

#### **4. The Certain Proof That Jesus, the Christ, Fulfilled All Prophecy: Part 1**

Factual evidence and eyewitness testimony certified that Jesus was the Christ. Proof rises through three stages: possibility, probability, and certainty. At the level of certainty, proof becomes positive beyond any doubt. Ordinarily, five or six identifying variables is enough to establish proof beyond any doubt, for at this point of proof, there is no variance left that would dispute it. The preponderance of evidence and testimony proves that Jesus was the Christ. In this context, Jesus fulfilled so many prophecies that his identity as the Christ is beyond dispute, and we believe, "You are the Christ, the son of the living God." It is as the Hebrew writer said in Heb 11:1: "11 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see."

#### ***Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies Concerning the Messiah's Lineage and Birth***

Hundred of years before Christ, the prophets foretold the facts of his lineage and birth in such details that when they happened, they established that Jesus was the Christ. These prophecies flowed like huge streams across the generations of the Old Testament and found a confluence in the person of Jesus, foretold to be the Christ and announced to be the Christ. This Christ, the King on the throne of David and the High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek, to reign forever, becomes the central theme of Bible prophecy, fulfilled in Jesus born in the flesh of woman but raised as the firstborn from the dead to sit at his heavenly Father's right hand eternally in heaven.

#### **The Son of David and Son of Abraham**

The promise of God from which all else follows is his promise to Abraham in Gen 22:17-18:

"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, 18 and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

This promise extended the hope of eternal life to all nations through the offspring (seed) of Abraham.

When Christ was born, he came in the lineage of David and Abraham as recorded by Matthew in Matt 1:1: "1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham." This genealogy is the Lord's birth certificate. The apostles and prophets testified repeatedly that the one born *Jesus* is the Christ who fulfilled God's promise to Abraham. Paul made the case that Christ Jesus Fulfilled the promise to Abraham in Gal 3:13-14, 16:

13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. . . .

16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ.

Christ, as the son of Abraham, is not merely an academic point; it is the hope of all nations to inherit Abraham's promise, as Paul concluded in Gal 3:26-29:

26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor

Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The messiah was also to come through the seed of David as stated in Ps 89:3-4:

3 You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,  
I have sworn to David my servant,  
4 'I will establish your line forever  
and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

This prophecy not only confirmed the line of Christ from David, but it also established Christ on the throne of David firm through all generations. The Jews, with all expectations from David onward, called for the Messiah to be the son of David. Therefore, the Gospel of Matthew begins in Matt 1:1: "1 A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David."

The prophecy that the Messiah would be of the lineage of David often repeats itself in the Old Testament. Ps 132:11-12 is one example:

11 The Lord swore an oath to David,  
a sure oath that he will not revoke:  
"One of your own descendants  
I will place on your throne –  
12 if your sons keep my covenant  
and the statutes I teach them,  
then their sons will sit  
on your throne for ever and ever."

The apostles and prophets of the New Testament recognized that Jesus was the son of David and sat on his throne. Paul preached in Acts 13:23-24:

He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'  
23 "From this man's descendants God has brought to Israel the Savior Jesus, as he promised.

Isaiah expressed the full nature of the Christ as one with the Spirit of God from the father of David, Jesse, in Isa 11:1-3:

11 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him –  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of power,  
the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord –  
3 and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

Beyond the issue of the lineage of Christ, this passage foretells a pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the Holy One beyond what has ever happened before or since. There are seven Spirits of God foretold here: the Spirit of the Lord, the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of counsel, the Spirit of power, the Spirit of knowledge, and the Spirit of fear (respect) of the Lord. All of these, in their totality comprise the Spirit of God, or as John the

Baptist explained in John 3:34-35, how Jesus was endowed with the full measure of the Holy Spirit: "34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit." Isaiah's prophecy uses the parts for the whole of the unlimited and all-powerful Spirit of God—the Spirit that he gave his son without limit. The Revelation speaks of this all-powerful working of the Spirit in Rev 1:4-5 as being before the throne of God:

"Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

The footnote translates *the seven spirits* as the *sevenfold Spirit*—a translation, which fits perfectly with Rev 3:1: "These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars." The sevenfold Spirit of God is what Isaiah prophesied and now at the close of the Bible we find Christ holding that which he was promised in the same measure that God promised it.

Paul confirmed this prophecy in Rom 1:1-4:

1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God— 2 the gospel he promised beforehand through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures 3 regarding his Son, who as to his human nature was a descendant of David, 4 and who **through the Spirit** of holiness was declared with power to be the Son of God by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. [Emphasis added.]

### **Christ as One Born of a Virgin in Isa 7:14-15**

Isaiah prophesied that the Christ would be born of a virgin, an event that would require miraculous intervention with the laws of nature. Isaiah prophesied in Isa 7:14: "4 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." Matthew recorded the fulfillment of this prophecy in Matt 1:22-23:

22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us."

### **Christ Born in Bethlehem in Mic 5:2 and Lived in Nazareth**

In addition to foretelling the nature of Christ's birth as a virgin birth, the prophets told where the Christ would be born and where he would live. Micah prophesied in Mic 5:2:

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."

Jesus lived before Micah prophesied that the one from of old and from ancient times would come out of Bethlehem. John wrote that Christ was in the beginning with God in John 1:1-2 : "1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning." Jesus himself said that he was before Abraham in John 8:58: "'58 I tell you the truth,' Jesus answered, 'before Abraham was born, I am!'" In Matt 2:3-6: the

wise men quoted this same passage from Micah to say that the Christ would be born in Bethlehem.

Matt 2:22-23 asserts that the Lord's living in Nazareth fulfilled what was said by the prophets:

Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, 23 and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets: "He will be called a Nazarene."

### **The Killing of the Male Children by Herod in Jer 31:15**

Jeremiah foretold the slaughter of the male children by Herod in Jer 31:15:

15 This is what the Lord says:

"A voice is heard in Ramah,  
mourning and great weeping,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because her children are no more."

Showing the fulfillment of this prophecy, Matthew wrote in Matt 2:16-18:

16 When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

18 "A voice is heard in Ramah,  
weeping and great mourning,  
Rachel weeping for her children  
and refusing to be comforted,  
because they are no more."

### **Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies of John the Baptist as the Forerunner in Isa 40:3-5**

Isaiah prophesied the Messiah would have a forerunner to declare his coming and to prepare a way for him. He called the path that the Messiah was to follow a highway for our God, signaling the divinity of Jesus. Isaiah prophesied in Isa 40:3:

3 A voice of one calling:  
"In the desert prepare  
the way for the Lord;  
make straight in the wilderness  
a highway for our God.

Matthew describes the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy in Matt 3:1-6:

3 In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea 2 and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." 3 This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah:

"A voice of one calling in the desert,  
'Prepare the way for the Lord,

make straight paths for him."

4 John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. 5 People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. 6 Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River.

John was a remarkable fulfillment to the prophecy of Isaiah, but equally remarkable is how he also fulfilled the prophecy of the angel of the Lord who appeared in Luke 1:13-17 to Zechariah, John's father:

13 But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth. 16 Many of the people of Israel will he bring back to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

The very appearance of John, as described beforehand, established Jesus as the Christ, the son of God.

### ***Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecy of Dan 2:36-47 that the Christ and His Kingdom Would Come in the Days of the Roman Kings***

Daniel's prophesy, embedded in his interpretation of Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar's dream, foretold with exactness the time and nature of the coming of the Lord and his kingdom. This prophecy strikes down the fundamental assumption of premillennialists that Christ, the king and his kingdom have not yet come. They say that the Jews thwarted his first attempt to establish a kingdom by rejecting him as king. If that were so, Daniel was wrong, and the God of Heaven and Earth was wrong. Nebuchadnezzar himself claimed the prophecy as the work of the God of gods: "47 The king said to Daniel, 'Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a revealer of mysteries, for you were able to reveal this mystery.'" How can the God of god's and Lord of Lord's be wrong?

The dream was one of a large statue that Daniel described in Dan 2:31-33:

31 "You looked, O king, and there before you stood a large statue – an enormous, dazzling statue, awesome in appearance. 32 The head of the statue was made of pure gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, 33 its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of baked clay.

Daniel proceeded to explain the dream in Dan 2:36-38 by giving meaning to each part of the statue. Nebuchadnezzar was the most prominent of the kings portrayed. Daniel said, "You are the head of gold:

36 "This was the dream, and now we will interpret it to the king. 37 You, O king, are the king of kings. The God of heaven has given you dominion and power and might and glory; 38 in your hands he has placed mankind and the beasts of the field and the birds of the air. Wherever they live, he has made you ruler over them all. You are that head of gold.

Thus, the Babylonian Kingdom was the first kingdom, in marking the time set forth. The kingdom to follow was the one coming immediately after—the Persian Kingdom beginning

about 640 BC. [Estimated times are the times that these kingdoms began their domination of Jerusalem.] The Persian Kingdom was the chest and arms of silver on the statue in the dream. In Dan 2:39a, Daniel said:

39 "After you, another kingdom will rise, inferior to yours.

After the Persian kingdom was the Macedonian kingdom of Alexander the Great, beginning from about 375 BC. Daniel spoke of this kingdom in Dan 2:39b:

Next, a third kingdom, one of bronze, will rule over the whole earth.

The last kingdom in Daniel's interpretation was the iron kingdom of the Roman Empire, ruling Jerusalem from 50 AD. Daniel's prophecy spoke to its strength and power, but also to its division, as a people that cannot be united. In Dan 2:40-43, Daniel said:

40 Finally, there will be a fourth kingdom, strong as iron – for iron breaks and smashes everything – and as iron breaks things to pieces, so it will crush and break all the others. 41 Just as you saw that the feet and toes were partly of baked clay and partly of iron, so this will be a divided kingdom; yet it will have some of the strength of iron in it, even as you saw iron mixed with clay. 42 As the toes were partly iron and partly clay, so this kingdom will be partly strong and partly brittle. 43 And just as you saw the iron mixed with baked clay, so the people will be a mixture and will not remain united, any more than iron mixes with clay.

Daniel signals the end of the times represented in the dream the word, *finally*, as he discusses the Roman Empire. In the next paragraph, Dan 2:44-45, Daniel, begins by setting the stage for the advent of a kingdom that will never be destroyed.

44 "In the time of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, nor will it be left to another people. It will crush all those kingdoms and bring them to an end, but it will itself endure forever. 45 This is the meaning of the vision of the rock cut out of a mountain, but not by human hands – a rock that broke the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold to pieces.

That in the time of the Roman kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that will never be destroyed, strikes again at the heart of the premillennialists' doctrine, which still waits for the kingdom to come in the future. To accept the idea of a future earthly kingdom is to reject this prophecy and to deny the power of the God of heaven. The kingdom of Christ transcends all the earthly kingdoms, crushing them with the power of the gospel. The rock cut out of the mountain is Christ (not made by hands).

The fulfillment of this prophecy testifies to Christ as Lord and King over an eternal kingdom. All of this happened in the days of the Roman kings. Luke recorded in Luke 3:1-2:

3 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar – when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, Herod tetrarch of Galilee, his brother Philip tetrarch of Iturea and Traconitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene – 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert.

Even Nebuchadnezzar knew that God, and not man, makes the meaning of His prophecies. In Dan 2:47 the king said to Daniel: "Surely your God is the God of gods and the Lord of kings and a **revealer of mysteries**, for you were able to reveal this mystery." [Emphasis added.]

2 Peter 1:19 becomes a fitting conclusion to this lesson:

19 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

**Study Questions from the Scriptures**

1. Heb 11:1-2: How do hope and certainty work to establish faith?
2. Gen 22:17-18: What did God promise Abraham? Who would be blessed by this promise?
3. Matt 1:1: Name two ancestors of Christ.
4. Gal 3:13-14, 16: What did Christ do to fulfill the promise to Abraham? Who are the seed of Abraham?
5. Gal 3:26-29: Who are the sons of God? How do people clothe themselves with Christ? What are those who belong to Christ?
6. Ps 89:3-4: How long would the line of David last? How long would his throne last?
7. Ps 132:11-12: What oath did the Lord swear? Who would sit on his throne?
8. Acts 13:22-24: From where did the Savior Jesus come?
9. Isa 11:1-3: What are the seven Spirits? What was Christ's relationship to Jesse, father of David?
10. 1Rom 1:1-4: What qualified Jesus to be the Son of God?
11. Isa 7:14-15: What was to be unusual about Christ's birth? What would they call the Lord?
12. Matt 1:22-23: What does Immanuel mean?
13. Mic 5:2: From where was the Messiah to come? How was Christ before Abraham?
14. Matt 2:22-23: Where did Jesus go with his parents to live? What prophecy did this fulfill?
15. Jer 31:15: What did Jeremiah say about children?
16. Matt 2:16-18: What king gave the orders to kill all the boys two years old and under?
17. Matt 3:1-6: Who was the forerunner of Jesus?
18. Luke 1:13-17: What did the angel say to Zechariah, John's father?
19. Dan 2:31-43: What was Nebuchadnezzar's dream? What were the four kingdoms?
20. Dan 2:44-45: Whose kingdom would never be destroyed? What crushed the earthly kingdoms?
21. Dan 2:46: Who is the God of gods and the Lord of lords? Who is the revealer of mysteries?