

HOME BIBLE STUDY

~ Lesson 3 ~ WHO IS JESUS?

The first two lessons have given evidence for your faith in God and for your faith in the Bible as being God's word. This study is written to show who Jesus is and why we need Him. Please take a Bible and look up the verses that are cited. You will be GREATLY benefited by doing this.

FACT 1 PROPHECIES ABOUT JESUS

In our last study, we saw some examples of fulfilled prophecy, which show the Bible is inspired of God. Let us now look at a few of the 300 fulfilled prophecies about Jesus.

In the beginning God created a garden paradise and placed man and woman there (Gen. 1-2). Here, mankind had open fellowship with God. At some point, Adam and Eve **sinned by disobeying God** (Gen. 3). For this they were cast out of God's presence and out of His garden. Sin entered the world through Adam and Eve, and **separation from God** resulted. The rest of the Bible is about how a Holy and Pure God justly provides a way to save men from sin and restore them into fellowship with Him. This is the central theme of the Bible.

The Bible records that God gave the first promise of redemption in Genesis 3:15. Here God said that the seed of woman would step on the head of the serpent (defeat Satan). At the same time, it was predicted that the serpent would "bruise the heel" of the seed of woman. What this looked forward to was the suffering Savior.

Later, we find that God chose Abraham to start a new nation (Genesis

12). God did this so that through Abraham's seed He could send one to bless "all the families of the earth" (Gen. 12:1-3). The prophecies that follow this one narrow down the selection of which descendant of Abraham God would use. The Promised One would be of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:8-12), through the house of King David (Is. 9:6-7), and born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2). Moses predicted that one would come "like unto me" (Deut. 18:15-19). Some prophets were even given details about the death and exaltation of the Promised One. For example, Isaiah 53 says He would be with the wicked in death and with the rich.

Jesus fulfilled all these prophecies. By the virgin birth, He was the seed of woman, not man (Matthew 1:22-23). He was a descendant of Abraham (Matt. 1:2) through Judah and David (Matt. 1:2, 6). He was born in Bethlehem (Matt. 2:1-6). And Moses' prediction of a prophet coming like unto himself is fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3:22-26; 7:37, 52-60; John 1:21, 25, 29). Jesus fulfilled Isaiah 53 by dying between two thieves and being buried in the tomb of a rich man (Matt. 26:63; 27:38). These and MANY other prophecies are powerful evidence for our faith in Jesus as the One who would overcome Satan. Indeed, all the prophets spoke of Christ (Luke 24:25-27, 44; Acts 3:18, 21, 24; 10:43; 24:14).

FACT 2 ASTONISHING CLAIMS

If Jesus was just an ordinary man, then there are many things that He said that would not make sense. Consider the following examples: He spoke as one having authority, not as one who had to appeal to a higher authority (Matt. 7:28-29; John 7:32, 45-46). He spoke of Himself as the exclusive way to God, the Father (John 14:6). He claimed sinless perfection (John 8:46; Matt. 24:17-24). He stated

that He was able to forgive sins (Matt. 9:6). He claimed equality with the Father in His work (John 5:17-18, 23), in His **ever-existing nature** (John 8:21-25, 51-59), and in **glory** (John 17:3-5). In short, He claimed to be **God** come in the flesh (Matt. 1:23; John 1:1-2; Col. 2:9). He taught that confessing Him as the Divine Son is the foundation of His church (Matt. 16:13-18). He even predicted that He would die and be raised three days later (Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23; John 13:19; 14:29). If Jesus was JUST a man, how could He possibly make all these claims for Himself? Much less have any of them be true?

FACT 3 THE MIRACLES

Since Jesus came from God (John 8:42), it is only natural to expect that He could **prove** His claims. This He did by performing countless miracles. He healed the blind, the lame, lepers, the deaf, and even raised the dead (Matt. 11:2-6). It is written that, "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but **these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God**; and that believing ye may have life in His name." (John 20:30-31)

While there were prophets who had come before that had worked miracles, none had done so many and such great ones as Jesus. Even those who saw Him said, "When the Christ shall come, will He do more signs than those which this man hath done?" (John 7:31) Clearly, Jesus is greater than all the prophets, greater than Abraham, greater than even Moses. Jesus is the

Promised One who would save men from their sins (John 1:29; 4:25-26).

FACT 4 HIS RESURRECTION

As noted before, Jesus made many claims. Among them He predicted that He would be murdered and then rise on the third day (Matt. 16:21; 17:22-23). When we read the gospel accounts (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) we read of the cruel treatment He received by jealous and ungodly men. We read where men mocked Him, scourged Him, spat upon His face, and even nailed Him to a cross. The agony He suffered was that of a man condemned for terrible crimes. Yet, He had committed no wrongs. He did not even lash out at His murderers; rather He prayed that the Father would forgive their ignorance (Luke 23:34). Even in His death, He was selfless. But that is not the end; for as He had prophesied, He arose on the third day! He conquered death, for it could not hold Him. How do we know? We know **because the Bible tells us so (Matt. 27:62 - 28:15)!** Remember that we have already studied **evidence** that shows the Bible is **from God**, that it is reliable and trustworthy. Therefore, we can base our faith upon it (Rom. 10:17).

Furthermore, we know that His disciples were fearful and cowardly at His arrest and trial (Matt. 26:56), yet were later willing to die for Him. What made them change? What could cause them to be willing to give their lives? The explanation that God's word gives is that the risen Savior appeared to them, proving that He was alive again (John 20:19 - 21:25). On one occasion there were over 500 eye-

witnesses at once (1 Cor. 15:3-8). This is more than enough evidence to prove something in a court of law. How much more, then, when the inspired word of God says that it is true!

CONCLUSION

To summarize what we have studied, we see that Jesus was not just a man. He was and is the Promised One of God. We see this in the fact that He fulfilled the prophecies of a coming Savior. We see this in His extraordinary claims and teachings. We see this by His great miracles, and ultimately in His own resurrection from death. It is through this risen Savior that we have assurance of the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16). AND He has promised the great blessing of eternal life in Heaven for those who are faithful (John 14:1-2).

"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"He was despised, and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and as one from whom men hide their face he was despised; and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and Jehovah hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." (Isaiah 53:3-6)

"And he said unto them, O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Behooved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory? And beginning from Moses and from all the prophets, he

interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

"And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these words, the multitudes were astonished at his teaching: for he taught them as one having authority, and not as their scribes." (Matt. 7:28-29)

"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

"But of the multitude many believed on him; and they said, When the Christ shall come, will he do more signs than those which this man hath done?" (John 7:31)

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God sent not the Son into the world to judge the world; but that the world should be saved through him. He that believeth on him is not judged: he that believeth not hath been judged already, because he hath not believed on the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the judgment, that the light is come into the world, and men loved the darkness rather than the light; for their works were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, and cometh not to the light, lest his works should be reproved. But he that doeth the truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest, that they have been wrought in God." (John 3:16-21)

"Moses indeed said, A prophet shall the Lord God raise up unto you from among your brethren, like unto me. To him shall ye hearken in all things whatsoever he shall speak unto you. And it shall be, that every soul that shall not hearken to that

prophet, shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.

Yea and all the prophets from Samuel and them that followed after, as many as have spoken, they also told of these days. Ye [the Jews] are the sons of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with your fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed [Jews and Gentiles]. Unto you first God, having raised up his Servant, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities." (Acts 3:22-26)

"But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.

And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them. Jesus cometh, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and see my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and put it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name." (John 20:24-31)

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the

books that should be written." (John 21:25)

Please complete the Home Bible Study questions page, then send it in to be checked. After checking it, we will return it with the next lesson in the series. Also, if you have any questions, please write them down and let us know. We are here to serve you and will point to the Bible for the answer to all things.

HOME BIBLE STUDY #3

N. Sparta church of Christ
359 North Spring Street
Sparta TN 38583

(931) 836-3321

NSCOC@Frontiernet.net
<http://frontiernet.net/~nscoc>