

CHRIST FORETOLD & FULFILLED: Evidence for the Skeptic

Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? These are the classic questions any honest seeker should ask to establish evidence-based answers which remove all reasonable doubt. No other body of literature apart from Biblical prophecy offers such detailed prophetic descriptions which saw their exact fulfillment in the case of Jesus Christ's Coming into this world to reconcile us with God. Consider the following examples of this evidence among the more than 350 prophecies that foretold the Coming of Christ:

Q: Who is He? A: The Mighty God (Date written: approximately 700 B.C.)

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

Q: What would He do? A: Justify Sinners (Date written: approximately 700 B.C.)

Out of the anguish of his soul he shall see and be satisfied; by his knowledge shall the righteous one, my servant, make many to be accounted righteous, and he shall bear their iniquities. - Isaiah 53:11

Q: Where would He be born? A: Bethlehem (Date written: approximately 700 B.C.)

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. - Micah 5:2

Q: When would He come to die? A: After March 30, 33 A.D. (Date written: approx. 530 B.C.)

Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks*, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself: and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined - Daniel 9:25-26 (KJV) *The word "weeks" (שבועות shābua') is literally "sevens" of years. Accordingly, 483 years (69 x 7) is the time frame elapsed from the decree of Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem to the entry of Christ into Jerusalem on March 30, 33 A.D.

Q: Why would He suffer for us? A: To Heal Us (Date written: approximately 700 B.C.)

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. - Isaiah 53:5

Q: How Would He die for us? A: By Crucifixion (Date written: approximately 1000 B.C.)

For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet - Psalm 22:16

Objective Evidence:

The Dead Sea Scrolls which include the Book of Isaiah and Psalm 22 are confirmed to have been written before the time of Christ (150 B.C. to 125 B.C.). The Septuagint (Greek Translation of the Old Testament) also contains Isaiah and Psalm 22. It dates to approximately 200 B.C.