

CHRISTOLOGY (13)

Observation #4 - Prophecies are often given in disregard of the actual eschatological fulfillment of time.

What we mean is that prophecy concerning Jesus Christ does not always attempt to specifically define or divide the time frame of the prophecy. For example, prophecy may leap from the suffering of Jesus Christ to the glory of Jesus Christ and not attempt to consider the time element that exists between these two events.

One example is Isaiah 9:6. This verse presents Christ as a child and son, then immediately leaps ahead to the place where the government rests upon His shoulders. There is no mention of the time gap that exists between these two events.

A good example is Isaiah 61:1-2. In this text, Isaiah makes no attempt to divide the gracious preaching ministry of Jesus Christ from the “day of vengeance of our God.” When we study the Scriptures, it is clear that verse 1 pertains to Christ’s first coming and verse 2 pertains to Christ’s second coming. When Jesus Christ did come to this earth the first time, He clearly made the time distinction concerning this very specific prophecy (Luke 4:17-21). He specifically closed the book of Isaiah after He had read the part of the prophecy which He was presently fulfilling. But He did not read the part that He would fulfill at His second coming.

When Isaiah wrote the prophecy, he was not focused on the actual time element of it. He was presenting an entire portrait of the ministry of Jesus Christ. This teaches us that when the prophecy was written, it oft times disregards specific time details of eschatological fulfillment.

There are several specific O.T. prophecies that clearly establish that Jesus Christ was the Jewish Messiah:

- 1) He would be born of a virgin. Is. 7:14; Mt. 1:18, 24, 25; Lk 1:26-35)
- 2) He would be born the Son of God. Ps 2:7; Mt. 3:17
- 3) He would be born in the tribe of Judah. Gen. 49:8, 10; Micah 5:2; Lk. 3:23, 33; Mt. 1:2
- 4) He would be born in the family line of Jesse. Is. 11:1, 10; Lk. 3:23, 32; Mt. 1:6
- 5) He would be born in the line of David. Jer. 23:5; Mt. 1:1; 9:27; 15:22; 20:30-31; 21:9; Rev. 22:16
- 6) He would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2; Mt. 2:1
- 7) He would be preceded by a forerunner. Is. 40:3; Mt. 3:1-3
- 8) He would have a ministry of miracles. Is. 35:5-6; Mt. 11:1-5; 9:35
- 9) He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey. Zech. 9:9; Mt. 21:1-9
- 10) He will be a stumbling block to the Jews. Ps. 118:2, 22; I Pet. 2:6-8; Rom. 9:33
- 11) He will have a ministry to the Gentiles. Is. 60:3; Acts 13:47-48
- 12) He will be sold for thirty pieces of silver. Zech. 11:11-12; Mt. 26:15
This money would be thrown in God’s House. Zech. 11:13b; Mt. 27:5a
This money would purchase a potter’s field. Zech. 11:13b; Mt. 27:7
- 13) He would be forsaken by His disciples. Zech 13:7; Mk. 14:50
- 14) He would be accused by false witnesses. Ps. 35:11; Mt. 26:59-61

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- 15) He would not answer false accusations. Is. 53:7; Mt. 27:12-14
- 16) He would be beaten and humiliated. Is. 50:6; Mt. 27:38
- 17) He would be crucified. Ps. 22:16; Lk. 23:33
- 18) He would be crucified with thieves. Is. 53:12; Mt. 27:38
- 19) He would be buried in a rich man's tomb. Is. 53:9; Mt. 27:57-60

These are just a few of the prophecies that clearly establish the identity of Jesus Christ. These are literal predictions which were literally fulfilled. There is no other person in history that even remotely resembles one who fulfilled all of this—except Jesus Christ.

It is important to observe that since Jesus Christ fulfilled all of His O.T. prophecies at His first coming, both literally and precisely, He will do the same concerning His prophecies regarding His second coming. For example, when it is predicted that Christ will come back in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God (II Thess. 1:7-8), you can count on the fact that it will be fulfilled just as all other prophecies were fulfilled—to the very letter.

The person who drifts through life thinking prophetic warnings and teachings are nice stories that really don't need to affect our lives, is one living life with dangerous attitudes that will eventually lead to devastating consequences. God fulfills His prophecy literally and precisely. Jesus Christ is certainly proof of that.

QUESTION #7 – What do we mean by the phrase “incarnation of Jesus Christ?”

The actual word “incarnation” does not show up in the Bible, but the parts of this word sum up the concept very well. The word is comprised of two syllables—“in” and “carnate.” Carnate means “flesh” and by adding the preposition “in” it means “in flesh.”

When related to theology, this word “incarnate” means “God came in the flesh.” To state it another way, perhaps more specifically, it means that God the Son, the second Person of the Godhead, became human. He took upon Himself fleshly humanity. He actually became a Person.

This concept of God taking human/fleshly form is certainly biblical (John. 1:14; Phil. 2:5-7; I John 4:2; II John 7. It is clear from these passages that accepting the doctrine of the incarnation is necessary in order for true biblical salvation to occur. Any denial that the Son of God came in the flesh to this earth is a denial that means one does not have everlasting life.

The incarnation of Jesus Christ is clearly established by biblical revelation. His birth is described in the Bible as no other birth in the entire universe and His person is totally unique:

1) Isaiah 9:6 - This verse is clear proof that the one to be born would be both human and Divine. On the one hand, a child would be born. On the other hand, He would be called the Mighty God. This is obviously a very unique Person.

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2) Isaiah 7:14 - Here is language that is very strange, because it speaks of a virgin giving birth to a son. Liberal theologians attempt to say that a better translation of the word “virgin” would be “young woman.” However, as Dr. Ryrice points out concerning this word, “There is no instance where it can be proved that “almah” designates a young woman who is not a virgin” (*Basic Theology*, p. 242).

There are some major biblical and historical proofs that Mary, indeed, was a virgin in her conception of Jesus Christ:

1. Mary’s reaction to Gabriel clearly testifies that she indeed was a virgin. Lk. 1:27-34–note 34.
2. Gabriel’s reaction to Mary clearly testifies that she was a virgin. Lk. 1:34-38
3. Joseph’s willingness to marry Mary testifies she was a virgin. Mt. 1:18-23
(Joseph did not stone her nor put her away)
4. Luke’s careful research of the facts testifies she was a virgin (Lk. 1:1-4)
Keep in mind Luke is a medical doctor (Col. 4:14). We may be certain that if Luke did not know for certain that this was objective truth, he would have never put this into print because he knew the rest of the medical world would scrutinize his record.
5. Jesus Christ was eventually killed because of His claim that God was His Father, not a man. John 5:18

Each of these facts leads us to the conclusion that Jesus Christ was indeed born of a virgin.

3) Galatians 4:4 - Here again is evidence of the unique Person of Jesus Christ. Both natures are seen. It was God who ordained the exact time of His Son’s birth. It was God who sent His Son, but He did it through a woman.

4) Hebrews 2:14 (9-14) - It is clear that the work of Jesus Christ had tremendous eternal value and this value is in part due to His humanity. (See Hebrews 1:1-3.)

5) Romans 8:3 - This verse is particularly crucial to the doctrine of Jesus Christ, because it not only establishes that He was a Person, but it also clearly establishes that He was made, not in sinful flesh like we are, but in the likeness of sinful flesh. Jesus Christ did not have a sin nature. He was a legitimate, real Person, but He was also perfect Deity—He was God (Col. 1:19; 2:9). Jesus Christ had everything other men have with the exception of a sin nature (Heb. 4:15). Although He was made in the likeness of sinful flesh, He did not have a sinful flesh.

Jesus Christ did not just indwell a human body, He actually became a human being; but at the same time He was also fully God. He had every physical attribute that human beings have with the exception of a sin nature. Jesus Christ is the only theanthropic (God-man) Person to ever live in history. He is the only Person who is truly God and truly man. This truth is critical and foundational to the Person and work of Jesus Christ.

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QUESTION #8 – What are the proofs that Jesus Christ was truly man?

This question, in itself, demonstrates how unique Jesus Christ is, for in no other instance does an effort need to be made to prove a human is in fact a human.

Proof #1 - The proof of direct statement . Jn. 1:14; I Tim. 2:5; I Jn. 4:2-3

The Bible specifically and directly states that Jesus Christ was truly a man.

Proof #2 - The proof of normal growth . Lk. 2:40, 46, 52

Jesus Christ grew and was subject to the ordinary laws of physical development, just like everyone else. He went through the natural process of maturation, and in every instance He was always in the favor of God.

Proof #3 - The proof of human characteristics .

There are not many references to the way Christ looked, but from certain passages we may conclude that He had normal human characteristics.

- 1) He looked like the average Jew . John 4:9
- 2) He had a normal body composition . Heb. 2:14
- 3) He had a soul . Matt. 26:38
- 4) He had a spirit . Lk. 23:46

Since Jesus Christ was comprised of a body, soul and spirit, we must come to the conclusion that He was a real human being. He was a real man.

Proof #4 - The proof of human need .

The human need side of Jesus Christ occurs in non-moral issues, for in moral issues He had no need. Jesus Christ had the same bodily and emotional needs as any other human, which establishes His true humanity.

- 1) He became hungry . Mt. 4:2
- 2) He became thirsty . Jn. 19:28
- 3) He became tired . Jn. 4:6
- 4) He needed to sleep . Mt. 8:24
- 5) He became emotional . Lk. 19:41, 45
- 6) He sometimes wept . Lk. 19:41; Jn. 11:35

Jesus Christ had the same non-moral needs as every other human—proving He was human! To deny Christ's true physical nature is the mark of the spirit of the antichrist (I Jn. 4:2, 3).