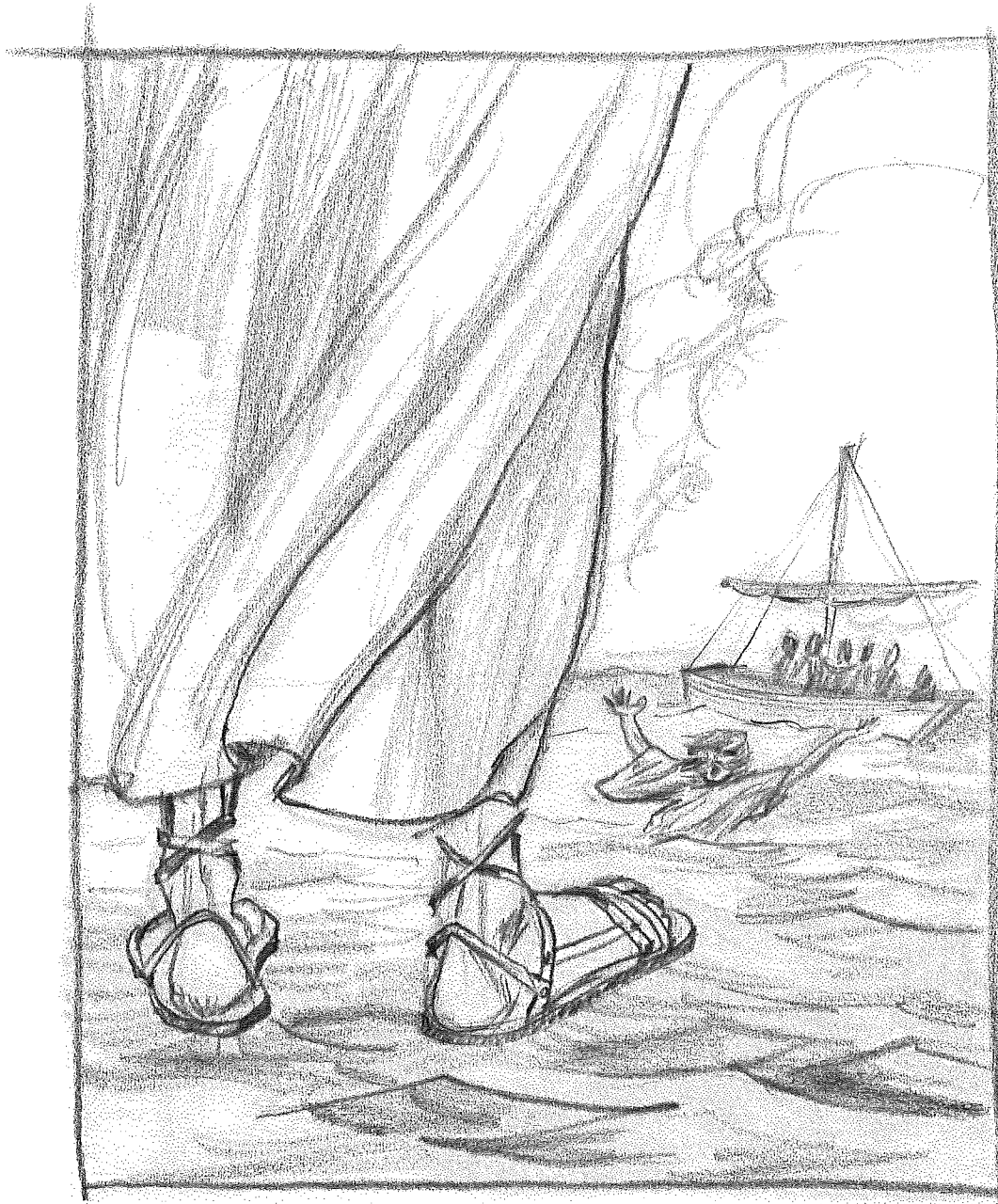


Chapter Seven



God's Son, Jesus Christ

VII. GOD'S SON, JESUS CHRIST

Introduction: *At the heart of the Christian religion stands not an idea, but a person. THE CHRISTIAN FAITH IS NOT JUST A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE; it is loyalty and love to a living Person, AND THAT PERSON IS JESUS CHRIST. WE CALL OURSELVES Christians BECAUSE WE ARE FOLLOWERS OF Christ; WE DO NOT CALL OURSELVES "GOD-ANS," OR MERELY "BELIEVERS." WE CALL OURSELVES "CHRISTIANS" BECAUSE OUR WHOLE HOPE, TRUST, AND LOYALTY ARE DIRECTED TO JESUS CHRIST, AND OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS BASED ON HIS LIFE AND WORK. IF CHRIST IS NOT WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES US THAT HE IS—GOD'S SON, AND THE SAVIOR OF THE WORLD—THEN OUR FAITH IS USELESS AND OUR HOPES ARE EMPTY DREAMS. BUT IF HE IS WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS, THEN Christians ARE THE MOST BLESSED OF ALL PEOPLE. WHO, THEN, IS JESUS CHRIST?*

1. THE NAME, "JESUS CHRIST"

- A. "Jesus" is a proper name and is the Greek form of the Old Testament **Joshua** (full name, **Jehoshua**), which means: "**Yahweh** (The Lord, God of the covenant) is salvation." This name was chosen by God to be the Messiah's name; the angel told Joseph that Mary, " 'will bear a son, and you shall call his name **Jesus**, for **He will save His people from their sins.** ' " (Matt. 1:21)
- B. "Christ" is really a title and means, "**The Anointed One.**" The Greek word, "**Christos**" is used in the Bible to translate the Hebrew participle "**Mashiach**" which means "**Anointed.**" In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed with oil, and by this action received the Holy Spirit and were appointed to their office. (See *1 Sam. 16:16*). Thus, when Jesus was designated as "**The Anointed One,**" it means that He is appointed to combine in Himself the offices of **prophet**, **priest**, and **king**, and also that He bears the anointing of the Holy Spirit to a unique degree. (*John 3:34-35*)
- Is. 61:1-2 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because **the LORD has anointed me to preach good news** to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor... (NIV)
(Fulfilled in *Luke 4:16-21*)

See also: *Psalms 2; Isaiah 11:2-3; Isaiah 42:1-4; Isaiah 61:1-2; Acts 4:26 and Acts 10:38.*

A PROPHET LIKE MOSES

“THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM AMONG YOU, FROM YOUR BRETHREN—HIM YOU SHALL HEED—” (DEUT. 18:15). ST PETER (ACTS 3:22-26), AND ST. STEPHEN (ACTS 7:37), BOTH REFER TO THIS PASSAGE (DEUT. 18:17-19) AS BEING FULFILLED IN THE PERSON OF JESUS, THE MESSIAH-PROPHET, A GREATER ‘MOSES.’ ALSO, IN JOHN’S GOSPEL, THE PARALLELS BETWEEN JESUS AND MOSES ARE STRESSED (JOHN 1:17 FF.).

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. When Moses was born his life was endangered by the decree of Pharaoh. (Ex. 1:22)</p> | <p>When Jesus was born, His life was threatened by the decree of Herod. (Matt. 2:16)</p> |
| <p>2. Moses, while still an infant, was laid in a basket of papyrus reeds, by his mother. (Ex. 2)</p> | <p>Jesus, was laid by his mother in a rude manger (perhaps carved out of stone). (Luke 2:7)</p> |
| <p>3. Moses, was privileged to live in the luxury and splendor of Pharaoh’s court, and was close to the mighty Ruler. But he left all this, and threw in his lot with the burdened and oppressed people of God. (Ex. 2:11-15)</p> | <p>Jesus Christ experienced the glory and wealth of His Heavenly Father’s court, but He willingly relinquished all this, ‘made himself of no reputation’ and became one of us in our need. (Phil. 2:7)</p> |
| <p>4. In his first visit to the Hebrew people he was rejected as their ruler and judge. (Ex. 2:11-15; Acts 7:25,35)</p> | <p>“He, (Jesus) came to his own home, and His own people received Him not.” (John 1:11)</p> |
| <p>5. After approximately 40 years of exile in the wilderness, Moses was sent by God to the Israelite people to deliver them from Pharaoh’s oppression. (Ex. 3 & 4)</p> | <p>After 40 days of fasting in the wilderness, Jesus commenced His public ministry among God’s people. (Matt. 4:12)</p> |
| <p>6. Moses is equipped by God with miraculous signs, and these were his credentials to convince first the children of Israel, and also Pharaoh, that he was sent from God. (Ex. 4:1-9)</p> | <p>Jesus came performing miracles in number and power more convincing than any prophet before or after Him. (Acts 10:38)</p> |
| <p>7. Moses accomplished the deliverance of God’s people by a mighty EXODUS in which God’s people were freed from Pharaoh’s tyranny, while Pharaoh was destroyed when he tried to stop the deliverance. (Ex. 14:10-31)</p> | <p>Jesus, through His sacrificial death on the cross and subsequent resurrection accomplished a great EXODUS, (Luke 9:31) by which all mankind was delivered from Satan’s tyranny and control over us through sin and death. (By Christ’s Resurrection we are freed from all this.)</p> |
| <p>8. The Children of Israel were ‘baptized into Moses in the cloud and Red Sea’ (1 Cor. 10:2) so that he was their new Leader, and he guided them along the weary wilderness journey. (Acts 7:35-40)</p> | <p>In Baptism, we assume Christ’s Lordship over us, and He leads us along our Life’s weary and difficult journey. (Acts 2:38) As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. (Gal. 3:27)</p> |
| <p>9. Approximately 50 days after the Deliverance, Moses went before God in the heights of Sinai, and received the Old Covenant written on 2 slabs of stone. God takes some of the Spirit in Moses and distributes it on the 70 Elders of the Church. (Num. 11:16-17; 27-29)</p> | <p>Jesus, 40 days after His Resurrection, ascended to the Father, and on the 50th Day, inaugurated the New Covenant, in which He poured out the Holy Spirit on His followers; He writes God’s Law on the fleshly tablets of human hearts. (2 Cor. 3:3; Cfr. Numb. 11:29)</p> |
| <p>10. Along the Wilderness Way, the Children of Israel murmured and rebelled against Moses; he prayed for them and interceded for them. (Numb. 16:41-49; Deut. 9:25-29)</p> | <p>Jesus, too, ever lives to make intercessions for us when we are weary and falter along life’s hard road. (Heb. 7:25)</p> |

2. JESUS IS THE LONG-AWAITED MESSIAH OF THE JEWISH NATION

The Bible lays heavy emphasis upon this point. Jesus did not just “happen” upon the stage of human history. God didn’t just work things out as He went along! The entire Old Testament points forward to a person who would deliver mankind from sin and become the Savior of the world. Hence, Jesus Christ and the Kingdom which He would establish are the best pre-published events in human history. His coming to earth was all in accord with God’s loving purposes and is the fulfillment of prophecies extending over many centuries. The following are but a few of the several hundred prophecies about Christ, given in the Old Testament, and fulfilled by Christ in the New Testament.

A. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE A PROPHET AND LEADER OF GOD’S PEOPLE, LIKE MOSES

PROPHECY (1250 B.C., DATE DISPUTED)

(Moses to Israelite Nation) “And the Lord said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken. I will raise up for them a **prophet like you** from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. **And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.**’” (*Deut. 18:17-19*, partly fulfilled in Joshua)

See also: *Ezekiel 34:23-24, 37:24.*

FULFILLMENT (ABOUT 27 A.D.)

“...‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; **listen to Him!**’” (*Matthew 17:5*, spoken by the Father on Mount of Transfiguration)

“...**the words that I say to you** I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father, who dwells in me does His works.” (*John 14:10*)

See also: *John 10:11-12; 17:6.8;*

Acts 3:17-26; Acts 7:35-40; Heb. 3:1-6.

B. THE MESSIAH WOULD PERFORM THE FUNCTIONS OF A PRIEST AND OBTAIN FORGIVENESS FOR MANKIND

PROPHECY (ABOUT 1050 B.C.)

“And I will raise up for myself a **faithful priest**, who shall do according to what is in my heart and in my mind; and I will build him a sure house, and he shall go in and out before my anointed **forever.**” (*I Samuel 2:35*, said to Eli, and partly fulfilled in Samuel)

FULFILLMENT (26-30 A.D.)

“When Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come... He entered once for all into the Holy Place, taking not the blood of goats and calves but His own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption.” (*Hebrews 9:11-12*)

JOSEPH - A PROTOTYPE OF JESUS CHRIST

Joseph, a type of Jesus

1. **Joseph is the 'beloved' son of his Father, Israel** (Jacob), one of 12 sons, child of Rachel; coat of many colors. (*Gen. 37:3*)
2. **He is sent by his father on a mission to his brothers** who hate him as his father's 'pet', and because of his grandiose dreams implying his future rule over them. (*Gen. 37:5-11*)
3. **Though innocent, he is sold for 20 pieces of silver** by his brothers. (*Gen. 37:28*)
4. **His perfect loyalty and obedience to God** get him falsely accused, convicted, and cast into prison. (*Gen. 39:20*)
5. **Joseph** finds himself in prison with 2 other criminals. (*Gen. 40*)
6. **He foretells death to one prisoner, and release and restoration to the other.** (*Gen. 40:9-19*)
7. **Joseph** asks the one restored to Pharaoh to remember him when he comes back into Pharaoh's favor. (He forgot for a long time) (*Gen. 40:14-23*)
8. **Joseph** is freed from prison by a decree of Pharaoh. (*Gen. 41:37-41*)
9. **Joseph** is exalted at Pharaoh's right hand, given a name above every name except that of Pharaoh himself. (*Gen. 41:41-5*)
10. **Joseph** was 30 years old when he entered Pharaoh's service, and went out through all the land of Egypt. (*Gen. 41:46-47*)

Jesus, Who Fulfills the Type

1. **Jesus** is the Father's "beloved Son" *Matt. 3:17; Mark 9:7*, but also a true Israelite, of the tribe of Judah.
2. **Jesus** 'sent to his own, and his own received Him not.' He is regarded as a false prophet, 'dreamer,' 'has a demon,' 'made himself equal with God,' 'called God His Father,' etc. (*John 1:11*)
3. **Jesus**, betrayed by one of the 12 disciples for 30 pieces of silver, is bound and led away. (*Matt. 26:15*)
4. **Jesus**, unjustly condemned for crimes He did not commit. Sentenced to die. (*Luke 23:14, 24-25*)
5. **Jesus**, in death (prison) is crucified between 2 criminals. (*Luke 23:32-33*)
6. **Jesus** tells the repentant thief that he will be admitted to paradise. The other criminal, unrepentant, dies in his sins. (*Luke 23:42*)
7. **The repentant thief** asks Jesus to remember him when He comes into His Kingdom. (Jesus remembered!) (*Luke 23:43*)
8. **Jesus** is freed from the 'prison of death' by the Father's decree of Life, Resurrection, for His Son. (*Acts 2:24*)
9. **Jesus** is exalted to Father's right hand and given a name above every other name. (*Philippians 2:9-11; Acts 2:33-36*)
10. **Jesus**, at age 30, enters His public ministry and begins to serve God's people, and to become king over the Gentiles. (*Luke 3:23; Romans 15:12; Isaiah 11:10*)

Joseph's brothers reject him and sell him, but through God's providence, he becomes the ruler of Egypt (Gentiles), and rules them very wisely. Then, much later he is revealed to his brothers, they repent and accept his lordship over them, and come and live with the Gentiles under his rule in Egypt. Perhaps this is a prophecy that in time the Jews will repent of their rejection of Jesus, recognize Him as their long-lost 'brother,' accept His Lordship over them, and live under His rule together with the Gentiles, in a more 'productive land' (*Gen. 45*). Luther thought this was the meaning. He says,

"A very clear figure of this is Joseph, the symbol of Christ, who was sold by his brothers into Egypt (*Gen. 37:28*) and there elevated to the position of a ruler and in the end recognized unexpectedly by his father and brothers, as Genesis so beautifully puts it near the end of the book. So also the Jews who threw Christ out to the Gentiles, where He now has the position of ruler, will finally come back to Him, drawn by hunger for the Word, and they will receive Him among the Gentiles."

C. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE A DESCENDENT OF KING DAVID, BUT WOULD ESTABLISH A GREATER AND MORE ENDURING KINGDOM

PROPHECY (ABOUT 970 B.C.)

God's Covenant With David

"...Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever... Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me..." (2 Sam. 7:11-13; 16. *NRSV*) See also: 1 Chronicles 17:1-27 for same prophecy. Partly fulfilled in Solomon; fully, in Jesus.

See also: Is. 11:1-10; Amos 9:11-12; Jer. 33:14-26; Acts 2:29-36; Acts 7:47; Acts 15:16-18.

FULFILLMENT (28-33 A.D.)

"He (Jesus) will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob **forever**; and **of his Kingdom there will be no end.**" (Angel Gabriel to Mary *Luke 1:32-33*)

"If it is by the finger of God that I cast out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you." (*Matt. 12:28*)

"Pilate...said to Him (Jesus), 'Are you the King of the Jews?' Jesus answered... 'My kingship is not of this world'... 'You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Every one who is of the truth hears my voice.'" (*John 18:33, 36, 37*)

D. THE MESSIAH WOULD SUFFER AND DIE AND BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD, AND THEN BE HIGHLY EXALTED

PROPHECY (ABOUT 710 B.C.)

"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities." (*Is. 53:4-5*)

"And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death..." (*Is. 53:9*)

"...a company of evildoers encircle me; they have pierced my hands and feet—...they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them." (*Psalms 22:16-18*)

FULFILLMENT (32 A.D.)

"And He said to them, 'O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe **all that the prophets have spoken!** Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, He interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself." (*Luke 24:25-27*)

See also: 1 Peter 2:22-25

Cont'd on page 7-9

PROPHECY (ABOUT 710 B.C.)

“...when he makes himself an offering for sin, He shall see his offspring, He shall prolong his days.” (Isaiah 53:10)

“Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong.” (Isaiah 53:12a)

FULFILLMENT (32 A.D.)

“...Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you would follow in his steps. He committed no sin; no guile was found on his lips. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return...by his wounds you have been healed.” (1 Pet. 2:21b, 22, 23, 24b)

E. THE MESSIAH'S KINGDOM WOULD BECOME WORLDWIDE AND CONTINUE FOREVER

PROPHECY

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.” *Is. 9:6-7 (Approx. 740 B.C.)*

And now the LORD speaks—he who formed me in my mother's womb to be his servant, who commissioned me to bring his people of Israel back to him. The LORD has honored me, and my God has given me strength. He says, “**You will do more than restore the people of Israel to me. I will make you a light to the Gentiles, and you will bring my salvation to the ends of the earth.**” *Is. 49:5-6* (In prophecy Jesus describes the mission the Father gave Him.)

“I saw in the night visions, and behold with the clouds of heaven there came one like a **son of man**, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, **that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him**; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.” (*Dan. 7:13-14*) (Date disputed)

“And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, nor shall its sovereignty be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand for ever; just as you saw that a stone was cut from a mountain by no human hand, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver and the gold.” (Daniel 2:44-45)

“...but the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.” (*Daniel 2:35*, See preceding verses)

FULFILLMENT (32 A.D. – ?)

“And the high priest said to him (Jesus), ‘I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God.’ Jesus said to him, ‘You have said so. But I tell you, hereafter you will see **the Son of man** seated at the right hand of Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.’” (*Matt. 26:63b-64*)

“Another parable He put before them, saying, ‘The Kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.’” (*Matt. 13:31-32*)

See also: *Ezekiel 17:22-24; 31:6*

“ ‘...**this gospel of the kingdom** will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.’ ” (*Matt. 24:14*)

“He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (*Colossians 1:13-14*)

3. JESUS CHRIST IS A TRUE HUMAN BEING, AND ALSO THE ONLY-BEGOTTEN SON OF GOD

This is the great claim which the Bible makes for Jesus, that **He is both fully human and fully divine**. He existed as the only-begotten son of God from eternity, but at the proper time in history, He became man through birth of the Virgin Mary, lived upon this earth for 33 years, was put to death, but rose from the dead on the third day. Forty days later He ascended into heaven.

A. The pre-existence of Christ “in the form of God.” His acceptance of human NATURE, HIS OBEDIENCE UNDER THE LAW, HIS SUFFERING, DEATH AND EXALTATION, ARE ALL SUMMARIZED IN THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT BIBLE PASSAGE:

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, **though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited**, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and **gave him the name that is above every name****, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is **Lord**, to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2:5-11*) (NRSV)

See also: *John 1:1-3, 14; John 17:5*.

** “The Name above every name”: It is generally agreed that the name which is above every name is the name “Kyrios” in Greek, or “Lord.” That it is the supreme name is shown by the fact that the men who made the Greek Version of the Old Testament, the Septuagint, used the word Kyrios to render the exalted name of God himself. (Yahweh, in Hebrew) See: *Romans 10:9; I Cor. 12:3*.

B. Jesus’ birth was a miracle birth

He had no human father. His conception was caused by the power of the Holy Spirit; His mother was a virgin, a descendent of King David, and her name was Mary.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, **she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit**. Her husband** Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your **wife****, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him **Emmanuel**,” which means, “**God is with us**.” (*Matthew 1:18-23*) (NRSV)

See also: *Luke 1:26-38*

** Note: **Joseph is called Mary’s husband**, and she his **wife**, since under Jewish law betrothal was a civil ceremony by which the couple became legally husband and wife. After betrothal, however, the “wife” returned to her own home until the bridegroom came to claim her.

3. (Cont'd)

C. IT WAS NECESSARY THAT JESUS ALSO BE A TRUE HUMAN BEING

Since humanity had sinned, it was appropriate that man's salvation should come about through a man. Jesus was fully a human being (but not **merely** human): He possessed body and soul; He ate and drank, knew joy and grief, hunger and thirst, pain and death. But His life was unique; His entire life, death and resurrection was FOR US. He was and is **Representative man**, the Founder of a new human race.

"Since the children have flesh and blood, **he too shared in their humanity** so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For this reason he had to be made **like his brothers** in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted."
(Hebrews 2:14-15, 17-18) (NIV)

4. JESUS IS THE TRUE AND ETERNAL SON OF GOD

A. The Disciples of Jesus did not realize immediately that Jesus was divine.

But realization of this grew upon them as they observed **His perfect life, heard His teachings, and saw His great miracles.**

“On that day, when evening had come He said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd, they took Him with them, just as He was, in the boat. And the other boats were with Him. And a great storm of wind arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already filling. But He was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke Him and said to Him, ‘Teacher, do you not care if we perish?’ And He awoke and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace, Be Still!’ And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?’ And **they were filled with awe**, and said to one another, ‘**Who then is this, that even the wind and sea obey him?**’” (*Mark 4:35-41; Matt. 8:23-27; Luke 8:22-25*)

John 14:11 Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or **at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves.** (NIV)

4. (Cont'd)

B. In order for Christ's Disciples to come to a full realization of his deity, IT HAD TO BE GRANTED TO THEM BY THE FATHER—AND THE SAME IS TRUE FOR US!

Matt. 16:13-17 Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "**You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.**" And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For **flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven.**" (NRSV)

C. Jesus fully shares the divine nature in every respect. He is equal to the Father and imparts the gift of the Holy Spirit.

John 5:22-23 The Father judges no one but has given all judgment to the Son, **so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father.** Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. (NRSV)

Col. 1:15-20 He (Jesus) is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—**all things have been created through him and for him.** He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. **For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,** and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. (NRSV)

For Jesus' **power to forgive sins**, see *Mark 2:1-12*.

For Jesus' **power over Satan and Disease**, see *Mark 6:54-56*.

For Jesus' **power over death**, see *Luke 7:11-17*.

For Jesus' **unlimited power**, see *Matthew 28:18*.

For his **knowledge of all things**, see *John 21:17*.

For his **eternal existence**, see *Micah 5:2, John 8:58*.

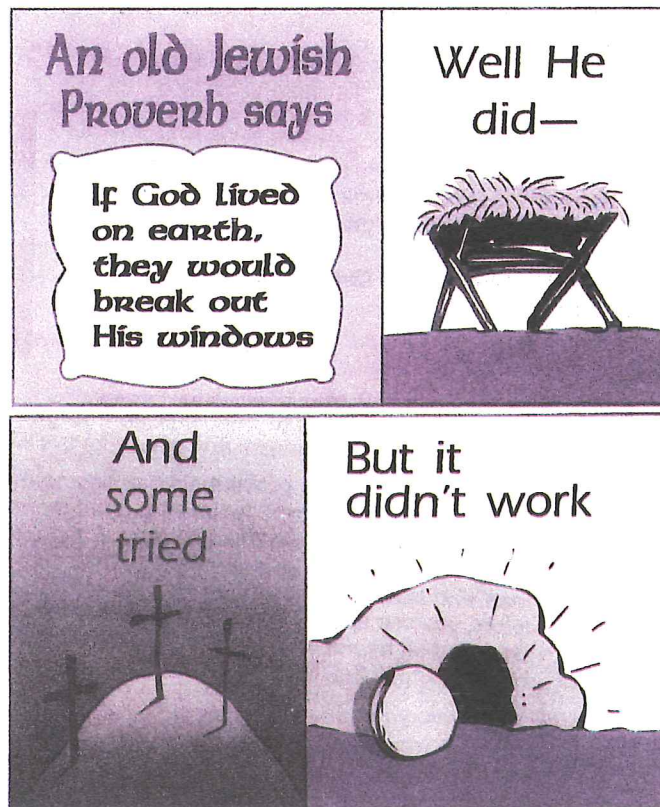
He is called, "God," and accepts this designation, *Isaiah 7:14; 9:6; Matt. 1:23; John 1:1; 20:28; Hebrews 1:8,10; Titus 2:13*.

THE SECOND ARTICLE OF THE APOSTLES' CREED

"I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended onto hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead."

What Does This Mean? (Luther's Explanation)

Who is Christ?	"I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord.
What has He done?	who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil;
What did He pay?	not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.
Why did He do it?	that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence and blessedness,
How can I be sure?	just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."



Additional Quotations on the Life and Work of Christ

Jesus Fulfills Prophecy

“The Old Testament is a book of hope, of unfulfilled expectation. From beginning to end it looks forward to Christ. Its many promises through Abraham, Moses and the prophets find their fulfillment in Christ. Its law, with its unbending demands, was man’s ‘custodian until Christ came’, keeping him confined and under restraint, even in bondage, until Christ should set him free (Gal. 3:23–4:7). Its sacrificial system, teaching day after day that without the shedding of blood there could be no forgiveness, prefigured the unique bloodshedding of the Lamb of God. Its kings, for all their imperfections, foreshadowed the Messiah’s perfect reign of righteousness and peace. And its prophecies are all focused upon him. Thus Jesus Christ is the seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent’s head, the posterity of Abraham through whom all the families of the earth would be blessed, the star that would come forth out of Jacob and the scepter that would rise out of Israel. Jesus Christ is also the priest after the order of Melchizedek, the king of David’s line, the servant of the Lord God who would suffer and die for the sins of the people, the Son of God who would inherit the nations, and the Son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven, to whom would be given dominion, glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages should serve him forever. Directly or indirectly Jesus Christ is the grand theme of the Old Testament. Consequently he was able to interpret to his disciples ‘in all the scriptures the things concerning himself’ (Lk. 24:27). (1970b:98)”

– John R. W. Stott quoted by Timothy Dudley-Smith in *Authentic Christianity*
From the Writings of John Stott, #224, pp. 110-111, InterVarsity Press, 1995. Used with permission.
(Taken from *Christ the Controversialist*, p. 98. Downers Grove: IVP, 1970.)

Altogether Beyond Our Reach

“Jesus renounced the joys of heaven for the sorrows of earth, exchanging an eternal immunity to the approach of sin for painful contact with evil in this world. He was born of a lowly Hebrew mother in a dirty stable in the insignificant village of Bethlehem. He became a refugee baby in Egypt. He was brought up in the obscure hamlet of Nazareth, and toiled at a carpenter’s bench to support his mother and the other children in their home. In due time he became an itinerant preacher, with few possessions, small comforts and no home. He made friends with simple fishermen and publicans. He touched lepers and allowed harlots to touch him. He gave himself away in a ministry of healing, helping, teaching and preaching.

“He was misunderstood and misrepresented, and became the victim of men’s prejudices and vested interests. He was despised and rejected by his own people, and deserted by his own friends. He gave his back to be flogged, his face to be spat upon, his head to be crowned with thorns, his hands and feet to be nailed to a common Roman gallows. And as the cruel spikes were driven home, he kept praying for his tormentors, ‘Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.’

“Such a man is altogether beyond our reach. He succeeded just where we invariably fail. He had complete self-mastery. He never retaliated. He never grew resentful or irritable. He had such control of himself that, whatever men might think or say or do, he would deny himself and abandon himself to the will of God and the welfare of mankind. ‘I seek not my own will’, he said, and ‘I do not seek my own glory’. As Paul wrote, ‘For Christ did not please himself.’

“This utter disregard of self in the service of God and man is what the Bible calls love.” (1971a:44)

– John R. W. Stott quoted by Timothy Dudley-Smith in *Authentic Christianity*
From the Writings of John Stott, #44, pp. 36-37, InterVarsity Press, 1995. Used with permission.
(Taken from *Basic Christianity*, p. 44. Downers Grove: IVP, 1971.)

WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTER VII (page 1)

1. ON THE BASIS OF THIS LESSON, CAN YOU ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?

1. Why is it not correct to describe the Christian religion as a "**Philosophy of life**"?
2. Why is it not correct to describe the Christian faith as a **code of ethics**?
3. What is the **heart** of the Christian Religion?
4. What is the meaning of the name, "**Jesus**"?
5. What is the meaning of, and significance of, the Savior's title, "Christ"?
6. Name at least three aspects of Christ's Life or Nature that were foretold by the prophets of the Old Testament.
7. Give **two ways** in which the birth of Jesus differed from our own.
8. Name at least two factors that played a part in bringing the disciples of Jesus to a firm belief in His divinity (that He was God in the flesh).
9. Mention a few events from the Gospels which indicate that God's Life and Power were present in Jesus.

2. JESUS DID SOME AMAZING THINGS. LOOK UP THE BIBLE PASSAGES, AND IN EACH FIND SOMETHING THAT JESUS DID WHICH NORMAL HUMANS CAN'T DO. WRITE THIS UNUSUAL THING ON THE LINE.

1. *Matthew 12:25* _____
2. *Mark 4:39* _____
3. *Mark 6:48* _____
4. *Luke 6:19* _____
5. *Luke 7:14-15* _____
6. *Luke 22:51* _____
7. *John 6:9-13* _____
8. *JOHN 18:6* _____

WORKSHEET FOR CHAPTER VII (page 2)

3. The prophets of the Old Testament are like so many painters, all of whom worked on the same Painting—each added a few lines or strokes to the picture. When the painting was complete, the picture was that of Jesus. Look up the Bible references in your Bible and write on the lines what each prophet predicted about Jesus.

1. _____ *Isaiah 7:14*

9. _____ *Ezekiel 34:23*

2. _____ *Isaiah 9:6-7*

10. _____ *Psalms 22:16*

3. _____ *Isaiah 11:1-2*

11. _____ *Psalms 22:18*

4. _____ *Isaiah 40:11*

12. _____ *Micah 5:2*

5. _____ *Isaiah 42:6-7*

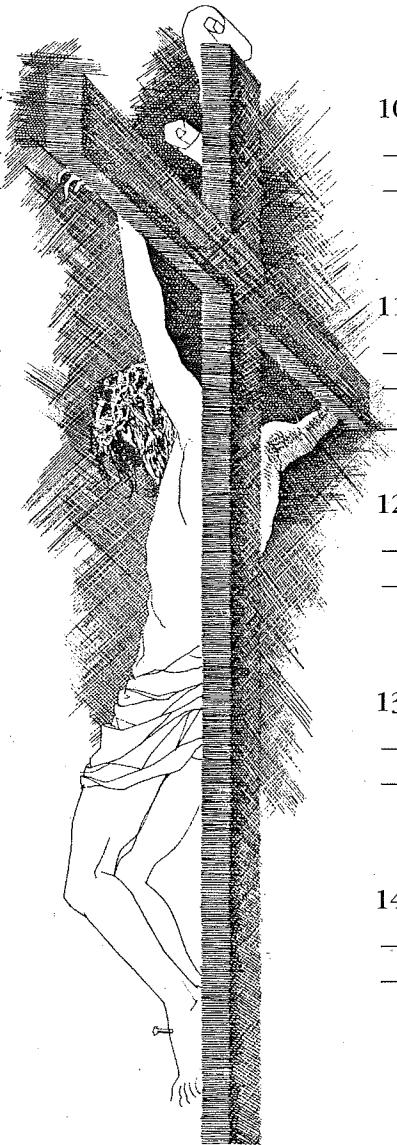
13. _____ *Zechariah 7:13-14*

6. _____ *Isaiah 53:4-5*

14. _____ *Daniel 7:13-14*

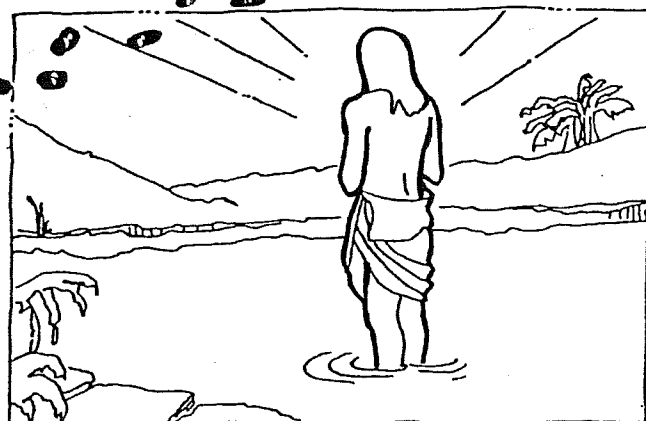
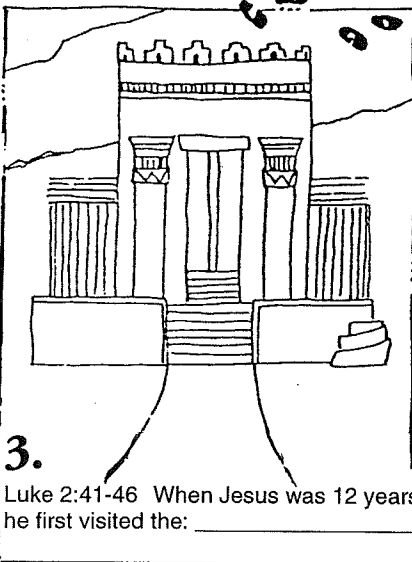
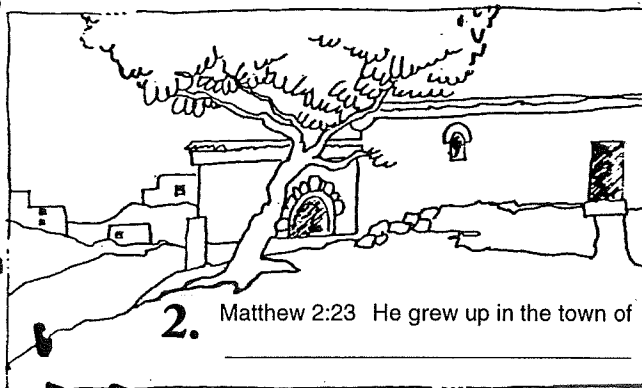
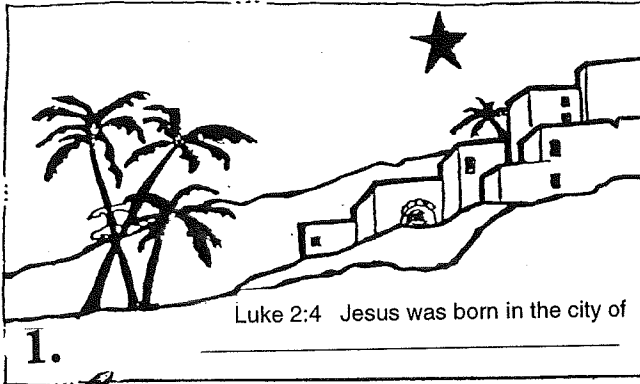
7. _____ *Isaiah 53:12*

8. _____ *Deuteronomy 18:18*

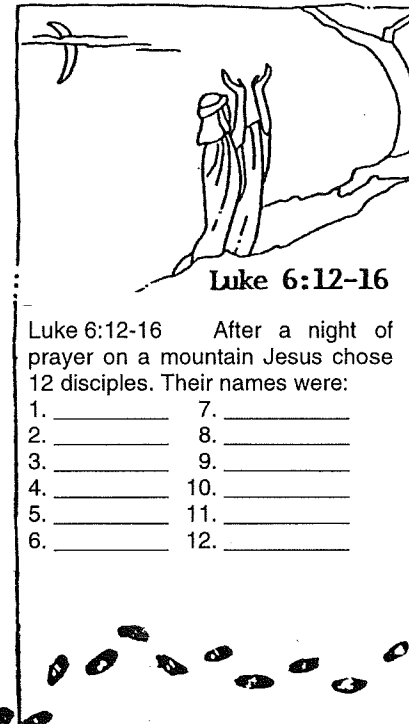


FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

The pictures are of certain events in Jesus' life. By each picture is a Bible reference. Look it up and write in the lines what happened. (2 pages)

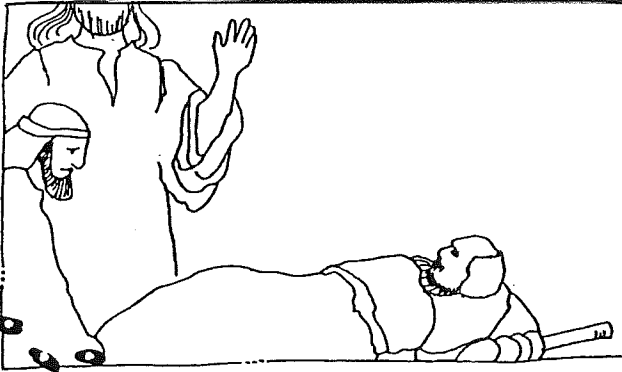


5.

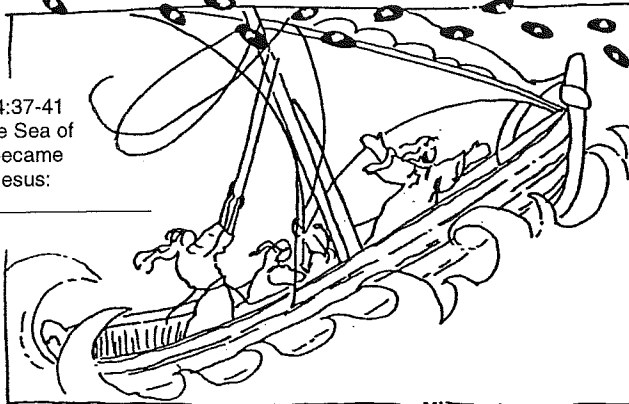


FOLLOW THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS (page 2)

6. Luke 7:12-16 In the city of Nain,
Jesus: _____

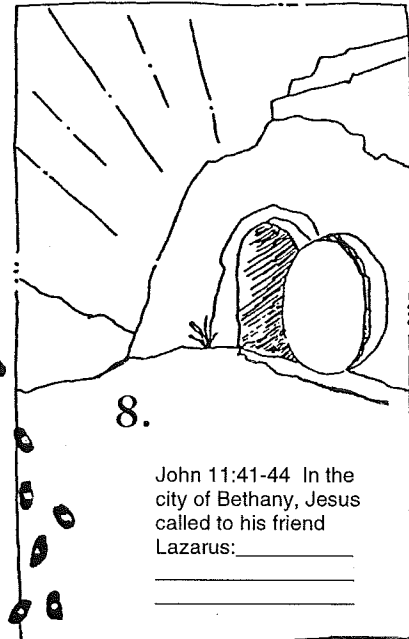


7. Mark 4:37-41
When the Sea of Galilee became violent, Jesus:



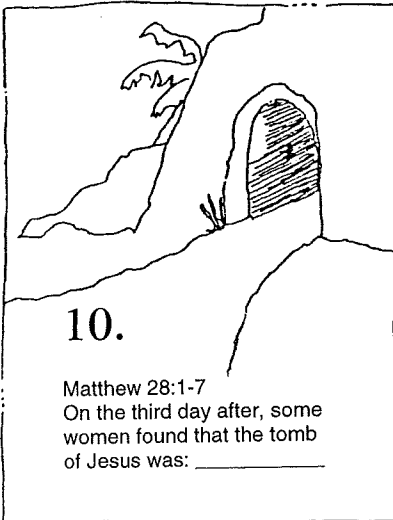
8.

John 11:41-44 In the city of Bethany, Jesus called to his friend Lazarus:



10.

Matthew 28:1-7
On the third day after, some women found that the tomb of Jesus was: _____



9.

Mark 15:22 Jesus was crucified near Jerusalem on a hill called: _____

