

The Prophecy of the Lord

I once read of a book bearing the title *Reasons I Believe the Bible is God's Word*. In fact, many books have been written on this topic. You and I believe the Bible is God's Word because we are faith-walkers. We do not have to be convinced. We accept the Bible as the Word of God through an act of faith.

However, if I were an outsider, an unbeliever, and I took the time to examine the Bible, I can think of one discourse that would go far in convincing me the Bible is God's Word. That one topic is the accuracy of the prophesy concerning the life of the God-man named Jesus. So, let us look at some articles of prophecy concerning that personality Jesus who, as God, became man 2000 years ago when he stepped out of the balconies of Heaven into the womb of a virgin.

His manner of coming

Not as a roaring lion appearing unannounced, not as a king riding in a mighty chariot, but through the womb of a woman.

Isa 9:6 *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.*

Isa 7:14 *Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a **virgin** shall conceive, and bear a **son**, and shall call his name Immanuel.*

Prophet Isaiah wrote this prophecy 700 years before conception. I can close my eyes and imagine God in Heaven guiding the pen of Prophet Isaiah making sure he got every jot and tittle correct.

- A **child**, not a mighty man of valor. Not a king riding a great horse. Not a roaring lion.
- A **son**, male. Herod slew all children, male and female, for he knew not the gender of Jesus
- A **virgin**, Mary had never known man.

Now, let us go to the New Testament. In Matthew chapter 2, seven times Jesus is referred to as a **child**. The wise man looked for a **child**, and they found him. In Mt 1:19 we read *Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily.* Joseph feared the shame of the public for his wife was with child and had not yet known may. Pregnant Mary was the **virgin** and in her womb was the **son** Isaiah had written about 700 years earlier. This is not an accident.

His birthplace

Micah 5:2 *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.*

I had no control over where I was to be born. No man chose his place of birth. Jesus birthplace was chosen. Mic 5:2 *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.* The Prophet Micah penned the location of Christ's birth 700 years before he was born. There were other cities in the region named Bethlehem. Notice how precise God is. He added Ephratah to Bethlehem to precisely distinguish the location of Christ's birth. The Bible is God's Word.

Now, let us go to the time of his birth in the New Testament. Mt 2:1 *Now when Jesus was born in **Bethlehem of Judaea** in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,*

His mission in coming

He was a **given** son as we read in Isa 9:6 *unto us a son is given.* This was recorded 700 years before his birth.

The world has never had a gift like the gift of God's only begotten Son. He had no life to speak of. Jesus's life was not his own. Have you ever read where he went fishing with his brother? Have you ever read where he went on vacation with his parents? He was the **given** Son that mankind may receive him and have eternal life. He had no time for himself. He had no days-off. He had no hobbies. He had no place of employment. He had no address. His life was given to do the will of the father, and that was to rescue mankind that had been lost to sin in the garden of Eden.

John 4:34 *Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do **the will of him that sent me**, and to finish his work.*

The Scripture records that the day came when the given Son lay down his life on Mt. Calvary for the sins of the people.

His manner of death

Looking back 700+ years before Jesus's birth, let us read *Isa 53:7-8 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is **brought as a lamb to the slaughter**, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. Isa 50:6 I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.*

The Prophet Jeremiah penned the following words some 580 years before Christ's birth: *Lam 3:30 He giveth his cheek to him that smiteth him: he is filled full with reproach.*

Going to the cruelty of his death, we turn to Matthew 27 (read) in the New Testament.

In addition to the cruel manner of his death, we find he had company in death. This was prophesied in *Isa 53:12 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.*

Going to the New Testament, it is written in Mt 27:38 *Then were there **two thieves** crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left.* In the hour of death, he was identified with criminals. Let us not forget that another criminal, Barabbas, was preferred over Jesus by the crowd.

Do you know in advance the manner of your death? Heart attack? Cancer? Accident? No one knows how they will die. Jesus surely did for he spoke in Jn 3:14 *And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:*

His resurrection

We learned of a whale swallowing a man in the book of Jonah. Jonah died while in the whale's belly. His soul and spirit left his body and went into the heart of the earth. On the third day, his soul and spirit returned to his body in the whale's belly. That same day, the whale vomited him out onto dry land. The story of Jonah and the whale was recorded some 750 years before Christ.

Seven hundred and fifty years later, Jesus prophesied in the New Testament Mt 12:40 *For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.* On the third and appointed day, Jesus's soul and spirit reunited with his body in the tomb, and he walked out.

His future

Seven hundred years before his coming, the Prophet Isaiah penned down these words: *Isa 9:6 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. Isa 9:7 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.*

The government shall be upon Jesus's shoulders? When he came, the government rejected him. Is there even one place in the Scripture where the leaders and their government endorsed Jesus? So, then, what was on the heart of Isaiah when he penned down these two verses.

There is a day in the near future when Jesus shall reign supremely over the earth. He will sit upon the throne of David in Jerusalem after he has broken the nations with a rod of iron as recorded in Psalm 2:9 *Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel.* Jesus has never been the ruler of this earth. When he came to the earth 2000 years ago, he was cruelly crucified. This world had yet to hear the last word from God.

Yes, I am convinced the Bible is the Word of God.