

A Case for Christ

- I. Introduction:
 - a. (**John 19:5-7**) “Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, **Behold the man!** When the chief priests therefore and officers saw him, they cried out, saying, Crucify him, crucify him. Pilate saith unto them, Take ye him, and crucify him: for I find no fault in him. The Jews answered him, We have a law, and by our law he ought to die, because he made himself the **Son of God.**”
 - b. Behold the Man – Let us build a Case for Christ
 - c. Was Jesus the Christ, the Son of God?
- II. Historical Jesus
 - a. “Today, scholars generally agree that Jesus was a historical figure whose existence is authenticated both by Christian writers and by **several** Roman and Jewish historians.” (‘Jesus Christ’, Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2004)
 - b. Josephus’ Account
 - i. “Josephus, Flavius was a Jewish historian. He wrote The Jewish War, a history of the war between the Jews and Romans, and Jewish Antiquities, a history of the Jews. Josephus was born Joseph ben Matthias in Jerusalem. He was an aristocrat, a priest, and a Pharisee. He commanded Jewish forces in Palestine during the great Jewish revolt that broke out there against Roman rule in A.D. 66. The Jews were defeated, but Josephus was spared by the Roman commander. Josephus later became a Roman citizen.” (World Book Encyclopedia 2004)
 - ii. “Now, there was about this time Jesus, a wise man, if it be lawful to call him a man, for he was a doer of **wonderful works** – a teacher of such men as receive the truth with pleasure. He drew over to him both many of the Jews, and many of the Gentiles. He was (the) Christ; and when Pilate, at the suggestion of the principal men amongst us, had **condemned him to the cross**, those that loved him at the first did not forsake him, for he appeared to them alive again the third day, as the divine prophets had foretold these and ten thousand other wonderful things concerning him; and the tribe of Christians, so named from him, are not extinct at this.” (The Antiquities of the Jews, 18.3.3)
 - c. It is ridiculous to contend that Jesus never existed and was put to death.
 - i. He was know for good works – Greatly Influential
 - ii. Napoleon said this about Jesus:
 1. “But can you conceive of a dead man making conquests, with an army faithful and entirely devoted to his memory? My armies have forgotten me, even while living, as the Carthaginian army forgot Hannibal. Such is our power! A single battle lost crushes us, and adversity scatters our

friends. Can you conceive of Caesar as the eternal Emperor of the Roman senate, and from the depths of his mausoleum governing the empire, watching over the destinies of Rom? Such is the history of the world by the invasion of Christianity. Such is the power of the God of the Christians. Nations pass away, throne crumble, but the church remains. Christ speaks, and at once generations become his by stricter, closer ties than those of blood. He lights u the flames of a love which condemns self-love, which prevails over every other love.”

iii. Even Despisers and Unbelievers of Jesus give testimony to His Existence

1. Julian the Apostate – Roman emperor from 361 to 363

a. “Jesus, having persuaded a few among you, and those of the worst of men, has now been celebrated about three hundred years; having done nothing in his lifetime worthy of fame, unless any one thinks it a very great work to heal lame and blind people and exorcise demoniacs in the villages of Bethsaida and Bethany.” (The Person of Christ: The Miracle of History. With a Reply to Strauss and Renan, and a Collection of Testimonies of Unbelievers, Philip Schaff)

d. So Jesus Existed – Behold the Man! – Was he the Christ, the Son of God?

III. Prophetic Proofs of His Birth

a. The scriptures teach that the messiah will be the descendent of Abraham

i. **(Gen 12:3)** “And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”

ii. **(Gen 26:4)** “And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed;”

1. Jesus was a descendent

a. **(Acts 3:25-26)** “Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”

b. The scriptures teach that the messiah will be the descendent of Judah and of David

i. **(Gen 49:10)** “The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”

- ii. (**Isa 9:6-7**) “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counseller, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”
 - iii. Record of the Fulfillment
 - 1. (**Matt 1:1-2**) “The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham begat Isaac; and Isaac begat Jacob; and Jacob begat Judas and his brethren;”
 - c. The scriptures teach that the messiah will be born of a virgin
 - i. (**Isa 7:14**) “Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”
 - ii. Record of the Fulfillment
 - 1. (**Matt 1:18-25**)
 - iii. Many claim to be followers of Jesus but yet deny the virgin birth of Christ – Hear the words of Jesus
 - 1. (**Luke 2:49**) “How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?”
 - 2. (**John 8:41-42**) “Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God. Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.”
 - d. The scriptures teach that the messiah will be born in the city of David – Bethlehem
 - i. (**Mic 5:2**) “But thou, **Bethlehem** Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”
 - ii. Record of the Fulfillment
 - 1. (**Matt 2:1**) “Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,”
 - iii. This Scripture also shows the eternal characteristic of the Son of God
 - 1. (**John 1:1-3**) “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.”

IV. Prophetic Proofs of His Work

- a. The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will heal the sick and the afflicted
 - i. **(Isa 53:4)** “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.”
 - ii. Record of Fulfillment
 - 1. **(Matt 8:16-17)** “When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.”
- b. The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will teach using parables
 - i. **(Ps 78:1-4)** “Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.”
 - ii. Record of Fulfillment
 - 1. **(Matt 13:34-35)** “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”
- c. The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will come into Jerusalem riding a donkey
 - i. **(Zech 9:9)** "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.”
 - ii. Record of Fulfillment
 - 1. **(Matt 21:7-9)** “They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: ‘Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD! Hosanna in the highest!’”

V. Prophetic Proof of His Death

- a. The Scriptures teach that the Messiah will be betrayed by a friend
 - i. **(Ps 41:9)** “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”
 - ii. Record of Fulfillment

1. (**Matt 26:21-25**) “And as they did eat, he said, Verily I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me. And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began every one of them to say unto him, Lord, is it I? And he answered and said, He that dippeth his hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me. The Son of man goeth as it is written of him: but woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed! It had been good for that man if he had not been born. Then Judas, which betrayed him, answered and said, Master, is it I? He said unto him, Thou hast said.”
 2. (**Mark 14:10-11**) “And Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went unto the chief priests, to betray him unto them. And when they heard it, they were glad, and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray him.”
 3. (**Matt 26:47-50**) “And while he yet spake, lo, Judas, one of the twelve, came, and with him a great multitude with swords and staves, from the chief priests and elders of the people. Now he that betrayed him gave them a sign, saying, Whomsoever I shall kiss, that same is he: hold him fast. And forthwith he came to Jesus, and said, Hail, master; and kissed him. And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore art thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus, and took him.”
 4. (**Luke 22:47-48**) “And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them, and drew near unto Jesus to kiss him. But Jesus said unto him, Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?”
- b. The scriptures teach that all forsook the Messiah
- i. (**Zech 13:7**) “Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, and against the man that is my fellow, saith the LORD of hosts: smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered: and I will turn mine hand upon the little ones.”
 - ii. Record of Fulfillment
 1. (**Matt 26:55-56**) “Are ye come out as against a thief with swords and staves for to take me? I sat daily with you teaching in the temple, and ye laid no hold on me. But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and **fled**.”
- c. David’s Prophecy
- i. (**Psalms 22**)
 - ii. (**Vs 1**) “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?”
 1. (**Matt 27:45-46**) “Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about

the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

iii. **(Vs 8)** "He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him."

1. **(Matt 27:38-43)** "Then were there two thieves crucified with him, one on the right hand, and another on the left. And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God."

iv. **(Vs 16)** "For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet."

1. We know that in a crucifixion that they nail through the Hands and Feet

2. "Crucifixion, execution of a criminal by nailing or binding to a cross. It was a common form of capital punishment from the **6th century BC** to the **4th century AD**, especially among the Persians, Egyptians, Carthaginians, and Romans. The Romans used crucifixion for slaves and criminals but never for their own citizens. Roman law provided that the criminal be scourged before being put to death; the accused also had to carry either the entire cross or, more commonly, the crossbeam from the place of scourging to the place of execution. The practice was abolished in 337 by Constantine the Great out of respect for Jesus Christ, who died on the cross." ('Crucifixion', Microsoft Encarta Encyclopedia 2004)

a. Psalms was written by David which live around 1000 years before Jesus and around 600 years before the practice of Crucifixion

v. **(Vs 18)** "They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."

1. **(Matt 27:35)** "And they crucified him, and parted his garments, casting lots: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots."

VI. Prophetic Proof of His Resurrection

a. **(Ps 16:9-10)** "Therefore my heart is glad, and my glory rejoiceth: my flesh also shall rest in hope. For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption."

b. Record of Fulfillment

i. (Acts 2:29-36)

ii. (Luke 24:1-5) “Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulchre. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments: And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

VII. Conclusion

a. Many more prophecies, but these are sufficient for our case.

b. Behold the Man! – Is He the Son of God?

c. If you believe that He is:

i. Know that he has the power to give you forgiveness of your sins

ii. Repent of your Sins and confess that He is indeed the Christ

iii. Be Obedient to His Commands – Be buried with him in the Watery Grave of Baptism for the Remission of your sins