

AMAZING DISCOVERY 2 IS JESUS REALLY THE PROMISED MESSIAH, THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD?

INTRODUCTION

Why bother with Jesus? The prophecies (predictions) concerning His birth, His life, the miracles He performed, His words, death, resurrection and ascension set Him apart from all others who ever lived. Let us now examine in detail these aspects.

PURPOSE OF THE PROPHECIES:

Prophetic messages in the Bible were given so that, they will not surprise us or cause us to be sceptical. Jesus said, "I have told you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe Me." (John 14:29).

- Comparing the prophecies recorded in the Old, and their fulfilment in the New Testament of the Holy Bible hundreds of years later play a vital role in determining who the promised Messiah is.

(Every prophecy that originates from God must come true because God does not lie. Fortune telling originates from man and therefore its fulfilment depends on chance.)

With that as background let us examine just 3 prophecies concerning the Messiah.

I. PROPHECIES and their FULFILMENT

- Prophecy 1

- A MESSENGER to PRECEDE to bear WITNESS of the MESSIAH. (750 BC).

"Listen I hear the voice of someone shouting, 'Make a road for the Lord through the wilderness; make him a straight, smooth road through the desert. Fill the valleys; level the hills; straighten out the crooked paths and smooth off the rough spots in the road. The glory of the Lord will be seen by all mankind together' " 'The Lord has spoken— it shall be' (Isaiah 40:3-5).

- Announcement: (Prior to fulfilment): MIRACULOUS CONCEPTION of the Messenger (1 BC).

An angel appears to Zacharias, the High Priest as he was worshipping in the temple. Zacharias was terrified, but the angel said,

- "Don't be afraid, Zacharias! For I have come to tell you that God has heard your prayer, and your wife Elizabeth

(Romans 3:4, "God's word will always prove true and right no matter who questions them.")

will bear you a son! And you are to name him John. ...and he will precede the coming of the Messiah, preparing the people for His arrival.." Zacharias said to the angel,

- " 'But this is impossible! I am an old man now, and my wife is also well along in years (*beyond child bearing age*).' (v. 7 says, she was 'barren' too). Then the angel said,

• " 'I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was He who sent me to you with this good news! And because you haven't believed me, you are to be stricken silent, unable to speak until the child is born. For my words will certainly come true at the proper time.' When he finally came out, he couldn't speak to them, and they realised from his gestures that he must have seen a vision in the temple " (Luke 1:11-23).

- Fulfilment: BIRTH of the MESSENGER (1AD).

- "By now Elizabeth's waiting was over..., for the baby to be born — and it was a boy. 'So they asked the baby's father for the name, ...to everyone's surprise he wrote, 'His name is John!' Instantly Zacharias could speak again, and he began praising God" (Luke 1: 57-66).

- John's MESSAGE was: "...A voice of one calling in the desert, prepare the way for the Lord, make a straight path for Him," (Luke 3:4) (just as Isaiah prophesied 40:3-5).

As John was baptising a crowd in the Jordan River, Jesus appeared and John baptised Him too. As He was praying after baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him (*Jesus*) in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came from heaven: "You are My beloved Son (*Jesus*), ... with you I am well pleased" (Luke 3:21-22)". John was a witness when God announced Jesus as His beloved Son. This fulfilled the prophecy.

- Prophecy 2

- THE BIRTH PLACE of the Messiah.

Micah the prophet wrote hundreds of years before the Messiah's birth where He would be born (750BC).

"O Bethlehem Ephratha, you are but a small Judean village, yet you will be the birth-place of my King, who is alive from everlasting ages past!" (Micah 5:2). *This prophecy pinpoints the precise location of the Messiah's birthplace.*

- Announcement: DECREE by CAESAR AUGUSTUS to take a census.

"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria, and everyone went to his own town to register" (Luke 2:1-3) (2 BC)."

- Fulfilment: MARY & JOSEPH REGISTER" under the decree (1 AD).

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem of Judea, to the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child" (Luke 2:4- 5).

- Prophecy 3

- VIRGIN BIRTH of the Messiah, a MIRACULOUS SIGN to Identify the HIM. (750BC).

Isaiah the prophet wrote the following under the inspiration of God 750 years before the birth of the promised Messiah: "All right then, the Lord Himself will choose the 'SIGN' — a child shall be born to a virgin! And she shall call Him Immanuel (meaning, 'God is with us')" (Isaiah 7:14).

- Announcement (prior to birth): CONCEPTION of the MESSIAH" (1BC).

"These are the facts concerning the birth of Jesus.

- "His mother, Mary, was engaged to be married to Joseph. But while she was still a virgin she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit. Then Joseph her fiancé, being a man of stern principle, decided to break the engagement but to do it quietly, as he didn't want to publicly disgrace her. As he lay awake considering this, he fell into a dream, and saw an angel standing beside him" (Matthew 1:18-20).

- "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "don't hesitate to take Mary as your wife! For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a Son, and you shall name him JESUS (meaning Saviour), for He will save his people from their sins. This will fulfil God's message through his prophets" (Matthew 1:21-22).

- "When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel commanded, and brought Mary home to be his wife, but she remained a virgin until her Son was born" (Matthew 1:23-25).

- Fulfilment: BIRTH of the MESSIAH"

"While they were there (in Bethlehem) the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn" (Luke 2:6-7) (1AD). " ...And he (Joseph) gave him the name 'JESUS' " (Matthew 1:25).

- Prophecy 1 was fulfilled when the Messenger, John, was born six months before the Messiah (Luke 1:36-45).

- Prophecies 2 and 3 were fulfilled simultaneously when Virgin Mary gave birth to a SON in BETHLEHEM of Judea and named him Jesus according to God's instruction. It is AMAZING, almost UNBELIEVABLE! But nothing is impossible with God! Read Gospel of Matthew for more information.

II. MIRACLES of Jesus bear witness that He is the MESSIAH (Luke 7:22)

(Magic is performed through human trickery. Miracles are performed by God's mighty power.) To mention a few,

- ◆ He changed water into wine (John 2:11)
- ◆ Demoniac in the temple healed (Luke 4:34)
- ◆ A widow's dead son raised from dead (Luke 7:14-15)
- ◆ Lazarus was raised from dead (John 11:41-44)
- ◆ Storm stilled (Matt. 8:27)
- ◆ A blind man from birth received sight (John 9:33)
- ◆ Deaf and dumb healed (Mark 7:35)

Reaction from people who saw these miracles: "Since the world began there has never been anyone who could open the eyes of someone born blind. If this man were not from God, he couldn't do it. Many people recognised Him as the Messiah."

III. RESURRECTION of Jesus from the DEAD proves that He has power over death.

- ◆ "The angel spoke to the women. 'Don't be frightened!' he said, 'I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified, but He isn't here! For He has come back to life again, just as He said He would' " (Matthew 28:5-6).
- ◆ "By being raised from the dead He proved Himself to be the Son of God with the holy nature of God Himself" (Romans 1:4).

Dear friend, Jesus has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that He is the promised Messiah the Saviour of the world. He also said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father (God) but through Me" (John 14: 6).

Now it is for us to decide whether to accept him or not. Perhaps you may be asking, "How can I receive Jesus as my Saviour and Lord?"

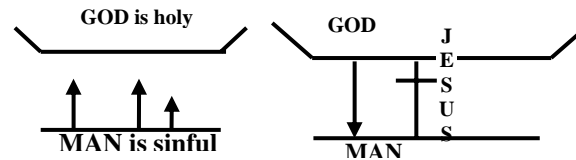
IV. HOW TO RECEIVE CHRIST?

- We agree with God that we have sinned. Because God says, "All have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

He says, "God's laws are written within them; their own conscience accuses them, or sometimes excuses them"

(Romans 2:15). When we disobey God's laws we sin.

"The wages of sin is death (Spiritual separation from God), but, "The free gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).



Think of it! Meditate for a moment how much Jesus suffered and died for your sins. Jesus said, "And here is how to measure genuine love – the greatest love is shown when a person lays down his life for his friends. And you are my friends if you obey Me" (John 15:13-14). And He did just that for you and for me. "God so loved the world that gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him (JESUS) should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

- We must believe that Jesus is the only way to God. He said, "I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6).
- Then we must receive Him into our lives. He said, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come into him" (Revelation 3:20).

This circle represents self-controlled life:

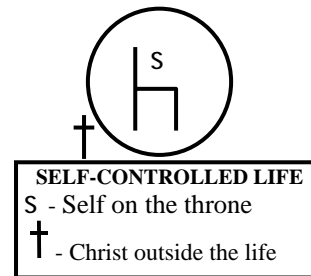
Jesus is waiting outside your life seeking permission to come in as shown in this circle. Jesus said, "The thief's purpose is to steal, kill and destroy, My purpose is to give life in all its fullness" (John 10:10).

- You can open the door of your life (receive Him) by inviting Jesus to come into your life by faith through a simple prayer. God is not concerned about the words as He is with the attitude of your heart. Here is a suggested prayer:

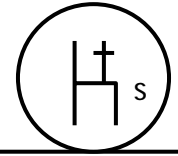
"Lord Jesus, I need you. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sins. I open the door of my life and receive You as my Saviour and Lord. Thank You for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Take control of the throne of my life. Make me the kind of person You want me to be. Amen."

If you prayed that prayer in faith many things happened including the following:

- ◆ Jesus came into your life as shown in this circle (Rev. 3:20).



- ◆ Your sins were forgiven (Colossians 1:14).
- ◆ You became a child of God (John 1:12).
- ◆ You received eternal life (1John 5:11-13).



CHRIST-DIRECTED LIFE
S – Yielded to Christ
† -- Christ on the throne

You invite Jesus to come in to your life only once, because He said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

"And God has reserved for His children the priceless gift of eternal life; it is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. And God in His mighty power will make sure that you get there safely to receive it, because you are trusting him. It will be yours in that last day for all to see. So be truly glad! There is wonderful joy ahead, even though the going is rough for a while down here" (1 Peter 1:4-6).

Would you like to thank God in prayer right now for what He has done for you? Here is a thanksgiving prayer:

"Dear God, I thank you for forgiving all my sins, giving me eternal life and making me a child of God. Thank you for coming into my life and for promising that you will never leave me nor forsake me. This I pray in the name of Jesus. Amen." The very act of thanking God demonstrates faith.

I trust that your desire to know, "IS JESUS REALLY THE PROMISED MESSIAH, THE SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD" is answered. Share this GOOD NEWS with your loved ones so that they too can know Him personally as their Saviour and Lord.

For more information please call Mr. N. Sankaran at

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For your Spiritual growth, please attend regularly a nearby church where Jesus is honoured and the Bible is taught.