

Jesus Was Unique!

• Unique in His Birth

- There are over 300 prophecies in the OT about the Messiah. 60 of them major items.
- The most recent prophecy about the Messiah/Jesus was over 400 years before He came.
- The oldest prophecy was 1500 years before He came.
- Bible prophecies fulfilled by Jesus' birth - Partial List *
 - Below is a selection of prophecies in the Bible that found fulfillment in the birth of Jesus the Messiah about 2,000 years ago.
 - Isaiah foreshadowed the virgin birth of Jesus
 - Bible prophecy: *Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.*
 - Prophecy written: Between 701-681 BC
 - Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC
 - In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet Isaiah addresses the "house of David," meaning the family and descendants of King David, and speaks of a virgin being pregnant with a child, and giving birth to the child. Isaiah says this in the context of it being a sign from God. He also says that the child would be referred to as "Immanuel," which means, "God with us."
 - The New Testament books of Matthew and Luke record details involving the birth of Jesus, who was born about 700 years after the time of Isaiah, saying that he was born of the virgin Mary and is the Son of God. Because he is the Son of God, Jesus literally can be referred to as "God with us."
 - *Behold, the virgin*
 - Many people down play and even say He wasn't born from a Virgin.
 - Jesus had to be born of a virgin – the Devil knows this, most Christians don't understand this.
 - This is KEY. This kept Adam's original sin which we are all born with, that predestines us to Hell even if we had lived a sinful life, from being passed on to Jesus. Upon our birth we are going to Hell just because we are descendants of Adam! Original sin was passed down through the man. If Jesus wasn't born of a virgin, He could not be our Savior.
 - The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
 - In Micah 5:2, there is a prophecy that reveals that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the Messiah.
 - Bible prophecy: *Micah 5:1-2 1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."*
 - Prophecy written: Sometime between 750-686 BC
 - Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC
 - As pointed out in the book, 100 Prophecies, by George Konig and Ray Konig: "The prophecy is effective in a simple way: It eliminates all other cities and towns throughout the world as a place in which the Messiah could be born. It narrows the possibilities to one tiny village just south of Jerusalem."
 - And throughout the span of the past 27 centuries, from the days of the prophet Micah up through the present time, Bethlehem is credited as being

the birthplace for only one person who is widely known throughout the world. And that person is Jesus Christ.

- The New Testament books of Matthew and Luke name the town of Bethlehem as the birthplace of Jesus. Matthew 2:1-6 describes the birth of Jesus as the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy.
- "The King Messiah... from where does he come forth? From the royal city of Bethlehem in Judah." - Jerusalem Talmud, Berakoth 5a.
- The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah
 - Bible prophecy: *Genesis 49:10 - The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.*
 - Prophecy written: As early as 1400 BC
 - Prophecy fulfilled: About 5 BC
 - In Genesis 49:10, Jacob is blessing his 12 sons. This blessing was also a prophecy. Jacob told his son Judah that his descendants would be rulers and that one of his descendants will be an ultimate ruler. According to the NIV translation: "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." Christians acknowledge that this is a reference to Jesus Christ, whose kingdom will have no end. Jesus was born about 2000 years after Jacob died. Jesus' ancestry is traced back to Jacob's son, Judah, in Luke 3:23-34 and in Matthew 1:1-16. Today, there are some estimates that claim that there are as many as 2 billion Christians worldwide who follow the teachings of Jesus.
- The Messiah would be a descendant of King David
 - Bible prophecy: *Jeremiah 23:5 - "The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land.*
 - Prophecy written: Sometime between 626-586 BC
 - Prophecy fulfilled: By the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago
 - In Jeremiah 23:5, as well as in other Bible prophecies, we are told that the Messiah would be a descendant of King David.
 - The New Testament books of Matthew and Luke trace back Jesus' genealogy to King David. (Some scholars believe that the genealogy in Matthew is Jesus' legal line, through his adoptive father, Joseph, and that the genealogy in Luke is Jesus' bloodline through Mary).
 - Notes: The commentaries above are summaries from the book 100 Prophecies: Ancient Biblical prophecies that foretold the future. Copyright © Ray Konig.
 - *Matt. 1:23, "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,"*
 - This verse is a fulfillment of prophecy that was made over 700 years earlier by Isaiah.
- List from <http://www.100prophecies.org/page2.htm> The commentaries below are from the second edition of the book, *100 Prophecies*, by George Konig and Ray Konig, who are the authors and copyright holders of the material. The commentaries are reprinted here with written permission from the authors. The third edition, revised and expanded, of *100 Prophecies: Ancient Biblical prophecies that foretold the future* is available through Amazon.com.

● Unique in His Life

- *Napoleon Bonaparte - I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man. Between him and every other person in the world there is no possible term of comparison. Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne, and I founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon*

force. Jesus Christ founded His empire upon love; and at this hour millions of people would die for Him.

- He has influenced more people than anybody in History.
- It is estimated that 1,000,000,000 people right now believe that Jesus Christ is Lord.
- There are more people right now that believe in Jesus Christ than have believed in Him in all of History combined.
- Our modern dating method started with Him. B.C. - Before Christ A.D. After Death
- All of western civilization is based on biblical ethics.
 - Under Cesar's/Rome and Kings - Philosophy was "Rex is Lex" - King is Law.
 - Under Christian Influence - radical approach "Lex is Rex" - Law is King.
 - Before this time kings made the laws and you followed them.
- The constitution summed it up well - There are certain unalienable rights. Well where did these rights come from - A HIGHER LAW - recognition that there was a God.
- Consider His influence when He never wrote a book, never spoke on TV, never made tapes, sent out newsletters, never traveled more than 100 miles from his birth place. Yet His message spread rapidly around the world with just a hand few of people to do it with under Great PERSECUTION.
- Jesus Claimed to Be God!
 - *John 8:52-59, "...Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM..."*
 - The Israelites knew what He was claiming - that's why they picked up stones to try and kill Him.
 - *Mark 14:60-64, "...I AM; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming with the clouds of Heaven.'..."*
 - The high priest knew what Jesus what saying. That's why he rent his clothes and yelled blasphemy.
 - This is IMPORTANT, other religious leaders, did not claim to be God:
 - Confucious, Gandhi, or Muhammed - they all claimed to either be great religious men or prophets, BUT NOT GOD!
 - *Jesus said, John 14:6, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me"*
 - He didn't say you could take a multiple choice test or there were many ways to God.
 - Many people will try to dilute this and say something like: "I believe Jesus was a Great Moral Teacher
 - !! They can't say this because Jesus didn't give them this option – You Can't Be Neutral!!
 - *I am trying here to prevent anyone saying the really foolish thing that people often say about 'Him': I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God. That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic - on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg - or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You must make your choice. Either this man was, and is, the Son of God: or else a madman or something worse." – C. S. Lewis*

● Unique in His Death

- Prophecies Fulfilled About His Death *
 - He fulfilled 29 prophecies in the last few days alone.
 - The Messiah Will Be Rejected By His Own People
 - *Isaiah 53:1, 3 – "Who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power? He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised, and we did not care."*
 - Chapters 40–55 in the book of Isaiah address the people in exile in Babylon – directly before the time of their return – about 538 B.C.
 - Chapter 53 is known as the great prophecy of the Suffering Servant.
 - The Fulfillment

- *John 1:10-11 – “But although the world was made through Him, the world didn’t recognize Him when He came. Even in His own land and among His own people, He was not accepted.”*
 - *John 12:37-38 – “But despite all the miraculous signs He had done, most of the people did not believe in Him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: ‘Lord, who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power?’”*
 - *Matthew 26:3-4 – “At that same time the leading priests and other leaders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, to discuss how to capture Jesus secretly and put Him to death.”*
- **The Messiah Will Be Betrayed By One Of His Followers**
 - *Psalm 41:9 – “Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” (NIV)*
 - *Psalm 55:12-13 – “It is not an enemy who taunts me – I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me – I could have hidden from them. Instead, it is you – my equal, my companion and close friend.”*
 - Psalm 41 is a psalm of David. He speaks of his own isolation and his trust in God. He describes how the sharing of food unites people in loyalty and friendship.
 - Psalm 55 is a psalm of David as well. In this psalm, he outlines the betrayal of a trusted friend, who was seemingly a follower of God.
 - Both of these psalms prophesy the betrayal of Jesus by a close and trusted friend.
 - **The Fulfillment**
 - *Matthew 26:47, 49-50a – “And even as He said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent out by the leading priests and other leaders of the people. So Judas came straight to Jesus. ‘Greetings, Teacher!’ he exclaimed and gave Him the kiss. Jesus said, ‘My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.’”*
 - *Luke 22:21-22, 47b – “ ‘But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray Me. For I, the Son of Man, must die since it is part of God’s plan. But how terrible it will be for My betrayer!’ A mob approached, led by Judas, one of His twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus and greeted Him with a kiss.”*
 - *John 13:18, 21, 26 – “ ‘I am not saying these things to all of you; I know so well each one of you I chose. The Scriptures declare, “The one who shares My food has turned against Me,” and this will soon come true’. Now Jesus was in great anguish of spirit, and He exclaimed, ‘The truth is, one of you will betray Me!’ Jesus said, ‘It is the one to whom I give the bread dipped in the sauce.’ And when He had dipped it, He gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot.”*
- **The Messiah Will Be Betrayed For 30 Pieces Of Silver**
 - *Zechariah 11:12-13 – “And I said unto them, ‘If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.” (KJV)*
 - In chapter 11 of the book of Zechariah, the prophet refers to 30 shekels of silver as a “goodly price.” This amount also refers to the amount paid for the

life of a slave. Zechariah's prophecy speaks about the amount paid for the Lord and His life.

- The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 26:14-16 – “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, ‘How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?’ And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for the right time and place to betray Jesus.”*
 - *Matthew 27:3-4a – “When Judas, who had betrayed Him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and other leaders. ‘I have sinned,’ he declared, ‘for I have betrayed an innocent man.’”*
- The Messiah Will Be Tried And Condemned
 - *Isaiah 53:8 – “From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment?”*
 - Written in 538 B.C., chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:1-2 – “Very early in the morning, the leading priests and other leaders met again to discuss how to persuade the Roman government to sentence Jesus to death. Then they bound Him and took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor.”*
 - *Luke 23:1, 23 – “The entire council took Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor. But the crowd shouted louder and louder for Jesus’ death, and their voices prevailed.”*
 - *Acts 4:26-28 – “The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against His Messiah.’ That is what has happened here in this city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, Your holy Servant, whom You anointed. In fact, everything they did occurred according to Your eternal will and plan.”*
- The Messiah Will Be Silent Before His Accusers
 - *Psalm 35:11 – “Malicious witnesses testify against me. They accuse me of things I don’t even know about.”*
 - *Isaiah 53:7-8a – “He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open His mouth. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death.”*
 - Psalm 27 is a psalm of David. In this hymn, he reassures those who are right with God that they have nothing to fear. He calls on God to pay back his enemies who have unjustly come against him. The prophecy in this psalm shows the confidence of the Messiah to entrust His life to God, who will answer and judge His accusers.
 - Again, the 53rd chapter of Isaiah was written in 538 B.C. It is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:12-14 – “But when the leading priests and other leaders made their accusations against Him, Jesus remained silent. ‘Don’t you hear their many charges against You?’ Pilate*

demanded. But Jesus said nothing, much to the governor's great surprise."

- *Mark 15:3-5 – "Then the leading priests accused Him of many crimes, and Pilate asked Him, 'Aren't You going to say something? What about all these charges against You?' But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate's surprise."*
- *1 Peter 2:22-23 – "He never sinned, and He never deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when He was insulted. When He suffered, He did not threaten to get even. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly."*
- The Messiah Will Be Smitten And Spat Upon
 - *Micah 5:1 – "Mobilize! Marshal your troops! The enemy is laying siege to Jerusalem. With a rod they will strike the leader of Israel in the face."*
 - *Isaiah 50:6 – "I give My back to those who beat Me and My cheeks to those who pull out My beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock Me and spit in My face."*
 - The book of Micah, by the prophet Micah, was written in the eighth century B.C. He describes how the restoration of God follows His judgment of sin. Micah describes the future of Jerusalem as the center of religious activity for the whole world.
 - Chapter 50 in the book of Isaiah was written in 538 B.C. In the Servant Song of Isaiah, chapter 50, we see the first glimpse of the Messiah's suffering and rejection.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 26:67-68 – "Then they spit in Jesus' face and hit Him with their fists. And some slapped Him, saying, 'Prophecy to us, You Messiah! Who hit You that time?'"*
 - *Matthew 27:30 – "And they spit on Him and grabbed the stick and beat Him on the head with it."*
 - *Mark 14:65a – "Then some of them began to spit at Him, and they blindfolded Him and hit His face with their fists."*
 - *Mark 15:19 – "And they beat Him on the head with a stick, spit on Him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship."*
 - *John 19:1-3 – "Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on His head, and they put a royal purple robe on Him. 'Hail! King of the Jews!' they mocked, and they hit Him with their fists."*
- The Messiah Will Be Mocked And Taunted
 - *Psalm 22:7-8 – "Everyone who sees Me, mocks Me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, 'Is this the One who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save Him! If the Lord loves Him so much, then let the Lord rescue Him!'"*
 - Psalm 22 is a psalm of David, and in it he describes an execution. The early portion of the psalm speaks of the Messiah's suffering; the later portion describes the universal deliverance the Messiah makes possible.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:39-40 – "And the people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. 'So! You can destroy the Temple and build it again in three days, can You? Well then, if You are the Son of God, save Yourself and come down from the cross!'"*
 - *Luke 23:11, 35 – "Now Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Then they put a royal robe on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. The crowd watched, and the leaders laughed and*

scoffed. 'He saved others,' they said, 'let Him save Himself if He is really God's Chosen One, the Messiah.'"

- The Messiah To Die By Crucifixion, With Pierced Hands And Feet
 - *Psalm 22:14-16* – “My life is poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within Me. My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth. You have laid Me in the dust and left Me for dead. My enemies surround Me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on Me. They have pierced My hands and feet.”
 - *Zechariah 12:10a* – “Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on all the people of Jerusalem. They will look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son.”
 - Again, Psalm 22 is a Psalm of David. In this psalm he is describing an execution. The early portion of this psalm describes the Messiah's suffering; the later portion describes the universal deliverance the Messiah makes possible.
 - In Chapter 12 of the book of Zechariah, the prophet speaks of God's own representative who is killed at the hands of His people. At a future point, the people of God will realize whom they have pierced and will mourn for “the son” who died.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:31* – “When they were finally tired of mocking Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be crucified.”
 - *Mark 15:20* – “When they were finally tired of mocking Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be crucified.”
 - *John 19:15-16* – “‘Away with Him,’ they yelled. ‘Away with Him – crucify Him!’ ‘What? Crucify your king?’ Pilate asked. ‘We have no king but Caesar,’ the leading priests shouted back. Then Pilate gave Jesus to them to be crucified.”
- The Messiah Will Suffer With Sinners
 - *Isaiah 53:12a* – “I will give Him the honors of One who is mighty and great, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners.”
 - The prophet Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. The book of Isaiah is one of the four major prophetic books in the Bible, along with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Chapter 53 is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:38* – “Two criminals were crucified with Him, their crosses on either side of His.”
 - *Mark 15:27* – “Two criminals were crucified with Him, their crosses on either side of His.”
 - *Luke 23:32-33* – “Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with Him. Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there – Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.”
- The Messiah's Garments Will Be Divided By Casting Lots
 - *Psalm 22:18* – “They divide My clothes among themselves and throw dice for My garments.”
 - Again, Psalm 22 is a psalm of King David. In this hymn he describes an execution. The early portion of the psalm speaks of the Messiah's suffering and the later portion describes the universal deliverance He made possible.

- The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:35 – “After they had nailed Him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice.”*
 - *Mark 15:24 – “Then they nailed Him to the cross. They gambled for His clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.”*
 - *John 19:23-24a – “When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided His clothes among the four of them. They also took His robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said, ‘Let’s not tear it but throw dice to see who gets it.’ This fulfilled the Scripture that says, ‘They divided My clothes among themselves and threw dice for My robe.’”*
- The Messiah’s Bones Will Not Be Broken
 - *Numbers 9:12 – “They must not leave any of the lamb until the next morning, and they must not break any of its bones. They must follow all the normal regulations concerning the Passover.”*
 - Numbers is the fourth of the five books written by Moses. It is the travel history of Israel’s journey in the desert.
 - It begins two years after leaving Egypt and ends just before entry into Canaan. It is a 38-year record of the murmurings of the nation of Israel and the constant companionship of God. It is a record of God’s ongoing work to produce repentance in His people.
 - Chapter 9 discusses the proper observance and preparation of Passover and prophetically describes Jesus, the Passover Lamb.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *John 19:31-37 – “The Jewish leaders didn’t want the victims hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath at that, because it was the Passover), so they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that He was dead already, so they didn’t break His legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced His side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out. This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account; it is presented so that you also can believe. These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, ‘Not one of His bones will be broken,’ and ‘They will look on Him whom they pierced.’”*
 - *1 Corinthians 5:7b – “Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.”*
- The Messiah Will Die As A Sin Offering
 - *Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 12 – “But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the guilt and sins of us all. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment? I will give Him the honors of One who is mighty and great, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners.”*
 - Isaiah the prophet lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. Chapter 53 of Isaiah is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.
 - The Fulfillment

- *John 1:29 – “The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”*
 - *Acts 10:43 – “He is the One all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in Him will have their sins forgiven through His name.”*
 - *Acts 13:38-39 – “Brothers, listen! In this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. Everyone who believes in Him is freed from all guilt and declared right with God – something the Jewish law could never do.”*
 - *1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – “I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me – that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.”*
 - *Ephesians 1:7 – “He is so rich in kindness that He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.”*
 - *1 Peter 2:24 – “He personally carried away our sins in His own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. You have been healed by His wounds.”*
 - *Revelation 1:5b – “All praise to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us.”*
- The Messiah Will See His Seed
 - *Isaiah 53:10-11 – “But it was the Lord’s good plan to crush Him and fill Him with grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord’s plan will prosper in His hands. When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied. And because of what He has experienced, My Righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.”*
 - The Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant reveals the incredible purpose of God in sending the Messiah to suffer for our sins. Isaiah wrote this chapter in the eighth century B.C. He foretold that the Messiah would see His heirs, those who would find salvation through His sacrifice.
 - The Fulfillment
 - *Ephesians 1:4-5, 21-23 – “Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure. Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and He gave Him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with His presence.”*
 - *Hebrews 12:2 – “We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterward. Now He is seated in the place of highest honor beside God’s throne in heaven.”*
- The Messiah Will Be Buried In A Rich Man’s Tomb
 - *Isaiah 53:9 – “He had done no wrong, and He never deceived anyone. But He was buried like a criminal; He was put in a rich man’s grave.”*

- Once again, the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant reveals the incredible purpose of God in sending the Messiah to suffer for our sins. Isaiah wrote this chapter in the eighth century B.C. He foretold that the Messiah would die and be buried in a rich man's grave.
- The Fulfillment
 - *Matthew 27:57-60 – “As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who was one of Jesus’ followers, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.”*
 - * List from 'Biblical Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus'
 - CBN.com - https://www.cbn.com/spirituallife/biblestudyandtheology/jesus_prophecy_fulfilled.aspx

● Unique in His Resurrection

- No other man in history has predicted that He would be raised from the dead, not just raised but the time period - in 3 days, and had it come true.
 - *Matthew 20:17-19 NIV - Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, “We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!”*
- His resurrection is the key to Christianity.
- Without this we would all have to practice Judaism.
 - *1 Corinthians 15:12-14 (NLT) 12But tell me this—since we preach that Christ rose from the dead, why are some of you saying there will be no resurrection of the dead? 13For if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised either. 14And if Christ was not raised, then all our preaching is useless, and your trust in God is useless.*
- The resurrection is a historical Fact! No one in ancient literature disputes the following facts!
- The tomb was empty - Even the Pharisees never disputed this fact. They just spread rumors about where the Body Went
- Christ appeared to over 500 witnesses after death!
- Two Main Theories to try and explain the above facts without a Resurrection
 - 1. Theory 1 – Body Stolen by Disciples
 - Tomb was guarded by Roman Soldiers who could have easily fought against the disciples.
 - There is no ancient literature talking about an attack
 - People say that the Roman Soldiers must have fallen asleep while the disciples stole the bodies
 - They would have been put to death if this was true
 - The scriptures said that the Roman Soldiers were scared away by angels. Skeptics want you to think that this was the disciples. Just a few days before the disciples were shown to be cowards at a much less situation – a maid saying to Peter that she had seen Him with her.
 - The stone had a Roman Seal on it – it would have been death to roll it away. The stone weighed 1-2 tons – very large.
 - Who would die for a lie? Especially a horrible lie! Over 30 years of extreme persecution and no one recounted.
 - Lives of disciples were radically changed – 10 of 11 died violent deaths and no one recounted!

- 2. Theory 2 – Jesus Fainted on the Cross and Latter Woke Up and Freed Himself – Swoon Theory
 - Jesus' death was witnessed by 4 professional executioners – a Roman Standard. They had seen hundreds die.
 - The crucifix is a death of suffocation – it would be impossible to survive alive.
 - He was pierced through the heart with a sword.
 - Blood & Water poured fourth – a medical sign of death.
 - Wrapped up in over 100 lbs. of grave cloth like a straitjacket.
 - Would have had to free himself after 39 lashes, no sleep all night, beaten, crown of thorns on his head, hours on the cross, spear in His side
 - After all this
 - Roll away a 2-4000 lb stone
 - Run off the Roman guards
 - Walk Miles on pierced and wounded feet
 - Appear to His disciples and give the impression that He had conquered death

- **Conclusion**

- Unique - Had to be the Son of God
- *Science Speaks - Peter Stone* : Jesus fulfilled prophecies about a coming savior written in the OT from 400-1500 years earlier. He fulfilled 60 major prophecies with over 270 ramifications.
 - The odds of fulfilling just 8 major prophecies is 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power (1 followed by 17 zeros). The odds of fulfilling 48 major prophecies is 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power (1 followed by 157 zeros). These are impossible odds for one man to fulfill unless He was truly God.
 - NOTE: 1 chance in 10 to the 17th power is equivalent to the state of Texas being covered in silver dollars one foot deep. You mark one. Blind fold a man and tell him to pick up the right silver dollar the first time.
 - 8 Prophecies Fulfilled and Statics Done for - Isaiah 53
 - Rejected By His Own People 53:5 John 7:5,48
 - Wounded and Bruised 53:5 Matt 27:26
 - Silent before His Accusers 53:7 Matt 27:12—19
 - Buried in a rich man's tomb 53:9 Matt 27:57-60
 - Put to death with Thieves 53:12 Matt 27:38
 - Made intercession for His Persecutors 53:12 Luke 23:34
- *1 Corinthians 15:53-58 (NLT)* 53For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die. 54When this happens—when our perishable earthly bodies have been transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die—then at last the Scriptures will come true: “Death is swallowed up in victory. 55O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?” 56For sin is the sting that results in death, and the law gives sin its power. 57How we thank God, who gives us victory over sin and death through Jesus Christ our Lord! 58So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and steady, always enthusiastic about the Lord's work, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.

