say?

- They called Him the Son of God (Matthew 8:29, Mark 3:11)
- They knew that He was the Christ (Luke 4:11)
- The Holy One of God (Mark 1:24, Luke 4:33-34)

What did God the Father say? His beloved Son in whom He is well pleased (Matthew 3:17; 17:5-6)

God (Hebrews 1:8)

Just because Jesus made the claims doesn't make them true. What made His claims true?

His miracles claimed that the things He was speaking are God's word. (John 10:37-38; 20:30-31)

Mark 2:3-7 (NKJV)

Then they came to Him, bringing a paralytic who was carried by four men. 4 And when they could not come near Him because of the crowd, they uncovered the roof where He was. So when they had broken through, they let down the bed on which the paralytic was lying. 5 When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." 6 And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, 7 "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

Jesus made the bold statement to this lame man:

"Your sins are forgiven"

"Who can forgive sin but God", was the response from the Jews standing around. What is the answer to their question? The answer is: NO ONE CAN FORGIVE SIN BUT GOD! When Jesus said this, He was claiming the power of God!

Jesus proved that He had power to forgive sins by the miracle He performed. He said:

"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic, 11 "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

12 Immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, "We never saw *anything* like this!" (Mark 2:10-12)

What other sign of deity do we see in this verse?

Mark 2:8 (NKJV) But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts?

- He knew what they were reasoning in their <u>hearts!</u>
- Who can do that but God?

- Jesus claimed to be the Christ, God's promised Messiah. (John 4:25-26)
- He claimed that His word would judge mankind (John 12:48)
 - He claimed to come down from heaven (John 6:62; John 17:5)

John 6:34- "I am the bread of Life"

He is inseparable from life. He sustains and gives it, physically and spiritually.

• John 8:12- "I am the light of the world"

He reveals the truth that examines the heart and gives hope.

John 10:9- "I am the door"

Christ's way leads to life. We must do what He teaches to be saved.

John 10:11- "I am the good shepherd"

He leads the flock, and was willing to die to give them life. (cf. Psalm 23)

John 11:25- "I am the resurrection and the life"

He is the reason for our hope of eternal life and the resurrection on the last day.

John 14:6- "I am the way, the truth, and the life"

He is the only way to the Father!

John 15:1,5- "I am the vine, and ye are the branches"

Without Him, we can do nothing! We must remain on the vine to stay alive.

 John 8:58- "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

He claimed to be eternal ("I am") (Exodus 3:13-15)

These claims are either the truth or they are lies.

The eyewitness to all these events saw Jesus perform miracles, heard the things He said, and recorded them so we may believe them as the truth and have the opportunity to be saved from our sin.

(Eyewitness Testimony-John 19:32; 20:31-32)

What did Jesus claim?

Jesus said in John 5:

"But I have a greater witness than John's; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish--the very works that I do--bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me... 38 But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. 39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life (*John 5:36, 38-40*)."

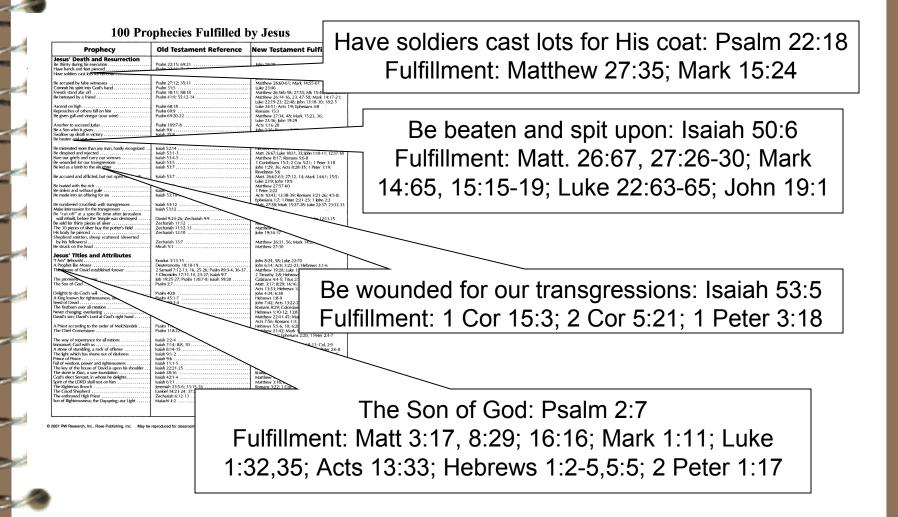
Jesus said that the O.T. scriptures spoke of Him!

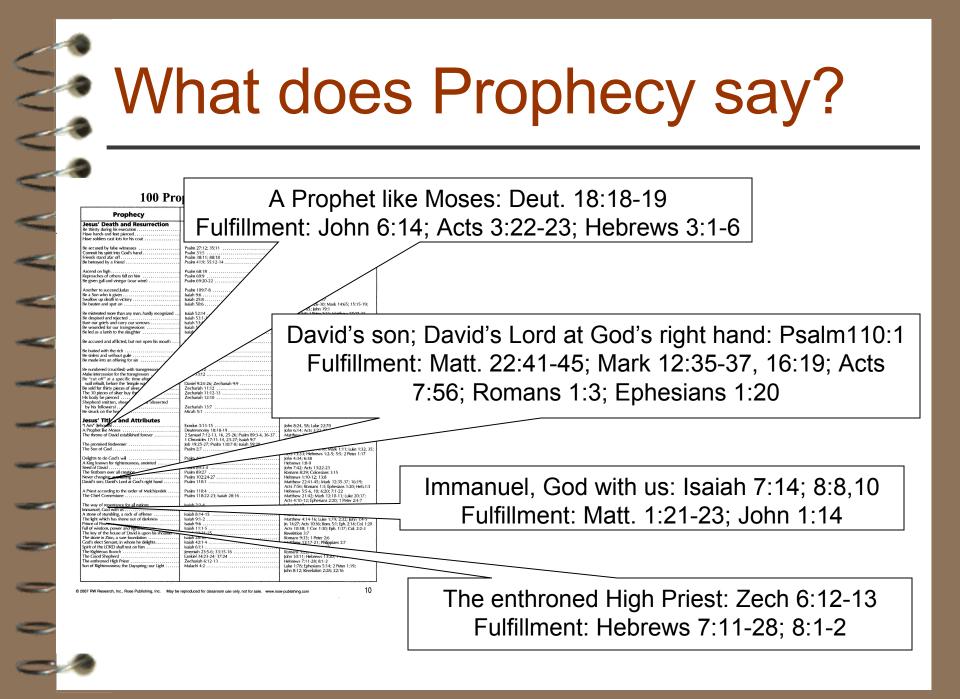
Did Jesus fulfill the prophecies in the Old Testament that speak of the Messiah?

Let's look at some of the prophesies...

100 P				Have eternal existence: Micah 5:2	
IUU Pro	ophecies Fulfilled	DY JESUS New Testament Fulfillment	1	Fulfillment: John 1:1,4; Col. 1:15-19	
Jesus' Birth	old lestament kererence	New restament runninent	-		
Be of the seed of woman, shall bruise serpent's head . All nations shall be blessed through Abraham	Genesis 3:15 Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14	. Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14; 1John 3:8 Matthew 1:1, 17; Acts 3:25-26; Galatians 3:16			
Be born of the seed of Abraham Be born of the seed of Isaac	Genesis 17:7-8; 26:3-4 Genesis 17:19; 21:12; 26:2-4	Matthew 1:1, 17; Galatians 3:16, 29; Heb. 2:16 Matthew 1:2, 17; Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:17-19			
Be of the tribe of Judah Be of the seed of Jacob; a star out of Jacob	Genesis 49:8-10; Micah 5:2 Genesis 28:13-14; Numbers 24:17, 19	Matthew 1:2, 3; Hebrews 7:14; Revelation 5:5 Matthew 1:2; Luke 1:33; 3:23-38			
Be a firstborn son, sanctified Be born a king, of the line of David	Exodus 13:2; Numbers 3:13; 8:17 2 Sam. 7:12-13; Isaiah 9:7; Ieremiah 23:5; 30:9	Luke 2:7, 23			
	2 block Fire Toy block 53 yearshall 25(5) 505 Fire	ont 18:36-37; Acts 13:22-23; Revelation 1:5			
Kings shall bring him gifts, fall down before him Be born of a virgin	Psalm 72:10.11	Matthew 2:1-11 Matthew 1:18-23: Luke 1:27-35			
A child to be born Be a rod out of the store (KW)	Kaiah 9:6	Luke 2:11	Re a	stone of stumbling to the Jews: Isaiah 8:4	
Massacre of Children	Jeremiah 31:15	. Matthew 1:6; Acts 13:22-23 Matthew 2:16-18			
Be born in the town of Bethlehem of Judea (Judah) Have eternal existence	Micah 5:2-5 Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1-6; Luke 2:4-11 John 1:1, 4; 8:58; Colossians 1:15-19			
Jesus' Life and Ministry Be a prophet like Moses, speaking God's words	Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19	Matt. 21:11: Luke 7:16. 24:19: John 6:14	l Ful	fillment: Romans 9:31-33; 1 Peter 2:7-8	
Rulers take council against Him	Psalm 2:1-2	John 7:40; Acts 3:20-22	l i ui	1111101111110111011011000, 110000000000	
Be hated without reason	Psalm 35:19; 69:4	Matthew 12:14; 26:3-4, 47; Luke 23:11-12 John 15:24-25			
Come to do the will of God	Psalm 40:7-8 Psalm 45:6-7	 Matthew 26:39; Hebrews 10:5-9 Hebrews 1:8-9 			
Be rejected by his brethren Have great zeal for God's house	Psalm 69:8 Psalm 69:9	John 7:3-5 John 2:17			
Care for the poor and needy Speak in parables with hidden meaning	Psalm 72:12-14 Psalm 78:2; Isaiah 6:9-10				
Will pray for His enemies	Psain 762; Isalar 69-00 Psain 100	Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:34			
Be rejected	Psalm 118:22-23 Psalm 118:26 ; Haggai 2:7, 9; Malachi 3:1	 Matthew 21:42 Matt. 21:12.16: Mark 11:11:1.0kg 2:25:47: 19:45:47 			
People's hearts are hardened Be a "stone of stumbling" to the Jews	Isaiah 6:9-10 Isaiah 8:14	. Matt. . Roma			
His ministry in Zebulun, Naphtali, and Galilee The enveryment is on his shoulders	Isalah 9:1-2		v doof v	will beer the blind will easy logish 20.19	
The Spirit of the Lord rests upon him	kalah 11-a	1116	e uear v	vill hear; the blind will see: Isaiah 29:18	
Upon his coming, the deal near, the blind see Be a heater and savior, do miracles	Isaiah 29:18; 35:5 Isaiah 35:4-6	. Math			
Someone will prepare on oning of the Lord	Isaiah 40:3-5		Ifillmon	It: Matthew 11:5; Mark 7:37; John 9:39	
Be a Shepherd who tends he	Isalah 40:3-3 Isalah 40:10-11 Isalah 42:1-4		IIIIIIIIIei		
Fulfill promises to lews, be a light to the	leaiah 42:6; 49:6	. Luke 2	-		
Call those who were not his people (Gentiles) The Redeemer to come out of Zion	5:4-5; Hosea 2:23		1		
Nations shall walk in the light of the Lord Anointed to preach liberty to the captives	kaiah	Matthew 4:16; Luke 2:32; John 12:46 Luke 4:16-21; Acts 10:38			
Be a priest after the order of Mekhizedek A New Everlasting Covenant	Psalm 110:4	Hebrews 5:1-6; 6:20; 7:15-17 Mat. 26:27-29; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:15-20;			
Be called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Conthians 11:25; Hebrews 8:8-12, 10:15-20			
His Spirit poured out upon people David's house shall be restored	Joel 2:28-32 Amos 9:11-12				
God shall dwell among His people	Zechariah 2:10-13				
A new presthood established The King comes to Jerusalem riding on a donkey	Zechariah 3:8 Zechariah 9:9	Matter	<u> </u>		
Messenger sent to prepare the way before Him	Malachi 3:1	John 12:15 Matthew 11:10			
Prophet sent before the day of the Lord Jesus' Death and Resurrection	Malachi 4:5-6	Matt. 11:13-14; Mark 9			
Be Passover male lamb, without blemish, slain	Exodus 12:1-11; Isaiah 53:7	John 1:29-36; 1Corinthians 5:7-8; 1Per			
with blood applied as protection from judgment Be Passover sacrifice with no bone broken	Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20	Revelation 5: 6-13; 7:14; 21:22-27; 22:1- John 19:31-36			
Be lifted up, just as Moses lifted a serpent Be hung upon a tree as a curse for us	Numbers 21:8-9 Deuteronomy 21:23	John 3:14-15 Galatians 3:13	\sim		
Be raised from the dead . Conquer death through His resurrection	Psalm 16:8-11 Psalm 16:8-11: 49:15: 86:13	Luke 246-8, jn 20; Acts 1:3; 2:32; 13:34-37; 2 Tin 28 Acts 2:24-36; 13:30-20; 1 Codatking 15:2.4			
Feel forsaken by God Be mocked and insulted by many	Psalm 10:0-11; 49:15; 00:13 Psalm 22:1 Psalm 22:7-8, 17	Matthew 27:46: Ma			
		Matt. 27:31, 39-43;	a haal	ar and action do mireclear legish 25.4 C	
Be a healer and savior, do miracles: Isaiah 35:4-6					
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			·ummme	ent: Matthew 9:30; 12:22; 20:34; 21:14	
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100 Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus			Be born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14	
Prophecy	Old Testament Reference	New Testament Fulfilln	0	
Jesus' Birth Be of the seed of woman, shall bruise serpent's head All nations shall be blessed through Abraham	Genesis 3:15 Genesis 12:3; 18:18; 22:18; 26:4; 28:14	Galatians 4:4; Hebrews 2:14; 1john 3:8 Matthew 1:1, 17; Acts 3:25-26; Galatians 3:16	Fulfillment: Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:27-35	
Be born of the seed of Abraham Be born of the seed of Isaac Be of the tribe of Judah Be of the seed of Jacob; a star out of Jacob	Genesis 17:7-8; 26:3-4 Genesis 17:19; 21:12; 26:2-4 Genesis 49:8-10; Micah 5:2 Genesis 28:13-14; Numbers 24:17, 19	 Matthew 1:1, 17; Galatians 3:16, 29; Heb. 2; Matthew 1:2, 17; Romans 9:7; Hebrews 11:1 Matthew 1:2, 3; Hebrews 7:14-1 		
Be a firstborn son, sanctified Be born a king, of the line of David	Exodus 13:2; Numbers 3:13; 8:17	 Matthew 1:1, 6; 9:27; 12:22-23; 15:22; 20:30: Matthew 21:9, 15; 22:41-42; Luke 1:32; John 18:36-37; Acts 13:22-23; Revelation 1:5 		
Kings <u>chall being him gets</u> tail down before him Be born of a virgin A child to be born Be a rod out of the stem of Jesse (KJV)	Psalm 72:10-11 Baiah 7:13-14 Baiah 9:6 Kaiah 11:1-2	Matthew 2:1-11 Matthew 2:1-11 Matthew 2:14 Matthew 1:18-23; Luke 1:27-35 Luke 2:11 Matthew 1:5; Acts 13:22-23		
Massacre of children Be born in the town of Bethlehem of Judea (Judah) Have eternal existence	Jeremia 31:15 Micah 5:2-5 Micah 5:2		The govt. is on His shoulders: Isaiah 9:6	
Jesus' Life and Ministry Be a prophet like Moses, speaking God's words Rulers take council against Him	Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19	Matt. 21:11; Luke 7:16, 24:19; John 6:14 John 7:40; Acts 3:20:22 Matthew 12:14; 26:3-4, 47: Julio 20	•	
Be hated without reason Come to do the will of God Anointed by God Be reisected by his bestnern	Psalm 35:19; 69:4 Psalm 40:7-8 Psalm 45:6-7 Psalm 69:8		Fulfillment: Matthew 28:18, 1 Cor.15:24-25	
Have great zeal for Cod's house Care for the poor and needy Speak in parables with hether	Psalm 78:2; Isaiah 6:9-10 Psalm 109:4	John 2:17 Luke 7:22 Matthew 13:10-16; Luke 8:10 Matthew 5:44; Luke 23:34		
Be rejected Was to enter the Temple People's hearts are hardened Be a "stone of stumbling" to the Jews	Psalm 118:22-23 Psalm 118:26 ; Haggai 2:7, 9; Malachi 3:1 Isalah 6:9-10 Isalah 8:14	 Matthew 21:42 Matt. 21:12-16; Mark 11:11; Like 225-47; 19:4 Matt. 13:13-15; John 12:37-40; Acts 28:24-2 Romans 9:31-33: 1 Peter 2:7-8 		
His ministry in Zebulun, Naphtali, and Galilee The government is on his shoulders The Spirit of the Lord rests upon him	Isalah 9:1-2 Isalah 9:6 Isalah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1-2	Matthew 4:12-16 Matthew 28:18; 1 Corinthians 15:24-25 Matthew 3:16; Mark 1:10; Like 3:22; 4:18; John 1:32: 3:34: Acts 10:38		
Upon his coming, the deaf hear, the blind see Be a healer and savior, do miracles	Isaiah 29:18; 35:5 Isaiah 35:4-6	Matthew 11:5 Matthew 9:30 Matthew 9:30	d als all should be a scalar Za als arials 0.40.40	
Be a Shepherd who tends his sheep	Isiah 42:10-11 Isiah 42:1-1 Isiah 42:6; 49:6 Isiah 52:6; 49:6	GO	d shall dwell w/ His people: Zechariah 2:10-13	
The Redeemer to come out of Zion	balah 53:16-20 Isalah 53:16-20 Isalah 60:1-3 Isalah 61:1-2a	Romans 11:26	Fulfillment: John 1:14	
A New Everlasting Covenant Be called out of Egypt	Jeremiah 31:22	1 Contribians 1 Matthew 213		
His Spirit poured out upport David's house that the restored God shall dwell among His people A new presthood established The King comes to Jerusalem riding on a donkey	loel 2:28-32 Amos 9:11-12 Zechariah 2:10-13 Zechariah 3:8 Zechariah 9:9	 Acts 2:16-23 Acts 15:16-18 John 1:14; Revelation 21:3 1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:6; 5:10 Matthew 21:1-5; Mark 11:1-10; Luke 19:28- 		
Messenger sent to prepare the way before Him Prophet sent before the day of the Lord	Malachi 3:1 Malachi 4:5-6	John 12:13-15 John 12:13-15 Matthew 11:10; Mark 1:2-4, 7; Luke 7:27-28 Matt. 11:13-14; Mark 9:11-13; Luke 1:17; 7:27-		
Jesus' Death and Resurrection Be Passover male lamb, without blemish, slain with blood appled as protection from judgment Be Passover sacrifice with no bone broken	Exodus 12:1-11; Isaiah 53:7 Exodus 12:46; Numbers 9:12; Psahn 34:20	John 1:29-36; 1Corinthians 5:7-8; 1Peter 1:18- Revelation 5: 6-13; 7:14; 21:22-27; 22:1-4 John 19:31-36	9	
Be lifted up, just as Moses lifted a serpent Be hung-upon a tree as a curse for us Be raised from the oca- Conquer death through His resurrection.	Numbers 21:8-9 Deuteronomy 21:23 Psalm 16:8-11	 John 3:14-15 Galatians 3:13 Luke 246-8, jn 20; Acts 1:3; 2:32; 13:34-37; 2 Tin Acts 2:24-36; 13:30-39; 1 Connethians 15:3-4 	28	
Feel forsaken by God Be mocked and insulted by many	Psalm 22:7-a, reproduced for classroom use only, not for sale.	2746 Mark 15:34	Be raised from the dead: Psalm 16:8-11	
			Fulfillment: Luke 24:6-8; John 20; Acts 1:3,	
			2:32, 13:34-37; 1 Cor. 15:1-8	





- These prophesies show that the Messiah would:
- Be God in the flesh
- Perform miracles
- Be rejected, and be sacrificed for the sins of mankind
- Be resurrected, defeating death and sin, and ascend to the right hand of God to reign

Jesus fulfilled all of these prophesies previously mentioned and all of the prophesies mentioned about the Messiah in the Old Testament scriptures!

What are the chances that all of these prophecies could be fulfilled in one man?

Statistician Peter Stoner reports that the probability of just eight of these prophecies about one person being fulfilled by chance is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (Idem, 106-107)

That number has 17 zeros!

He also reports that the probability of 48 prophecies being fulfilled by chance in one man is 1x10^157 (Idem, 109). **157 zeros!**

According to Emile Borel (a French mathematician), once one goes past one chance in 10⁵⁰, the probabilities are so small that it is <u>impossible</u> to think that they will ever occur (Ankerberg et. al., op. cit., 21).

As Stoner concludes, 'Any man who rejects Christ as the Son of God is rejecting a fact, proved perhaps more absolutely than any other fact in the world (Stoner, op. cit., 112).'

According to mathematical and scientific probability, it is <u>scientifically impossible</u> to deny that Jesus is the Christ when you examine the evidence. This also shows us why prophecy is such a great proof that the scriptures are authored by God! These are only 100 of the over 400 prophesies of the coming Messiah and His kingdom.

Just as Jesus said, the scriptures bear witness of Him:

John 5:39-40 "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. 40 But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life."

According to the eyewitness testimony, Jesus also said that if we do not believe that He is whom He claimed, we will die in our sins (John 8:23-24).

Who do you say Jesus is?

What we decide to believe about who Jesus Christ is has eternal consequences. When we take into account all of the evidence that speaks of Him, we have a choice to make.

We can call Him "Lord" and give ourselves to Him in devotion and discipleship,

• Or we can call Him a "liar" or a "lunatic;" no different from any other false prophet.

Do you believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God?

Interested in Further Study?

► Email→ gospel-truth@comcast.net

Acts 17:11-12 (NKJV) "These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. 12 Therefore many of them believed"

John 8:31-32 (NKJV) 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."