The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection- Part 2: Promises & Prophecies

Neighborly Apologetics



The Royal Law Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work of the Kingdom to the common Christian family



Three Great Questions

"Does God exist?"

"Is the Bible reliable?"

"Who is Jesus?"

Three Great Truths

He is there

He is not silent





Who is Jesus? The Question Pursued... the promise and the prophecy + His life and death + the resurrection + the claim of deity is Jesus the only way? + how to handle the questions +



If Jesus Rose from the Dead, then...

40 articles on a defense of the resurrection beginning the day before Easter and running through Pentecost



Who is Jesus?

the promise and the prophecy







What were the last recorded words of Jesus?

What were the first words recorded in the **New Testament?**

"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham."

"I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

Revelation 22:16

Matthew 1:1



Why does Jesus make it a big deal?

Why does Matthew, Luke, or Paul? ...who was born a <u>descendant of David</u>... (Romans 1:3) Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, <u>descendant of David.</u>.. (2 Timothy 2:8)

 Or the many who cried out to Jesus for healing? The blind men: "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" (Matthew 9:27) The Canaanite woman: "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David..." (Matthew 15:22) The blind beggar, Bartimaeus: "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" (Mark 10:47)
 Or the people who saw Jesus heal a blind & mute man? "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" (Matthew 12:23)



It wasn't because of good genes...

It had everything to do with the promises of God associated with Abraham and David.



To Abraham "...in you all the families of the earth will be blessed." (Genesis 12:3) "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations." (Genesis 17:4) **To David** The LORD has sworn to David a truth from which He will not turn back: "Of the fruit of your body I will set upon your throne." (Psalm 132:11) "I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations." (Psalm 89:3-4)



The Pharisees knew it... Jesus: "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" Pharisees: "The son of David." (Matthew 22:42) The people knew it... After thinking that Jesus had been born in Galilee, they said: "Has not the Scripture said that the Christ comes from the descendants of David, and from Bethlehem, the village where David was?" (John 7:42) "Hosanna to the Son of David!" (Matthew 21:9) The "elder" in heaven knew it... "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." (Revelation 5:5)



The long promised and awaited Messiah wasn't going to pop up from just any old family tree...

He couldn't be Chinese, English, African, or Eskimo. The Messiah had to come from a very specific +

genealogical thread...

A scarlet thread... A thread that begins way before David... Way before Abraham...



This is an amazing and mysterious story that goes all the way back to the very beginning...

- The Craftsman spoke, and all was "good." +
- +
 - The villain appeared with his truth claim.
- The creature chose poorly. +
- + suffering.

He then crafted *imago dei*, a creature that could choose.

The good world morphed into a world of evil, tragedy, loneliness, and



A world that was "always winter"...



But in the middle of this horror came a flicker of light, a spark of hope, a promise...

A promise that Someone would come and make it all right again...

God turned to Satan and said: "... I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; you will strike His heel, but He will crush your head." (Genesis 3:15)

A very mysterious promise indeed... +



Analyzing the Mysterious Promise

A hero would come and apparently set things right.
This hero would be the "seed of the woman."
There would be a war between the "seed of the woman" and the "seed of Satan," but the "seed of the woman" would win.

Cryptic, but this is clearly a promise of hope.



Looking through the
Eve - "Life Giver"
Cain and Abel

The game was already on... The war had begun!

Looking through the eyes of Adam and Eve...



Then the "Seed Line" begins to be traced...



"I have made a covenant with My chosen; I have sworn to David My servant, I will establish your seed forever and build up your throne to all generations." (Psalm 89:3-4)



Then...Everything Goes Dark

Until...

The heavens break open with blinding light and things start to go crazy.

A child is born to a virgin named Mary, who was instructed by an angel to + name her son Jesus because He would save His people from their sins.

And Matthew begins his biography of Jesus with a genealogy... "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of

Abraham..." (Matthew 1:1)



Matthew

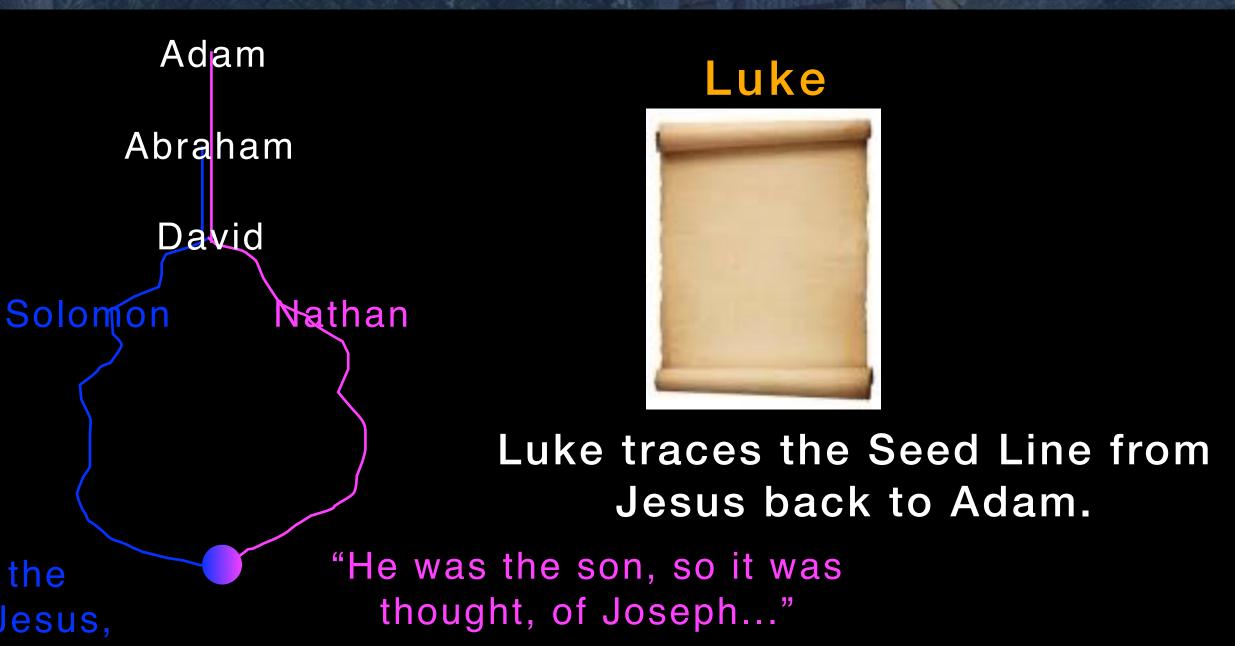


Matthew traces the Seed Line from Abraham to Jesus.

"...and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called the Christ."

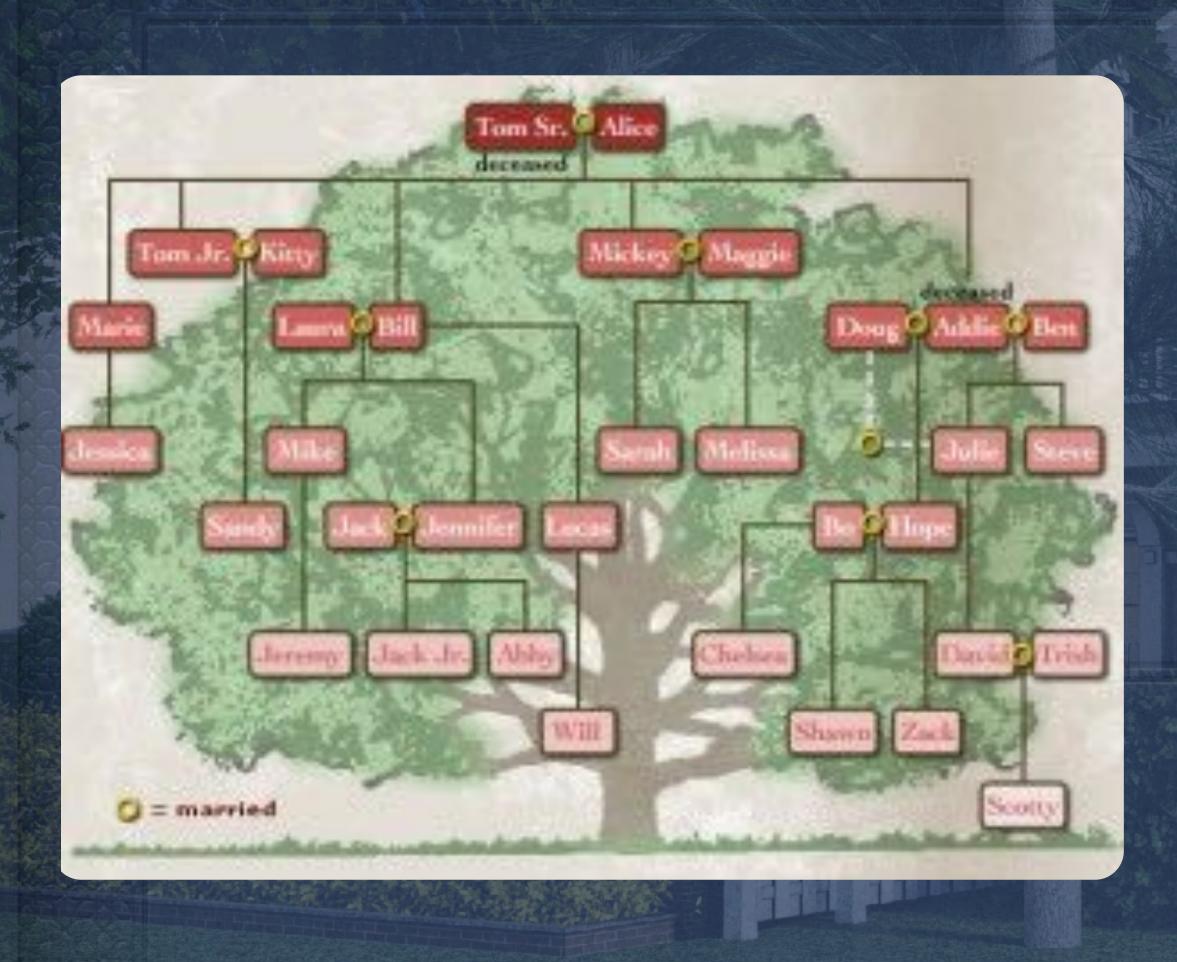
> They are the same lines from Abraham to David. However, Matthew traces the line through David's son Solomon, while Luke traces the line through David's son Nathan.

The "royal line"



The "seed of the woman"





This is NOT your pristine family tree!

The good, the bad, and the ugly!

Prostitutes, adulterers, liars, deceivers, gripers, complainers, murderers, idolaters, polygamists...

and these were the good guys!



The Promise Revealed...

In this light, all the mysteries of the Garden promise are now finally revealed...

"The seed of the woman."
"The seed of Satan."
"The war between the Seed and Satan's seed."
"The bruising of the heel."
"The crushing of the head of Satan."

The gospel was preached in the Garden!



The Promise Revealed...

In this light, all the mysteries of the Garden promise are now finally revealed...

God...preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying "All the nations shall be blessed in you." (Galatians 3:8)
 Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. He does not say, "And to your seeds," as referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ. (Galatians 3:16)



The Prophecies





A Woman at a Well



"Messiah is coming... he will tell us all things." (John 4:25)

She seemed to have some kind of hope.... An expectation...

Why?



They were looking for Him.

In the days preceding the birth of Jesus, there was a belief among the Jews that a Messiah would come.

Why?



Andrew found Simon Peter and said to him:

"We have found the Messiah!" (John 1:41)



What brought about this deep-seated belief and hope?

Was it a random kind of longing that springs up in a people who simply wish for "better days"?

Was this an individually-crafted "knight in shining armor," where everyone had his own version of the "what," "when," "where," and "how"?



No...

The hope that existed within the Jewish people was a very, very specific hope.



Because God promised to do it...

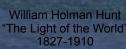
The Seed. The Messiah.

...And all the prophets pointed to Him.



All the prophecies pointed to Him...

Conservatively, about 50 prophecies; some, say over 400... The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2) + His hands and feet would be pierced. (Psalm 22:16) + None of His bones would be broken. (Psalm 34:20) Others would gamble over His clothes. (Psalm 22:18) + He would be assigned a grave with the rich. (Isaiah 53:9) His body would not decay. (Psalm 16:10)







Louis Lapides

Louis Lapides is a Jew by birth.

He was hostile to Jesus and Christianity.

He received Christ because of the overwhelming weight of the prophecies, and the fact that Jesus fulfilled them all.

He calls them the "Fingerprint of the Messiah."





The Fingerprint of the Messiah Louis Lapides

Jesus matched that fingerprint.

William Holman Hunt 'The Light of the World"





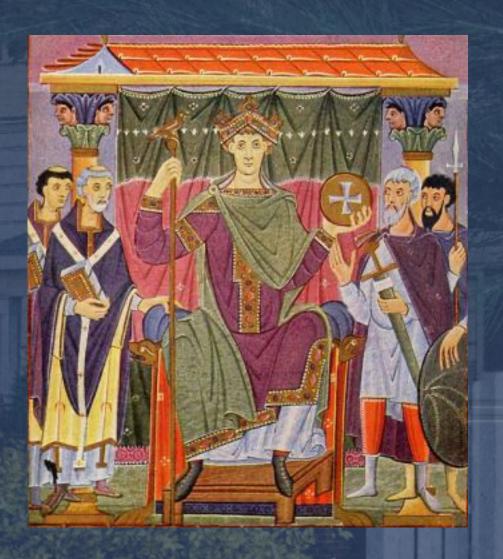
Our modern-day problem with prophecy...

False Prophets





500 -- Sextus Julius Africanus: return of Christ 847 -- Thiota: return of Christ



In 847, the prophetess, Thiota, prophesied that Jesus would return and set up the 1,000year Millennium on YIK. The Holy Roman Emperor, Otto III believed he would be the one to battle the Antichrist along with Charlemagne, whose body was disinterred so that he would be ready to rise to the challenge as well. Many people disposed of their belongings, left their jobs and abandoned their homes.







500 -- Sextus Julius Africanus: return of Christ 847 -- Thiota: return of Christ 1284 -- Pope Innocent III: end of the world 1306 -- Gerard of Poehlde: end of the world 1669 -- The Old Believers in Russia: Antichrist would come; end of the world 1881 -- Mystic Mother Shipton: "The world to an end shall come" 1884 -- William Miller: Jesus would return; Earth would burn up in fire

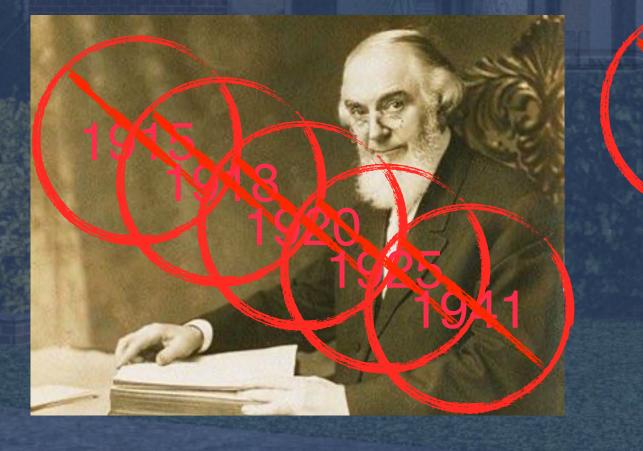


William Miller predicted that Jesus would return and the earth would burn up in fire by March 21, 1844... then April 18, 1844... then October 22, 1844. 100,000 "Millerites" sold their belongings and headed to the mountains to wait for the end.





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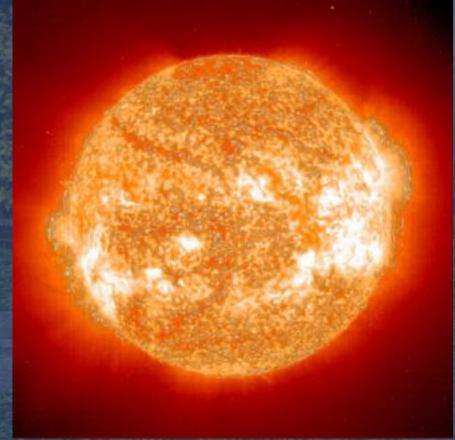
False Prophets

In 1876, Charles Russell, founder of the Jehovah's Witnesses, predicted that Jesus would return in 1914. Following that, the society has predicted at lest seven other dates when Armageddon would occur.





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Albert Porta, meteorologist at the University of Michigan, predicted that the alignment of Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Neptune would create a humongous sunspot on the sun that would devastate the earth.







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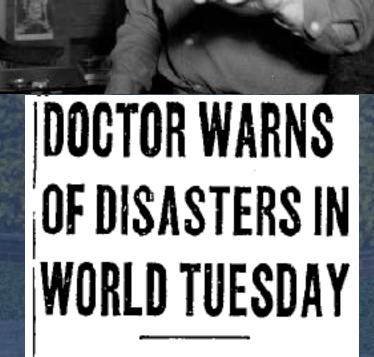
Henry Adams, Pulitzer-Prize winner, analyzed cultural trends using a model based upon the dissipation of energy to conclude that there were four stages of human civilization: religious, mechanical, electrical and the ethereal, and that the world would therefore end in 1921.







1941, 1975 -- Jehovah's Witness: Armageddon, end of world 1955 -- Dorothy Martin & Dr. Charles Laughead: Earth would be destroyed; aliens would save them



Worst to Come in 1955, He Declares

Dorothy Martin claimed she was receiving messages from aliens from the planet Clarion warning that the earth would be destroyed on Dec 21, 1954 by a massive flood. Dr. Charles Laughead, a follower, warned the public, pleading for them to escape the night before. The "Seekers" gathered together on the eve of the disaster, removing all metallic items from their clothing and bodies as instructed by the aliens who were going to drop in and take them to a flying saucer at midnight. At 4:45 am, the aliens transmitted a message to Dorothy that God had called the disaster off.





1941, 1975 -- Jehovah's Witness: Armageddon, end of world 1955 -- Dorothy Martin & Dr. Charles Laughead: Earth would be destroyed; aliens would save them 1982 -- John Gribbon & Stephen Plagemann: planets would align; widespread catastrophes



In their best-selling 1974 book, "The Jupiter Effect", respected astronomer John Gribbon and Stephen Plagemann predicted that the alignment of seven planets on March 10, 1982, would cause global earthquakes, massive flooding, change the earth's rotation, and other world-wide calamities.







1941, 1975 -- Jehovah's Witness: Armageddon, end of world 1955 -- Dorothy Martin & Dr. Charles Laughead: Earth would be destroyed; aliens would save them 1982 -- John Gribbon & Stephen Plagemann: planets would align; widespread catastrophes 1977 -- William Branham: visited by angels who said Jesus would return



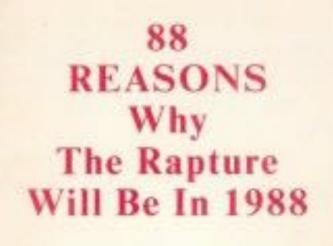
William Branham climbed Sunset Mountain in Arizona, returning to claim that he had met with seven angels who revealed the meaning of the seven seals in the book of Revelation and that Jesus would return in 1977.







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The Feast of Trumpets (Rosh-Hash-Ana) September 11-12-13 MATT C. IF STREET, 18

New Expanded Edition Two Books in One - See other Cover

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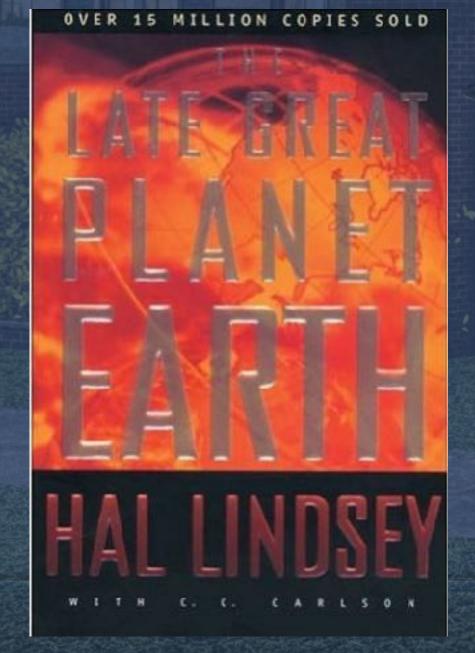


Edgar Whisenant, retired NASA engineer, sold 4.5 million copies of "88 Reasons Why the Rapture Will Be in 1988"... then a book predicting 1989... then 1993... then 1994...





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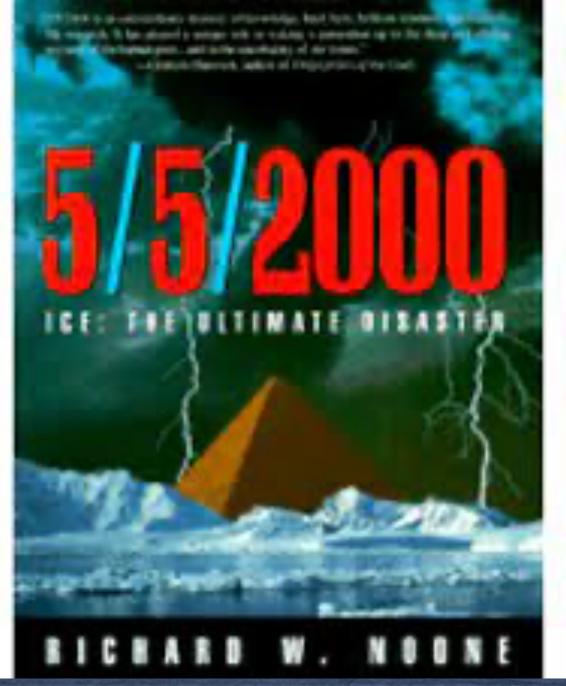
Hal Lindsey sold millions of books predicted that the world would end... 40 years (one generation) after the D founding of Israel... then it was sometime before the end of the 1990's... then the 2000's... then it was 40 years after the war of 1967...

False Prophets



99(

1941, 1975 -- Jehovah's Witness: Armageddon, end of world 1955 -- Dorothy Martin & Dr. Charles Laughead: Earth would be destroyed; aliens would save them 1982 -- John Gribbon & Stephen Plagemann: planets would align; widespread catastrophes 1977 -- William Branham: visited by angels who said Jesus would return 1988, 1989, 1993, 1994 -- Edgar Whisenant, NASA engineer: the Rapture 1988, 1990's, 2007 -- Hal Lindsey: world would end 1994, May 2011, October 2011 -- Harold Camping: end of the world 2000 -- Richard Noone: global cooling, Ice Age, extinction of life on earth







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False Prophets

Marshall Applewhite taught that the earth would soon be "recycled" and true followers needed to evacuate earth and join a spaceship, hiding in the Hale-Bopp comet, that was coming to rescue them. In a mass suicide on March 24-26, 1997, 39 followers followed this prediction to their death. Heaven's Gate is still an active organization.



December 21, 2012

One of the last great apocalypses was scheduled for 2012 based on an ancient Mayan calendar.

Still here!



God had a pretty high standard for His prophets...

If what a prophet proclaims in the name of the Lord does not take place or come true, that is a message the Lord has not spoken. That prophet has spoken presumptuously. Do not be afraid of him.

(Deuteronomy 18:22)



The Messianic Prophecies

There are differences of opinion as to exactly how many + "Messianic" prophecies exist within the Old Testament.

The very conservative scholars number them greater than 50, + while some go as high as 400 or more.

Josh McDowell identified 61 major, clear, "no doubt" prophecies + that pointed to the coming of the Messiah.







This was THE prophetic theme of all the Jewish Scriptures.

MESSIAH

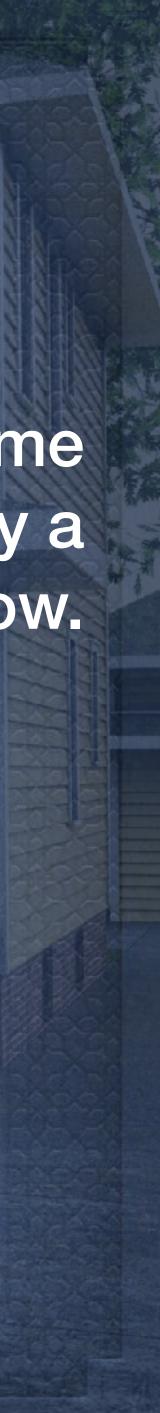


It's just a strange coincidence that Jesus happened to fulfill all the prophecies.

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910

This would be like the same person winning the lottery a hundred times in a row.





The Messianic prophecies were created "after the fact."

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910

The Dead Sea Scrolls put this argument to rest.





Jesus self-fulfilled the prophecies because He had a "Messiah complex."

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910

Possible for some, but the vast majority of the prophecies were completely out of His control if He was only Human.





Odds are that if you have enough prophecies, you can get a couple of them right.

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910

The number of fulfilled prophecies (and the lack of any that were wrong) is a strong refutation of this.





The so-called prophecies are merely cherry-picked, taken out of context.

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910

This is an argument from someone who hasn't looked at the actual prophecies or the biblical context.





The Messianic Prophecies

Dr. Peter Stoner and his students worked for more than 10 years calculating the odds that one man could have fulfilled just eight of the Messianic prophecies...

The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2)
The Messiah will be preceded by a messenger. (Malachi 3:1)
The Messiah will come to Jerusalem riding on a colt. (Zechariah 9:9)
The Messiah will be betrayed by a friend. (Zechariah 13:6)
The Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12)
The Messiah's betrayer will throw the silver on the floor of the temple. (Zechariah 11:13)
The Messiah will not speak in His own defense. (Isaiah 53:7)
The Messiah's hands and feet will be pierced. (Psalm 22:16)

William Holman Hunt The Light of the World" 1827-1910



Primer on "Odds"

If the prophecies were just that the Messiah would be male, then the odds that a man would fulfill those prophesies would be about...

But, how about eight prophecies? How would you calculate those odds?
The Messiah will be born in Bethlehem; AND
The Messiah will come to Jerusalem riding on a colt; AND
The Messiah's hands and feet will be pierced; AND etc.

1 in 2 (50%)



The Final Conclusion?

What are the odds that Jesus fulfilled just eight of the prophecies? One in 100 quadrillion! What are the odds that Jesus would fulfilled 48 of the prophecies! One in "x," where "x" is a number so large we can't imagine it! Dr. Stoner used this analogy: If you took this number of electrons and compressed them into a solid ball, the ball would have a diameter of 6 billion light years. But that's just one ball. You'd need 6 x 10 to the 28th power balls to contain all the electrons!

Think of the odds for McDowell's 61 prophecies? How about 100? 400?



All of these prophecies pointed to one Man...



Jesus of Nazareth

Coincidence? Fabrication?



All the prophets pointed to Him...

Service

Jesus: "What are you discussing?" Disciples: "Are you clueless?" Jesus: "About what?"

Jesus, resurrected, encounters two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They don't recognize Him...



All the prophets pointed to Him...



These disciples explain about Jesus, a mighty prophet, whom they hoped would redeem Israel, crucified by the chief priests and rulers, and now rumors that He was alive, risen from the dead.

Jesus: "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken!"

And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:13-35)



A Perfect Match

So, through the mass of humanity, we see the scarlet thread that runs from Adam and Eve, through Noah, through Abraham, through Isaac, through Jacob, through David...

All pointing to and ending in this Man: + Jesus, the Nazarene, the Christ, the promised Messiah. The last words of Jesus: + "I am the root and offspring of David, the bright and morning star."

The genealogical thumbprint matches perfectly!

He was, and is, the promised Messiah, the prophesied Christ.



So what's the problem?

It's not an evidential problem. Never has been, never will be.

It's a moral problem. It's a heart problem.

Sadly, we just don't want Him.



"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..."

Galatians 4:4



"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..."

This conveys more than just the notion that God was waiting for the right moment... It conveys that there was a plan, a script, a composition that was reaching its crescendo.

It didn't just happen... It didn't just emerge as a fortunate opportunity in the randomness of time and events.

Galatians 4:4



Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say; My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please. From the east I summon a bird of prey; from a far-off land, a man to fulfill my purpose. What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.

(Isaiah 46:9-11)



"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..."

This is the kairos moment that all history was waiting and preparing for... All the prophecies were set... All the promises were on deposit...

The tree of the genealogical Seed Line had been nurtured and protected, and was now ripe to bring forth its prophesied and promised fruit.

Galatians 4:4



"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman..."

Everything pointed toward and converged upon this moment...

Malachi ended the Jewish scriptures with this tantalizing word: Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD...

(Malachi 4:5)

Galatians 4:4



Then everything goes dark.

Revelation ceases.

400 years of silence...



THEN...EVERYTHING GOES DARK... IT WOULD BE LIKE A 400-YR PAUSE IN HANDEL'S MESSIAH...



Everything went dark...

Revelation ceased...

The heavens break open with blinding light and things start to go crazy. A child is born to a virgin named Mary, who was instructed by an angel to name her son Jesus because He would save His people from their sins.

Until...



All Heaven Breaks Loose

An angel appears to Zechariah stating Malachi's prophecy is going to be fulfilled through Zechariah's son.

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary announcing that she would supernaturally conceive and bear the promised Messiah.

Elisabeth miraculously conceives in her old age and Mary conceives as a virgin.

Joseph is visited by numerous angels telling him to not divorce Mary, later, angels would appear to him and warn him to go to Egypt, then to come back from Egypt, then to go to Nazareth.





All Heaven Breaks Loose

John leaps in Elisabeth's womb; she and Mary prophesy by the Holy Spirit.

Zechariah, supernaturally struck dumb, now supernaturally speaks and prophesies after John's birth.

One angel, followed by an entire host of angels, appears to the shepherds announcing the Messiah is born.

The stars align themselves in the sky as the Magi watch the choreography with awe.





All Heaven Breaks Loose

The Magi are miraculously warned not to return to Herod.

Simeon, who had been supernaturally promised that he would not die before he saw the Christ, now stands and prophesies on the Temple steps as he holds the baby Jesus, the Son of God, the Messiah, in his arms.

What an explosion of heavenly activity!





The Promise was Fulfilled

William Holman Hunt "The Light of the World"



The Promise was Fulfilled

Matthew begins his account with a genealogy: "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham..."

The Messiah could not come from just anywhere on Earth. He couldn't come from Tibet. He couldn't be from Rome, Beijing, or Chicago. He couldn't be Chinese, Caucasian, Hispanic, African, or an alien from outer space.



+

He had to come from a very tiny, very specific Seed Line. He had to be born in a little town called Bethlehem of Judea. He had to be born at exactly the right moment, as the seed of a woman...

A virgin...



When the sin of the world would have destroyed all of mankind, God spared the Seed Line through Noah.

When the Seed Line would have been destroyed by idolatry, God preserved "six thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal."

When the Seed Line would have been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar, God preserved a remnant.

Whenever Satan attempted to destroy the Seed, God preserved it.



Was hope lost when Israel was conquered and taken into Assyrian captivity? No.

Was hope lost when Judah was taken into Babylonian captivity? No.

Was hope lost when everything went silent for 400 years after Malachi finished his prophetic utterances? No.

Was hope lost when the nation was divided? No.



The prophecies and the promises remained firm and sure. The Seed Line was preserved.

For this kairos moment...



The silence was finally broken, and Gabriel came to a woman and declared that she was going to be the one to bear the Child.

The Seed...



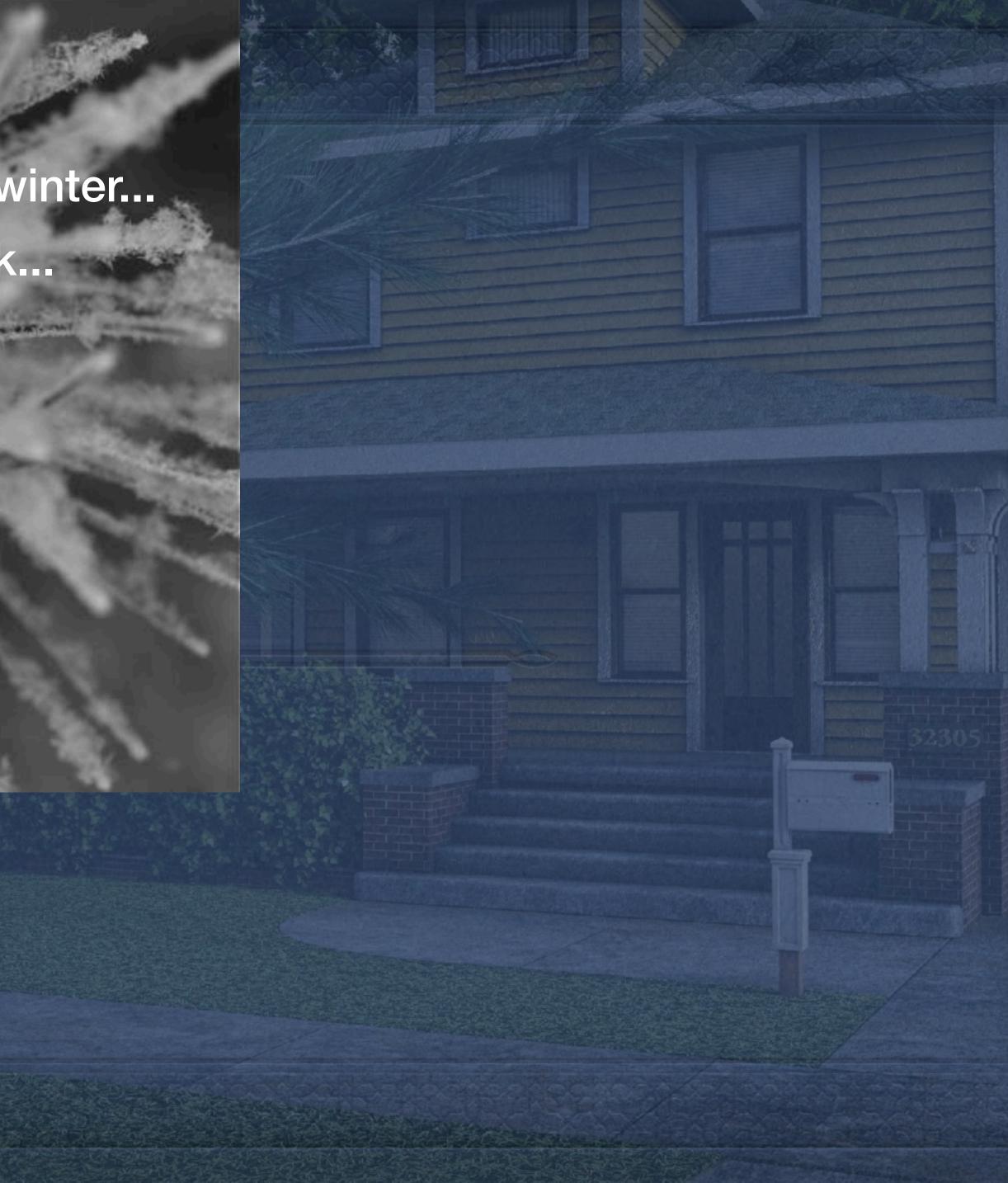
...the holy seed is in its stump. (Isaiah 6:13)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

(Isaiah 11:1)



When it seems like it is always winter... When everything goes dark...





The Conductor is waiting for just the right moment...



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)



The Promise Realized



Who is Jesus? The Question Pursued... the promise and the prophecy + His life and death + the resurrection + the claim of deity is Jesus the only way? + how to handle the questions +

