

7 – One Life Changed the World



He Can Change Your Life, Too



Jesus is front and center these days. Have you noticed? There's a lot of discussion about who Jesus was. Was Jesus just an ethical philosopher? A good man? A moral teacher? Was he any different than other religious leaders? Was He the divine Son of God?



Many people have made their contribution to make the world a better place.

Kings, presidents, religious, military leaders, scientists and artists have left their mark on the world and made their names famous.



One name stands out above all others.

His name is Jesus.

“Jesus” is perhaps the most famous, well-known name in history. But it is one thing to have heard His name, and another to know who He really is.



Tonight I would like to introduce you more fully to the Jesus of history – and the Jesus of the Bible.

You may be questioning, Was Jesus really who people say He was? Was He really the Son of God, the Savior?

After the devastating disappointment of His crucifixion two of His followers had these questions as well.



Jesus had been crucified instead of becoming king in Jerusalem and overthrowing the Romans as they had hoped. They were discouraged and disillusioned. As they stumbled back to Emmaus from Jerusalem, the resurrected Jesus appeared and began walking and talking with them.

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7

He explained to them the prophecies that had been fulfilled – including through the disappointing events of the last few days!



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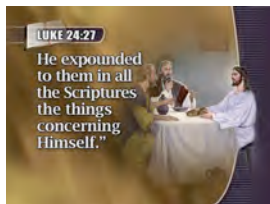
(Text 3 slides: Luke 24:25, 27)

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!...



9

And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets,



10

He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.” Luke 24:25, 27

Wouldn't you like to have heard that Bible study? Prophecy after prophecy was explained – until they saw clearly that indeed He was the promised Messiah!



11

Let us look at some of the evidence that Jesus may have shared on the Emmaus road that evening.



12

HIS MIRACULOUS BIRTH

Long before Jesus was born to Mary, Isaiah prophesied:



13

(Text 2 slides: Isaiah 7:14)

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:

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14

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

Isaiah 7:14



15

“Immanuel” means “God with us,” and Mary, the young, unmarried virgin was informed by an angel that she would have a child – and that this child would be the one who would “save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). It’s an amazing story!



16

(Text 2 slides: Matthew 1:18)

“Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph,



17

before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.”

Matthew 1:18



18

Not only was the manner of Jesus’ birth predicted, but also where He would be born!



19

(Text: Micah 5:2)

“...Bethlehem, ... out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel...” Micah 5:2

It is remarkable that Jesus was born in Bethlehem, the exact city which the prophecy predicted 700 years in advance.



20

(Text: Matthew 2:1)

“...Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea....”

Matthew 2:1

The New Testament confirms the fulfillment of Micah’s prophecy.

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21

The newly married couple, Mary and Joseph, were visiting Bethlehem to comply with a Roman census and taxation decree. There was no room in the inn, so they found shelter in a stable. There it was that Jesus was born.



22

(Text 2 slides: Luke 2:7)

“And she [Mary] brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths,



23

and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:7

Jesus was more than a good man, more than an ethical teacher, more than a moral philosopher.

He was the divine Son of God.

He was born of a virgin as the prophet Isaiah predicted.

He was born in Bethlehem as the prophet Micah predicted.



24

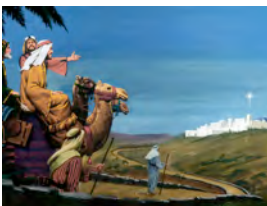
Why did Bible prophecy clearly reveal the significant details in Christ’s life hundreds of years in advance? Why did God make it so clear that these prophecies were fulfilled exactly?

You see, when Adam and Eve sinned, back in the beginning, God had to do something.

He had to make a plan to save the human race. His plan called for Jesus – His Son – to come to earth, live a perfect life and die in our place for our sins.

This is called the **PLAN OF SALVATION**.

But the plan of salvation cannot save us unless we recognize and accept it. The prophecies were given so that we could know and believe in Jesus as the Savior of the world!



25

Soon after He was born, we see this happening. There were wise men from the East who carefully studied the scriptures.

They understood the prophecies of a great Deliverer that was to appear and knew it was time for Him to arrive.

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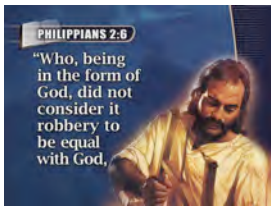
26

When they saw a new star appear leading them towards Judea they recognized it as the sign of the newborn King. In Bethlehem they found Jesus and bowed down and worshiped Him.



27

Thus began a truly remarkable life. Jesus, though He was God, lived on this earth as a humble, hard-working, self-sacrificing servant. Notice how the apostle Paul describes His self-sacrifice:



28

(Text 3 slides: Philippians 2:6)

“...Being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,



29

but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant,



30

and coming in the likeness of men.”

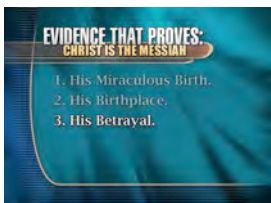
Philippians 2:6, 7



31

Jesus became like us so that He could be our example for living on this earth. But His life was pure and sinless so that He could be our sacrifice and die in our place for our sins.

And He didn't just fulfill prophecies in His birth and life – but also in His death.



32

Take HIS BETRAYAL by Judas as an example. It was predicted in detail by the Psalmist:

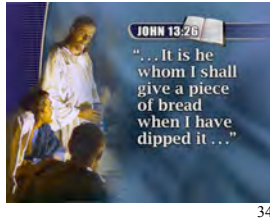
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(Text: Psalm 41:9)

“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”

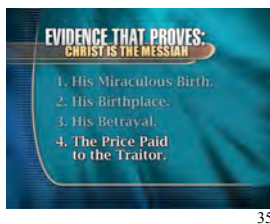
When, at the Last Supper, Peter asked Jesus who was going to betray Him, Jesus answered,



“...It is he whom I shall give a piece of bread when I have dipped it...”

John 13:26

Just as the prophecy foretold, it was one of those closest to Jesus who betrayed Him to His death.



But Scriptures were even more specific about His betrayal, even detailing the price paid to the traitor!



“...So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.”

Zechariah 11:12

Again, the New Testament records that this was precisely fulfilled!

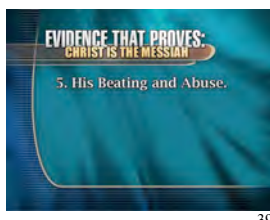


(Text 2 slides: Matthew 26:14, 15)

“Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests”

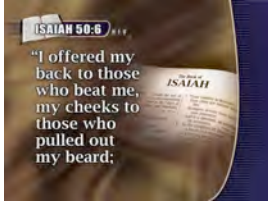


and asked, ‘What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?’ So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.”



The manner and cruelty of His betrayal was also foretold. He was to be beaten and abused.

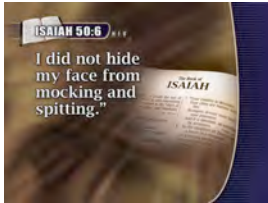
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40

(Text 2 slides: Isaiah 50:6)

"I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard;

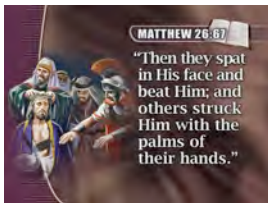


41

I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting."

Isaiah 50:6

Did that happen? Was the prophecy fulfilled?

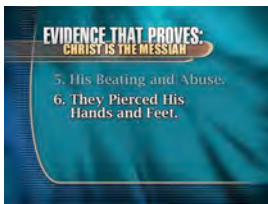


42

(Text: Matthew 26:67)

"Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands;,"

Matthew 26:67



43

The way He was to die was also specified by the Old Testament prophets. His hands and feet were to be pierced.



44

(Text: Psalm 22:16)

"... They pierced My hands and My feet." Psalm 22:16

After the resurrection of Christ, Thomas, one of His disciples who doubted that He had been resurrected, made reference to the fact that Christ's hands and feet were indeed pierced. He said,



45

(Text 2 slides: John 20:25)

"... Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were,



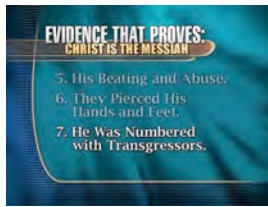
46

... I will not believe."

John 20:25

When Jesus later appeared to Thomas, He showed His wounds as the evidence that He was the same Jesus who had been crucified.

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47

The Scriptures also revealed that in His death He would be associated with sinners, for Isaiah tells us that He would be:



48

(Text: Isaiah 53:12)

"...numbered with the transgressors."

Isaiah 53:12

Notice how this prophecy of Christ was directly fulfilled:



49

(Text 2 slides: Mark 15:27, 28)

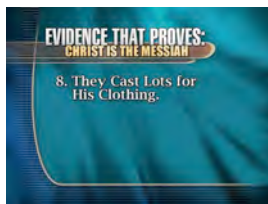
"With Him they crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left."



50

So the scripture was fulfilled which says, 'And He was numbered with the transgressors.'"

Mark 15:27, 28



51

King David told what would happen to Jesus' clothing a thousand years before He died:



52

(Text: Psalm 22:18)

"They divided my garments among them, and for my clothing do they cast lots."

Psalm 22:18

Imagine how specific this prophecy is! The Roman soldiers who oversaw His crucifixion were unlikely to have known what David had written, but their actions fulfilled it exactly anyway!

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53

(Text 3 slides: John 19:23, 24)

“Then the soldiers...took His garments and made four parts ...



54

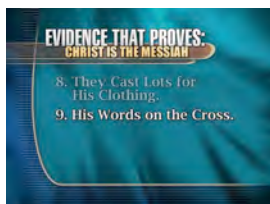
Now the tunic was without seam, woven from the top in one piece.



55

They said... ‘Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be.’”

John 19:23, 24



56

Even Jesus’ words as He hung upon the cross were predicted by the Psalmist:



57

(Text: Psalm 22:1)

“My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?”

Psalm 22:1. Compare this Old Testament verse with Matthew 27:46, and we see that Jesus uttered these words just before His death:

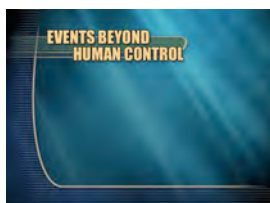


58

(Text: Matthew 27:46)

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me”

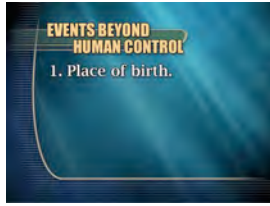
These are prophecies that are amazingly specific, yet accurately fulfilled!



59

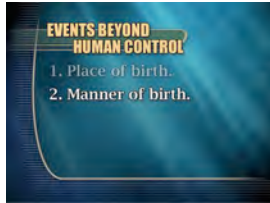
Many of these prophecies were totally beyond human control. Jesus could not have simply arranged for them to come to pass as predicted.

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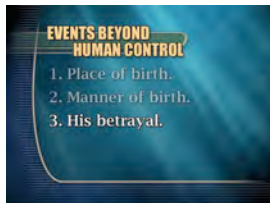
60

He could not have arranged the place of His birth,



61

the manner of His birth,



62

His betrayal,



63

or the events surrounding His death.



Jesus was truly who He claimed to be – the Messiah. He was God in human form.

As He hung on the cruel cross, lacerated from beatings, nails in His hands and feet, with a crown of thorns, being mocked and jeered at,



He could have with one word commanded the angels of heaven to deliver Him.

But He didn't. He could have saved Himself – but He couldn't save Himself and us too! The Son of God consented to hang on that cross and give Himself for our salvation.

Why did He do it?

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66

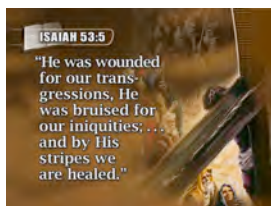
He did it because He loves us. He loves you, and He loves me. As we look at the cross, that love breaks our proud hearts. It prompts us to want to love Jesus because of His great love for us! He did it because it was the only way that we could be saved to live with Him forever. The Bible says of His sacrifice:



67

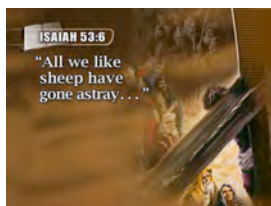
(Text 4 slides: Isaiah 53:3-7)

“He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief....”



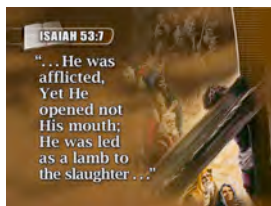
68

He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; and by His stripes we are healed.



69

“All we like sheep have gone astray....”



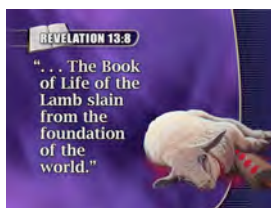
70

He was afflicted... Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter.”
Isaiah 53:3 - 7



71

This is only one of the many times that Jesus is referred to in the Bible as an innocent Lamb.



72

(Text: Revelation 13:8)

Revelation 13:8 speaks of the “the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”

It speaks of the Lamb as being worthy of worship:

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73

(Text 2 slides: Revelation 5:8, 12)

“The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb...

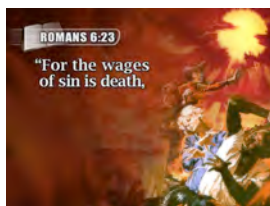


74

[saying] ‘Worthy is the Lamb who was slain.’”

Revelation 5:8, 12

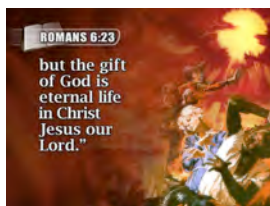
Yes, the innocent Lamb died for the guilty sinner. Sin separates from God, the source of life. It brings death, as Romans tells us:



75

(Text 2 slides: Romans 6:23)

“For the wages of sin is death.



76

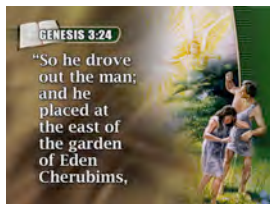
But the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

Romans 6:23



77

Adam and Eve, separated from God by sin, were banished from the Garden of Eden and could no longer eat of the tree of life.



78

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 3:24)

“So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims,



79

and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”

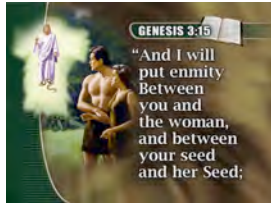
Genesis 3:24

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80

But even then God told them of His plan to save them.



81

(Text 2 slides: Genesis 3:15)

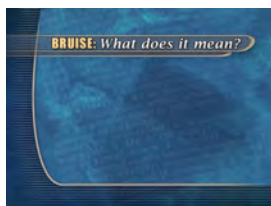
“I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed [Satan’s followers] and her Seed [Christ’s followers].”



82

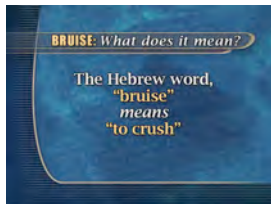
And He [Jesus] shall bruise your [Satan’s] head, and you [Satan] shall bruise His [Jesus’] heel.”

Genesis 3:15



83

What does it mean to bruise?



84

The Hebrew word for “bruise” means to “crush”. To crush one’s head is more serious than to bruise one’s heel. Christ would be the victor over Satan.

So that they would be reminded of the innocent Lamb, the Son of God, who would one day die for their sins, He instructed them to offer their own lambs as sacrifices.



85

Through the sacrificial system they were to show their faith in the “Lamb” of God (Jesus) who would one day die to give them eternal life.

In the very next chapter, after the fall of man, we see Cain and Abel bringing offering sacrifices to God.

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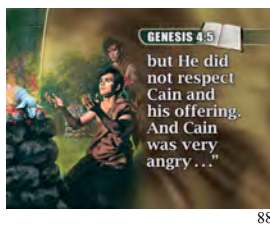


(Text 2 slides: Genesis 4:4, 5)

“Abel brought of the lamb of the first born of his flock and of their fat,



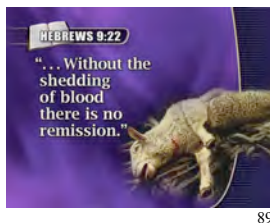
and the Lord respected Abel and His offering,



But He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry.” Genesis 4:5

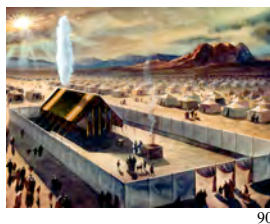
Abel obediently brought a lamb, representing the Lamb of God, but Cain disobeyed and brought fruit as his sacrifice.

But fruit could never appropriately represent the sacrifice to be made by Jesus, for the book of Hebrews tells us:



(Text: Hebrews 9:22)

“...Without the shedding of blood there is no remission.” Hebrew 9:22



When God brought the Israelites out of Egypt He had Moses build a tabernacle, or portable temple, that was modeled after the sanctuary in heaven. The ceremonies of the sanctuary symbolized the events of the plan of salvation.



One of these ceremonies was the Passover. It commemorated the time when the Israelites left Egypt. The people were instructed to kill a lamb and put its blood on their doorposts.

It was a sign of their obedience and their faith in the blood of the coming Lamb.

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92

That night the destroying angel passed over the homes that were covered by blood and did not harm anyone inside. But throughout the land of Egypt, in homes where the blood was not marking the door posts, the first born of man and beast died.



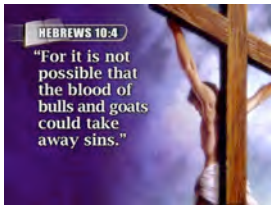
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Passover was to remind them that only the blood of the Lamb can deliver them from destruction.



94

It not only pointed backwards to their deliverance from Egypt, but forwards to the time when the real Passover Lamb would be slain. The animals that were sacrificed could not cleanse from sin.



95

(Text: Hebrews 10:4)

"For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins." Hebrews 10:4

Only through the blood of the real Sacrifice, Jesus, the Son of God, could sins be forgiven.



96

(Text: Hebrews 9:26)

"...He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself..." Hebrews 9:26



97

The ceremonial system of sacrifices had been pointing forward to the Messiah – the Lamb of God.

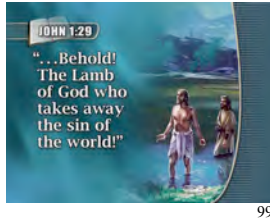
The shed blood of every dying lamb in the Old Testament, had for centuries represented Jesus' shed blood for us.



98

This is why when John the Baptist announced the Messiah and pointed to Jesus he said,

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99

(Text: John 1:29)

"...Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John 1:29



100

Jesus is the Savior of the world.

Jesus pardons.

Jesus forgives.

Jesus delivers us from guilt.

Jesus teaches us how to live.

Jesus' life is an example for us.

Jesus empowers our lives.

Jesus changes us from within.

Jesus gives us a new life.



101

During one of Sir Ernest Shackleton's attempts to cross the Antarctic Ocean in 1914, his ship, the Endurance, was crushed in an ice floe. The crew drifted for days until they could make a landing on Elephant Island.

Shackleton had the men set up camp there where they could preserve their supplies and try to survive the coming winter.

But he soon realized that no one would be coming to rescue them. No one had any idea where they were. They were cut off from the world by the freezing, stormy Antarctic Ocean. There was only one hope of a rescue: Someone had to cross that hostile ocean and get help.

Shackleton began to rig a twenty-foot whaling boat for the voyage. From volunteers, he picked a crew of six. They would have to cross eight hundred miles of tempestuous sea in order to reach a Norwegian whaling station on the frozen island of South Georgia.

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102

It seemed an impossible task in an open boat at the stormiest time of year. But Shackleton set out with his men.

For days they huddled under a makeshift canvas covering, keeping the bow turned into the fiercest waves, praying that the wind wouldn't tear their small sail away.

They endured bone-chilling cold, sleeping bags frozen stiff, icy water streaming down their backs, hunger, and thirst.

Fourteen days after their voyage began, when all were almost dead of exposure and thirst, they spotted the black cliffs of South Georgia!

Shackleton had made it through; soon a ship would be on its way to rescue the rest of his stranded men.

When God looked down at our predicament and saw that we were isolated on our island, surrounded by a boundless sea of sin, He plunged into that hostile sea Himself. He took on Himself the murderous, icy vastness of the evil in humankind.



103

There is no one else in all the universe like Jesus. He is the only one who can save us. He is the only one who can take away our guilt and change our lives. He is the only one who can offer us eternal life.

Would you like to lift your hand right now and say, "Yes, Jesus, I accept you tonight as my Lord and Savior. Yes, Lord, I believe you died for me. Yes, Lord, I give my life to you."

Let's stand together as we pray.

[Suggested Prayer]

"Father in Heaven, tonight we thank you for the wonderful gift of Jesus. We thank you for being willing to rescue us from this world of sin and suffering. We know it is only because you love us that you have given us Your Son, and tonight we want to say that we love You in return. You see each one standing here; please bless them and keep them and strengthen their faith in you. Please bless their homes and families and loved ones, keep them safe from danger, keep them healthy and strong, and keep them ever growing closer and closer to you, we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen."
