



ISAIAH: THE MESSAGE OF HOPE

Lesson 9 - Substance of Things Hoped For

John L. Kachelman, Jr.

Dalraida Church of Christ, Montgomery, AL

INTRODUCTION

In the past centuries, many have claimed to be prophets.

1. These men and women have made claims setting dates to the end of the world, the election of political leaders, and the erection of buildings and nations.
2. Joseph Smith, the founder of Mormonism, claimed he was a prophet of God by his own words. Yet, many of his prophecies have been proven false over the years. Among many other false prophecies, in 1835, Smith “prophesied” that Christ would come back within fifty-six years. No sign of the second-coming occurred before (or after) 1891.
3. Jeane Dixon, a Roman Catholic, claimed to have the gift of prophecy. Among her predictions were that Russia would be the first nation to land on the moon, World War III would begin in October 1958, and that Walter Reuther would be a Democratic candidate for President in 1964. Consequently, all of these prophetic predictions were found to be false.

When the people of Israel wanted to know how they could discern whether the words spoken by prophets were truth, they received an answer:

☞ “When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing does not come about or come true, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken. The prophet has spoken it presumptively; you shall not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:22).

When the prophet claims to be the voice of God to the people and the predictions ring true, people should realize there is a higher power that is involved in its fulfillment. The fulfillment of prophecy is the standard by which it can be determined whether it is true or false.

Prophecy in God’s Word established several critical points:

1. ☞ **Credibility of the Prophet**. Contextually for Isaiah’s sake, it lends credence that he is who he claimed to be—a prophet of God! Just as the people were told in Deuteronomy 18, when the prophecy does come true, there is assurance that the words were spoken by the Lord.
2. ☞ **Confirmation of the Word of God**. The fulfillment of prophecy proves the Bible is the inspired word of God.
 - a. The Bible’s prophecy weaves together a strong argument of proof that it is the inspired word of God.
 - b. The prophecies from God are fulfilled by individuals and nations.
 - c. The predictive statements span hundreds of years, yet each one is fulfilled without exception.
 - 1) No man could have reached such perfection with respect to predicting the future.
 - 2) A higher being—God!—had a hand in the creation of such a complete book.
 - 3) Not only do the Scriptures claim to be the inspired words of God, but each prophetic utterance is fulfilled.
 - 4) We can be assured the Bible is God’s Word because of the wonderful completeness and unity of its scriptures spanning at least 1600 years and 40 different writers.
3. ☞ **Confidence in Christ’s Deity**. How can we know that Jesus Christ was not merely just a prophet or extraordinary teacher?



- a. The Scriptures provide the predictive prophecy of the Messiah, Servant, and Savior that would be the one to reunite God and man.
- b. The prophecies include the Savior's birth, death, and teachings.
- c. When one fulfills all the prophecies, how can there be any denial that He is the Savior?
- d. Christ fulfilled every Scripture that foretold of his existence on the earth.
- e. The predictive prophecies allow us to be confident in knowing that Christ was not just another man – he was God in the flesh!

PROPHECY'S BOLDNESS

🔑 Predictive prophecy unfolds amazing details and minuscule descriptions of the plans of God centuries prior to the actual event.

Through predictive prophecies in Scripture one is able to see the entire history of civilization in summary form - Kings, countries, events, successes, catastrophes, and a multitude of events are clearly detailed as a part of the Almighty's orchestrated scheme leading to the ultimate restoration of fellowship with fallen man.

The predictive prophecies regarding the Messiah are among the most amazing features in Scripture.

1. 332 distinct prophetic predictions are made in the Old Testament regarding the Messiah (Calculated by Canon Liddon, Floyd Hamilton, *The Basis of Christian Faith*. New York: Harper and Row, 1964, 160).
2. The Apostles used these to establish the Messiahship of Jesus Christ (The two-point attack for proving the validity of Christ was the fact that the Messiah was resurrected from the dead and the predictive prophecies regarding his life).
3. The fulfillment of these prophecies confirms that Jesus was the Christ! (Acts 2:36, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified").
4. 🔑 The entire ministry of our Lord was written centuries BEFORE He lived on earth!

"A complete history of the life of Christ was written more than eight hundred years before he was born...Just as the astronomer predicts the eclipse of the sun and it comes to pass, so the prophets told the very time Christ would come and, lo, He appeared!" (George DeHoff, *Why We Believe The Bible*, 79).

"From Genesis to Malachi the Old Testament abounds with anticipations of the coming Messiah of Israel. Numerous predictions, fulfilled in the New Testament, relate to His birth, life, death and resurrection. Other prophecies speak of His ultimate glory...no other prophetic theme of the Old Testament approaches in magnitude and significance the abundant revelation devoted to the subject of Jesus Christ" (John Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*. Chicago: Moody Press, 1969, 79).


Examine the predictive prophecies regarding Christ that were foretold by Isaiah and observe how they help strengthen your conviction that Christ is indeed the Son of God!

PROPHECY FULFILLED





The assurances just discussed are founded upon certain facts. One is 🔑 not left to make a "leap of blind faith" to the conclusion that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. There are 🔑 332 predictive prophecies regarding Jesus' life, death, and ministry. From these there are 61 specific



(major) predictions that were fulfilled. These present undeniable evidence for the deity of Christ, the sovereignty of God, and the obligation of obedience. Isaiah’s message includes many prophetic statements that are fulfilled in the New Testament. These provide the basis for eternal hope!

1. The predictive prophecies in the book of Isaiah make it the most referenced Old Testament book in the New Testament.
2. Because of this fact, the book of  Isaiah strengthens our faith and encourages hope for our Christian lives.
 - a. Our faith is stronger because we realize that God’s word is truth because of the fulfilled prophecies.
 - b. We can stand confident in knowing that Isaiah was a true prophet of God!
3. As we consider some of the fulfilled prophecies in Isaiah (this is not an all-inclusive list), these prophetic words bring hope to our Christian faith!

The Beginning of the Church (Isaiah 2:3; Luke 24:47; Acts 1:8)

- A. The actual meaning of  “Zion” is unknown; it is first referenced in 2 Samuel 5:7 when David captured the area.
 1. This area, as seen by looking at the context of the verse, is Jerusalem.
 2. “Zion” may have first referred to the southernmost hill of the city, but as the city grew, the term was commonly used in reference to the entire city (see Isaiah 1:8, 2:3; Psalm 87:1-7; Joel 2:1).
- B. Isaiah specifically prophesies that  “the Law was to go forth from Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Isaiah 2:3).
 1.  Isaiah pinpointed the origin of the kingdom of God and His universal reign.
 2. This kingdom would be the supreme ruler over all others and would be established from Zion and Jerusalem.
 3. God’s kingdom would be “chief of the mountains, raised above the hills, and all nations will stream to it” (Isaiah 2:2).
 4. Isaiah helped pinpoint a reference point for us to determine when and where the true Kingdom of God would begin.
- C.  Acts 2 documents the fulfillment of this prophecy.
 1. Before Christ ascended back into the heavens to sit at the right-hand of God’s throne, He told the disciples that the message of “repentance and forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:47).
 2. Christ knew the eternal plan, to bring the message of hope and forgiveness to all nations, would originate in Jerusalem.
 3. When the disciples gathered in the city of Jerusalem for the day of Pentecost, God fulfilled the prophetic beginning of His kingdom by allowing the disciples to speak to the people His word and plan for salvation (Acts 2:1-38).
 4. From that beginning point the disciples would teach and preach the Word of God first to the people of Jerusalem and then to all the other nations—just as Isaiah prophesied many years before.



☞ **It Takes More than Ears** (*Isaiah 6:9-10; 29:13; Matthew 13:13-15, 15:7-9; John 12:39-40*)

- A. Like those in Isaiah's days, the people were obstinate and stubborn to the truth.
1. Isaiah was to tell the people of the hope that awaited the faithful, but he would be met by insensitive hearts and dull ears (Isaiah 6:9-10).
 2. Isaiah's prophetic utterances would not be understood by those in Judah. They may have heard the words coming from his mouth, but they would be very far from understanding what God had in store for their hearts.
- B. ☞ Those who "heard" Christ would not "hear" Him either.
1. Throughout Christ's teachings, the multitudes had difficulty understanding and hearing the true meaning behind His teachings.
 2. The obduracy of Isaiah's generation explains why Jesus attempted to use parables and why His message was not received by those who heard.
 3. How tragic is the reality that even ☞ today there are those who "have ears but hear not." They refuse to accept the clear teaching of God's Truth. Many seek to redefine, refashion and redesign the commands of God's Word. These seek a more "comfortable and convenient" message.

☞ **The Virgin Birth** (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34*)

- A. Isaiah predicted the Savior would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
1. The very idea that a virgin would give birth to the Savior of the world was a concept that many could not imagine.
 2. This sign would be the greatest proof of the deity of Christ.
- B. This prophecy was fulfilled when Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:23; Luke 1:34).
1. The Lord spoke directly to Joseph and quoted the prophecy of Isaiah to assure him that he could still take Mary as his wife.
 2. Isaiah's prophecy foretold a feat that no other man had accomplished and which no mortal mind could imagine—physical birth through a spiritual Father.

☞ **Christ as a Stumbling Stone** (*Isaiah 8:14; Luke 2:34; Romans 9:33*)

- A. The prophecy that the Lord would be a "rock to stumble over" allowed Isaiah to tell the people of Judah that the one who was a sanctuary would also be a source of stumbling for others (Isaiah 8:14).

Isaiah consistently emphasizes that either Christ is the cornerstone of our lives (Isaiah 28:16, "Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a tested stone, a costly cornerstone for the foundation, firmly placed. He who believes in it will not be disturbed") OR He would be a rock over which we would stumble, trip and fall.

- B. Christ's teachings cause many to ☞ stumble, falter and leave.
1. Simon knew that Christ would be "appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel and for a sign to be opposed" (Luke 2:34).



2. As He taught some did not want to follow His teaching and give up their own desires so they did not continue to follow Him (John 6:66).
3. ☞ Christ came into the world to divide the faithful from the unfaithful.

Matthew 10:34-39, “Do not think that I came to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I came to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and a man’s enemies will be the members of his household. He who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. He who has found his life will lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake will find it.”

4. Instead of being a sanctuary to all people, those who were disobedient found unrest in Christ’s presence. Consider the hypocrites, Pharisees and Sadducees who did not give heed to His teachings. ☞ Christ became “problem” and a hindrance for their personal ambitions.

Those who follow the “Stumbling Stone” will also face opposition, “You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved” (Matthew 10:22).

“Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matthew 5:11-12).

☞ A Light In Galilee (*Isaiah 9:2, 49:6; Matthew 4:16; Luke 1:79*)

- A. Isaiah predicted that the light would shine on Galilee ☞ (Isaiah 9:1-2, “But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them”).

1. God’s servant would be a light of all nations so Israel would be raised up and preserved (Isaiah 49:6, “I will also make You a light of the nations so that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth”).
2. The Lord’s light would shine so that salvation would reach the ends of the earth. Not only would the light be for Israel, but to *all nations*—including the Gentiles (Isaiah 60:3, “Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising”).

- B. ☞ Christ’s ministry focused around the Sea of Galilee.

1. After Jesus heard that John the Baptist had been taken into custody, He began his ministry in Galilee.
2. He first came to Capernaum (Matthew 4:14) which is by the Sea of Galilee. Providentially, Capernaum is in the exact region where Isaiah prophesied that the Lord would send the great light (Isaiah 9:1, “But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles”).
3. By teaching in the areas around Galilee, He became the “great Light” to the nations. Christ would be the Servant to bring Salvation to all the people, for the house of David, for all nations (Luke 1:79).



🔑 **God's Spirit With Christ** (*Isaiah 11:2, 42:1, 48:16; Matt. 3:16 John 1:32*)

A. The prophetic promise was that the Servant would be endowed with His Spirit.

“The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord” (Isaiah 11:2).

1. God's Spirit would bring wisdom, understanding and righteous judgment to the one who would spring from David's descendants.
2. Only the one with God's spirit would be able to bring righteousness and salvation to the people.

B. When Jesus came out of the waters of baptism, the Spirit of God descended on Him in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16).

1. 🔑 God validated that He was with Christ. Further, God made an audible declaration that Christ was His Son and therefore had the support of the Almighty Heavenly Father.
2. Like the Servant in Isaiah 42:1, Christ would be “upheld” by the Lord. The voice from Heaven:
 - a. Authenticated Christ's sonship
 - b. Identified Christ with the suffering Servant of Isaiah 42
 - c. Offered the Father's support of Christ's actions and mission.
3. These actions made known to the entire multitude (John 1:32) that Christ was endowed with powers from above.

🔑 **Descendant of David** (*Isaiah 11:1, 10; Matt. 1:6-16; Luke 3:23-32*)

A. The Old Testament prophets foretold that the Messiah must be from the tribe of Jesse—descending from King David. “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit... Then in that day the nations will resort to the root of Jesse, Who will stand as a signal for the peoples; and His resting place will be glorious” (Isaiah 11:1, 10).

1. Isaiah continues this prediction and claims that the Servant would be “a shoot from Jesse.”
2. Consequently, for the Messiah to be true, He would have to be a descendant of David.

B. Christ's lineage is traced back to David twice in the Gospels (Matthew 1:6-16; Luke 3:23-32).

1. Both times David and Jesse are mentioned in the genealogy of Christ.
2. Although further discussion could be given as to the differences of the genealogy, both substantiate Christ's lineage and confirm that He can claim the fulfillment of the prophecy. This point is discussed in the conclusion but here is a brief comment describing the importance of this predictive prophecy.

In the New Testament the LEGAL RIGHT to the throne of David is passed through Solomon's lineage to Joseph's “legal son” Jesus. However, the PHYSICAL RIGHT to the throne of David is passed through the lineage of Nathan to Mary's son Jesus. Any ancestry of Solomon could NEVER have been King again. Jesus was not an ancestor of Solomon but of Nathan. Therefore, the predictive prophecy to David and to Solomon was literally fulfilled by the virgin birth of Jesus Christ to His mother Mary and to Joseph, “as was supposed” (Luke 3:23b).

🔑 **The Suffering of Christ** (*Isaiah 50:11, 53:4-12; Matthew 27:11-45; Mark 14:53-15:34; Luke 23:26-46; John 19:1-30*)

A. It is important to observe how thorough Isaiah is in describing the suffering of the Savior.



1. Isaiah mentions that “the Lord’s back would be given to those who strike” (Isaiah 50:11).
2. He prophesied that God’s Servant would be despised and rejected; remain silent before accusers; bear griefs; a vicarious sacrifice like a lamb; be buried with the rich; numbered with the transgressors; and intercede for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:4-12).

Note on predictive prophecy of Jesus being crucified: Death by crucifixion was unknown to the Jews. The Jewish criminal law prescribed that idolaters be hung on a gibbet but that was after they had been stoned to death (Deuteronomy 32:21-23). The hanging was an additional punishment designed to brand the executed person as one accursed of God. Later Jews applied the curse to those crucified as being, over and above, cursed by God. The Jews adopted crucifixion as a means of capital punishment only after they were subjects of Rome. Prior to this they inflicted the death penalty by stoning. The death predicted for the Messiah (Isaiah 53; Psalm 22) did not come into practice until hundreds of years AFTER the prophecies were made!

B. A person cannot read of Christ’s crucifixion and the events leading up to His death without noticing the close parallel of the actions.

1. ☞ Christ was flogged, chastised, insulted, and ultimately killed on the cross.
2. Not once did he utter a word against his tormentors and accusers.
3. Instead, he grieved for the people of Jerusalem and asked God not to hold the sin against them.

☞ **Other Prophecies Fulfilled:** (*can discuss if time permits*)

- **Head of the Kingdom** (Isaiah 28:16; Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11). The Savior would be the “corner stone laid in Zion.” See also Psalm 118:22 and Daniel 2:44-45.
- **Miraculous Wonders** (Isaiah 35:5-6; Matthew 11:5; John 20:30). The blind would see, the deaf would hear, and the lame would walk! Consider all the many sign and wonders that Christ performed while on Earth. Christ never failed to heal the sick or cure the ailing.
- **Preparation by John the Baptist** (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4; John 1:23). The voice of one crying in the wilderness would announce the Lord. John the Baptist came and prepared the way for Christ to come after him. His teachings helped pave the way for people to seek penitence and reformed dedication to God.
- **Jesus the Shepherd** (Isaiah 40:11; John 10:11-16). The Savior would tend to His flock and lay down his life for His sheep.
- **His Preexistence** (Isaiah 9:6-7; 41:4; 44:6; 48:12). This passage gathers into one statement the predictions of the incarnation, the deity and eternity of the Messiah, the future government of peace on earth, the righteousness and justice of His Kingdom, and the fact that the Kingdom will fulfill the promises to David (Walvoord, 89).
- **Prophecies Concerning His Ministry.**
 - ✓ Preceded by a “Messenger” (Isaiah 40:3).
 - ✓ His ministry was to begin in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1)
 - ✓ He would perform miracles (Isaiah 35:5-6a; Isaiah 32:3-4)
 - ✓ He was to be a “stone of stumbling” to the Jews (Isaiah 8:14; 28:16)
 - ✓ He would become a “light” to the Gentiles (Isaiah 60:3; Isaiah 49:6)



AMAZING ABSURDITY OF DENYING PROPHECY

A. 🕊️ The absurdity of the denial.

There are eight predictive prophecies over which Jesus had NO control. He could not have arranged these to be fulfilled. The fact is the following predictions were made hundreds of years prior to His living, and these were actions and choices outside of His control. This reveals the folly of rejecting the Truth.

1. 🕊️ The place of birth (Micah 5:2).
2. The time of His birth (Daniel 2:44; 9:25; Genesis 49:10).
3. The manner of His birth (Isaiah 7:14).
4. The betrayal by Judas (Zechariah 11:12).
5. The manner of death (crucifixion) (Psalm 22:16).
6. The people's reactions (mocking, spitting, staring, etc.) (Isaiah 53:7)
7. The piercing (Isaiah 53:5)
8. The burial place (Isaiah 53:9)

B. 🕊️ The improbability of the denial.

1. Scientific study has shown that the principles of probability exclude the “chance” fulfillment of these predictive prophecies (Josh McDowell, *Evidence That Demands A Verdict*, Vol. 1, 166-167).
 - a. By using the modern science of probability in reference to one man fulfilling just eight of these predictive prophecies, it is found that the chance that one man would fulfill all eight prophecies is 1 in 101.
 - b. In order to illustrate this staggering probability it is suggested that one takes silver dollars and lay them over the face of the state of Texas. They will cover the entire state two feet deep. Now mark one of the silver dollars and stir it into the entire mass, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up the marked silver dollar. What chance does he have? The same chance that one man can “accidentally” fulfill just eight of the predictive prophecies about the Messiah.
2. Now these predictive prophecies originated by one of two ways: 🕊️ They were given by the inspiration of the Almighty God OR they were dreamed up by the prophets (1 Peter 1:21).
 - a. IF the prophets dreamed these up, they had an impossible probability of their predictions coming true.
 - b. However, these eight ALL came true in Christ! This means that God inspired the writings of these prophets to a specificity that is beyond question to the rational mind.
 - c. If such a great impossibility exists for just eight of the predictive prophecies, what are the chances that 332 predictive prophecies regarding Christ would be predicted and would come true?



CONCLUSION

☞ When your heart needs hope then remember the greatness of Isaiah's message! If you want ☞ to find absolute confidence then study Isaiah's prophecy and follow Inspiration's counsel.

☞ "All of these prophecies were written more than 500 years before the death of Christ. They constitute a storehouse of information to strengthen our faith and to convict the gainsayer. They cannot be the result of fortunate guessing or blind chance. The hundreds of prophecies in the Old Testament concerning the Christ and their minute fulfillment as recorded in the New Testament simply prove to the candid and thoughtful person that the Bible is the inspired Word of God" (DeHoff, 84).

Predictive prophecies regarding Christ emphasize these points...

A. ☞ **God's sovereignty is universal!** (Isaiah 46:9, 10; Acts 3:18).

"Remember the former things long past, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which have not been done, saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'" (Isaiah 46:9-10).

1. The events foretold could have never happened unless there was an omnipotent Hand manipulating events and situations.
2. An excellent example of this is seen in tracing the lineage of Christ back to David.
 - a. The genealogies of Matthew and Luke are often viewed with boredom. Hard names; odd people; strange personalities. Many skip these texts or hurriedly read over them or select only the names that are meaningful.
 - b. These dual genealogies are given so that Jesus Christ will be connected with the Davidic Dynasty. Joseph's genealogy is given by Matthew and the genealogy Luke is from Mary's. Joseph's ancestry is traced through David's son Solomon. Mary's ancestry is traced through David's son Nathan. Why? This small, unnoticed detail is a striking fulfillment of Old Testament predictive prophecy!
 - c. God had promised David that his seed and his throne would last forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16).
 - d. God had promised Solomon that his throne would continue forever BUT there was an interesting silence regarding Solomon's "seed." It is this "silence" that highlights the awesome assurance of predictive prophecy.
 - e. The "seed" of Solomon continued to sit on the Jerusalem throne until apostasy nullified God's covenant. King Jehoiakim was cursed because of his apostasy (Jeremiah 36:30-31). Jehoiakim was succeeded by his son (Coniah; Jehoiachin; or, Jeconiah). This son was carried into Exile when Jerusalem fell and the Davidic Dynasty, through Solomon's seed, ended (Jeremiah 22:30).
 - f. The "throne" of Solomon would continue because it was actually the throne of David. How was the "throne" to continue forever since the seed of Solomon had ceased? God's predictive prophesy had foretold that the throne and seed of David would last forever. The Messiah was to come through David's seed and sit upon his throne. How could God's promise be fulfilled when Solomon's line had been cut off? The dilemma is resolved by understanding the lineage of Jesus Christ.
 - g. The kingly line of the Messiah was preserved through Nathan rather than through Solomon.



It would be through Nathan's descendants, not Solomon's that the Messiah would reign.

- h. Hence, in the New Testament the LEGAL RIGHT to the throne of David is passed through Solomon's lineage to Joseph's "legal son" Jesus. However, the PHYSICAL RIGHT to the throne of David is passed through the lineage of Nathan to Mary's son Jesus. Any ancestry of Solomon could NEVER have been King again. Jesus was not an ancestor of Solomon but of Nathan. Therefore, the predictive prophecy to David and to Solomon were literally fulfilled by the virgin birth of Jesus Christ to His mother Mary and to Joseph, "as was supposed" (Luke 3:23b).

NOTE: This study of the genealogy reveals the amazing accuracy of predictive prophecies! God knew and anticipated the defection of the Kings of Judah; the Almighty knew of the curse that would fall upon Solomon's ancestors; the virgin birth was planned as a way to fulfill the divine promise to King David. The genealogies underscore the deity of Christ, the absoluteness of God's Truth, and the accuracy of prophecy. It is truly amazing. What a wonderful assurance that God Almighty is indeed in control!

B. God's Scripture has integrity! (Numbers 23:19; Isaiah 40:6-8)

"All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; Surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever" (Isaiah 40:6-8).

The predictive prophecies originated with the Word of our awesome God. They were not the recorded ravings of men angry with others and delivering a vindictive message. These events did not happen by accident. These events were foretold and EVERY ONE came true! The complete fulfillment of this many prophecies can be explained only by acknowledging their supernatural origin! This validates the integrity of the Bible—we have no other choice but to read and heed the inspired Word of God!

C. God's blessings are offered! (Isaiah 48:3, 5; Romans 1:2-4; Acts 10:43)

"I declared the former things long ago and they went forth from My mouth, and I proclaimed them. Suddenly I acted, and they came to pass...I declared them to you long ago, before they took place I proclaimed them to you, so that you would not say, 'My idol has done them, and my graven image and my molten image have commanded them'" (Isaiah 48:3, 5).

The predictive prophecies assure us that God's blessings will not fail. All who follow the divine will are going to find the divine blessings!

D. God's Son is the Messiah! (Matthew 5:17; John 5:39, 40, 46, 47; Luke 22:37)

☞ The sovereign control of history, the integrity of Scripture, and the blessings available to mankind, lead to only one conclusion—Jesus was indeed the Christ!