

Program 59 Teaser

What a God! He alone could ridicule heathen gods, idols, and false claims of divinity. “Tell the future!”, God mocked them. They couldn’t. But He did—including exact prophecies about the One to come who would turn fallen men from sin and the road to hell to right standing with the awesome God of heaven. There would be no doubting in honest hearts concerning the Messiah and Savior. The clues would be clear and precise. A miracle birth. The place of birth. The miraculous life. The means of death. And the biggie—a resurrection from the dead. Don’t miss the next two weeks with Tom Hughes and me. “ Search for the Messiah” on More Than Talk.

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THE SEARCH FOR MESSIAH (Evidence That Demands Your Verdict)

PAGE 1 WHAT A GOD!

What a God! He alone could ridicule heathen gods, idols and false claims of divinity. “Tell the future!”, God mocked them. They couldn’t. But He did—perfectly—thousands of years in advance! Like the coming Messiah. Who? How? Where? When? No wonder the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ strengthen our faith. And when shared, they build faith in others.

I do not believe in Jesus as Messiah because His life and claims offer a *possibility* that He might be the Son of God whose offer of forgiveness of sins and eternal life is real. I believe because I am *forced* by conscience to believe in *overwhelming facts*—prophecies spoken hundreds of years before Jesus appeared on earth—and fulfilled to the letter in His birth, life, death and resurrection. Compare with us the Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament certainties. They will strengthen your own faith and help open the eyes of those to whom you speak.

But let me offer a word of caution. It’s easy for Christians to look back over 2000 years and see fulfilled prophecy concerning Jesus Christ. Then we tell Jewish people, “It’s all so clear. Why can’t you believe?” But when Jews look back over 2000 years, they mostly see horrible persecution from so-called believers in Jesus. Crusades, inquisitions, pogroms and even the Holocaust took place in a “Christian” context. Most Jews don’t know the difference between true followers of Jesus and those who only pretend to love Him.

The following scriptures must never be used as a club to beat Jews or other people who don’t know Christ. Instead, these verses must first be a foundation in our own lives to cause us to submit fully to God’s love. Then we will have a reason for sharing with Gentile and Jew—graciously, sensitively, and with humility, our relationship with Jesus and His offer of forgiveness and salvation. Are you ready for an incredible discovery? Let’s get started!

1. THE SEED OF A WOMAN

Prophecy—Genesis 3:15

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Fulfilled—Galatians 4:4

“But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman born under the law.”

2. BORN OF A VIRGIN

Prophecy—Isaiah 7:14

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Fulfilled—Matthew 1:18

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

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3. THE SON OF GOD

Prophecy—Psalm 2:7

“I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, You *are* My Son, today I have begotten You”

Fulfilled—Matthew 3:17

“And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, this is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

4. SEED OF ABRAHAM

Prophecy—Genesis 12:3

“I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Fulfilled—Matthew 1:1

“The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham.”

5. FROM THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Prophecy—Genesis 49:10

“The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him *shall be* the obedience of the people.”

Fulfilled—Luke 3:33

“*The son* of Amminadab, *the son* of Ram, *the son* of Hezron, *the son* of Perez, *the son* of Judah.”

6. HEIR TO THE THRONE OF DAVID

Prophecy—Isaiah 9:7

“Of the increase of *His* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”

Fulfilled—Luke 1:32

“He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David.”

7. BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Prophecy—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.”

Fulfilled—Luke 2:4

“Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David.”

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PAGE 3 HUMILITY THAT BLEW THEM AWAY

8. INTRODUCED BY A MESSENGER

Prophecy—Malachi 3:1

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming, says the LORD of hosts.”

Fulfilled—Luke 7:24, 27

“When the messengers of John had departed, He began to speak to the multitudes concerning John: what did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.”

9. HE WOULD BE A PROPHET

Prophecy—Deuteronomy 18:15

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.”

Fulfilled—Acts 3:20,22

“And that He may send Jesus Christ, who was preached to you before...for Moses truly said to the fathers, the LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever He says to you.”

10. HE WOULD BE A PRIEST

Prophecy—Psalm 110:4

“The LORD has sworn And will not relent, you *are* a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

Fulfilled—Hebrews 5:5,6

“So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become High Priest, but *it was* He who said to Him, You *are* a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.”

11. THE TRIUMPHAL ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM

Prophecy—Zechariah 9:9

“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

Fulfilled—Mark 11:7,9,11

“Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna! Blessed *is* He who comes in the name of the LORD! And Jesus went into Jerusalem and into the temple. So when He had looked around at all things, as the hour was already late, He went out to Bethany with the twelve.”

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12. REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE

Prophecy—Isaiah 53:3

“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; he was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”

Fulfilled—John 1:11

“He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.”

13. SOLD OUT FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

Prophecy—Zechariah 11:12

“Then I said to them, If it is agreeable to you, give *me* my wages; and if not, refrain. So they weighed out for my wages thirty *pieces* of silver.”

Fulfilled—Matthew 26:15

“And said, What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you? And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.”

14. A STUMBLING STONE TO ISRAEL’S LEADERS

Prophecy—Psalm 118:22

“The stone *which* the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”

Fulfilled—I Peter 2:7

“Therefore, to you who believe, *He is* precious; but to those who are disobedient, the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone,”

15. HIS LIGHT WOULD REACH THE HEATHEN

Prophecy—Isaiah 60:3

“The Gentiles shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.”

Fulfilled—Acts 13:47

“For so the Lord has commanded us: I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, that you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.”

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PAGE 5 IT HAD TO BE LOVE

16. SILENT TO HIS ACCUSERS

Prophecy—Isaiah 53:7

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”

Fulfilled—Mark 15:4,5

“Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You. But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.”

17. SPAT UPON AND BEATEN

Prophecy—Isaiah 50:6

“I gave My back to those who struck *Me*, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”

Fulfilled—Matthew 26:67

“Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck *Him* with the palms of their hands.”

18. HATED WITHOUT A CAUSE

Prophecy—Psalms 35:19

“Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.”

Fulfilled—John 15:24,25

“If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and my Father. But *this happened* that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, they hated Me without a cause.”

19. THE ONLY ACCEPTABLE SACRIFICE

Prophecy—Isaiah 53:5

“But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, *He was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.”

Fulfilled—Romans 5:6,8

“For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

20. CRUCIFIED WITH SINFUL MEN

Prophecy—Isaiah 53:12

“Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

Fulfilled—Mark 15:27,28

“With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, and He was numbered with the transgressors.”