

Rom 15:8-12 NKJV 8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises [made] to the fathers, 9 and that the Gentiles might glorify God for [His] mercy, as it is written: "For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, And sing to Your name." 10 And again he says: "Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people!" 11 And again: "Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples!" 12 And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope."

Up until now Paul has been stressing unity between those who believe themselves to have freedoms and those who do not. Now Paul expands this exhortation to the unity between Jews and Gentiles. He is about to show us the proper way to look at Christ's ministry and perspective toward both.

It is hard for us to understand just how earth shaking Christianity was to those who were Jewish. Christ changed so much of what the Jewish people thought and did. And to accept these heathen Gentiles who never obeyed the law.... Now that was tough. It was hard for the Jews not to see the gentiles as **second class citizens**, as if they were an **afterthought** in God's plan.

Paul is about to show them the truth.

Now, on a different note, have you ever doubted your faith? Have you ever doubted the legitimacy of the Bible? Have you ever wondered, do I just believe this stuff because it is what I have always been taught? Well if you struggle with that or know someone who does this morning could be an encouragement for you.

Our text

8 Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises [made] to the fathers,

Do you remember when Jesus sent out his disciples to preach? Where did they first go?

[Mat 10:1, 5-8 NKJV] 1 And when He had called His twelve disciples to [Him], He gave them power [over] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. ... 5 These twelve Jesus sent out and commanded them, saying: "Do not go into the way of the Gentiles, and do not enter a city of the Samaritans. 6 "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. 7 "And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Jesus's primary ministry while He was on this planet was to the Jews. That is where he spent most of His time and most of His focus. We Gentiles easily forget that. Christianity is **now**, primarily, a **Gentile** religion. But it didn't start that way. Christ told the disciples this:

[Act 1:8 NKJV] 8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Even then the ministry would begin in Judea and work its way out.

So- **Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises [made] to the fathers**

Now what promises were made to the fathers? If you were to look at all the promises made about a Messiah, you could group them in two categories. He was promised as a **coming King** who will judge and rule the world. And He was promised as a **coming Messiah** who would save His people from their sins. And often those promises are intermixed in such a way that would have made it difficult to know exactly what to expect when Christ arrived.

Now let's take a look at some of those promises, those prophecies that Christ fulfilled. Here are 44. Some scholars say that there are over 300 such prophecies fulfilled by Christ.

Prophecies Jesus Fulfilled (Chart by Mary Fairchild)

44 Prophecies Jesus Christ Fulfilled			
	Prophecies About Jesus	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Fulfillment
1	Messiah would be born of a woman. (written 1400 years bc)	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:20 Galatians 4:4
2	Messiah would be born in Bethlehem . (written 790 years bc)	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1 Luke 2:4-6
3	Messiah would be born of a virgin. (written 790 years bc)	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23 Luke 1:26-31
4	Messiah would come from the line of Abraham. (Written 1400 years bc)	Genesis 12:3 Genesis 22:18	Matthew 1:1 Romans 9:5
5	Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac . (Written 1400 years bc)	Genesis 17:19 Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:34
6	Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob.	Numbers 24:17	Matthew 1:2

	(Written 1400 years bc)		
7	Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. (Written 1400 years bc)	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:33 Hebrews 7:14
8	Messiah would be heir to King David's throne. (around 1000 bc)	2 Samuel 7:12-13 Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32-33 Romans 1:3
9	Messiah's throne will be anointed and eternal. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 45:6-7 Daniel 2:44	Luke 1:33 Hebrews 1:8-12
10	Messiah would be called Immanuel. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
11	Messiah would spend a season in Egypt. (around 790 bc)	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:14-15
12	A massacre of children would happen at Messiah's birthplace. (around 640 years bc)	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:16-18
13	A messenger would prepare the way for Messiah (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 40:3-5	Luke 3:3-6
14	Messiah would be rejected by his own people. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 69:8 Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11 John 7:5
15	Messiah would be a prophet. (Written 1400 years bc)	Deuteronomy 18:15	Acts 3:20-22
16	Messiah would be preceded by Elijah. (around 400 years bc)	Malachi 4:5-6	Matthew 11:13-14
17	Messiah would be declared the Son of God. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 2:7	Matthew 3:16-17
18	Messiah would be called a Nazarene. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 11:1	Matthew 2:23
19	Messiah would bring light to Galilee. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:13-16
20	Messiah would speak in parables. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 78:2-4 Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:10-15, 34-35
21	Messiah would be sent to heal the brokenhearted. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 61:1-2	Luke 4:18-19
22	Messiah would be a priest after the order of Melchizedek. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6

23	Messiah would be called King. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 2:6 Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 27:37 Mark 11:7-11
24	Messiah would be praised by little children. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 8:2	Matthew 21:16
25	Messiah would be betrayed. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 41:9 Zechariah 11:12-13	Luke 22:47-48 Matthew 26:14-16
26	Messiah's price money would be used to buy a potter's field. (around 500 years bc)	Zechariah 11:12-13	Matthew 27:9-10
27	Messiah would be falsely accused. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 35:11	Mark 14:57-58
28	Messiah would be silent before his accusers. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:4-5
29	Messiah would be spat upon and struck. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
30	Messiah would be hated without cause. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 35:19 Psalm 69:4	John 15:24-25
31	Messiah would be crucified with criminals. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38 Mark 15:27-28
32	Messiah would be given vinegar to drink. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34 John 19:28-30
33	Messiah's hands and feet would be pierced. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 22:16 Zechariah 12:10	John 20:25-27
34	Messiah would be mocked and ridiculed. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 22:7-8	Luke 23:35
35	Soldiers would gamble for Messiah's garments. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 22:18	Luke 23:34 Matthew 27:35-36
36	Messiah's bones would not be broken. (Around 1000 bc)	Exodus 12:46 Psalm 34:20	John 19:33-36
37	Messiah would be forsaken by God. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46
38	Messiah would pray for his enemies. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 109:4	Luke 23:34

39	Soldiers would pierce Messiah's side. (around 550 bc)	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
40	Messiah would be buried with the rich. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
41	Messiah would resurrect from the dead. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 16:10 Psalm 49:15	Matthew 28:2-7 Acts 2:22-32
42	Messiah would ascend to heaven. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 24:7-10	Mark 16:19 Luke 24:51
43	Messiah would be seated at God's right hand. (Around 1000 bc)	Psalm 68:18 Psalm 110:1	Mark 16:19 Matthew 22:44
44	Messiah would be a sacrifice for sin. (around 790 bc)	Isaiah 53:5-12	Romans 5:6-8

Now all of these were predicted between 400 and 1000 years bc. To put that in perspective that would be like someone in 1614 predicting the life of someone living today. And that is just the latest date. The earliest would have a person in 1016 making that prediction. That was about the time of the first crusades, when Leif Erickson discovered North America and when the tower of pisa was built. Now let me ask you. What is the likelihood of any prediction a human would have made back then coming true? The whole political landscape was different when these prophesies were made than when they were carried out.

I have been experiencing more and more attacks on the credibility of the Bible and the whole idea of Christianity. It is important that we don't forget what we know. Scoffers can point at all kinds of things and mock the whole idea that God created this world, or that God sent Christ to earth from heaven, or that Jesus Christ actually resurrected. Yet these people don't spend much time looking at the evidence we are looking at this morning.

You will find that most scoffing is done about things that are not and cannot be known. It is much like the snake's conversation with Eve. The snake focused on placing doubt about God's intentions toward Eve. He had zero proof but he had a couple of facts. And he masqueraded those truths as evidence.

Scoffers do the same thing. They say, where is the return of Christ? He hasn't returned yet. That is a fact. And they masquerade that fact as proof. But they have no real proof that Christ **will not** return.

Well we cannot live long in that realm. Believers should fixate on the truths that **we possess** to back those things **we cannot see** and sometimes **cannot know**. My intention this morning is not so much to challenge us all but to encourage us all. **Christ confirms God's promises**. That is the point in our text and that is the point I will focus on this morning.

Christ's life events were predicted by at least 10 authors who lived hundreds of years apart. Most of them never met. These men didn't all know, maybe none of them knew, they were writing scripture. The fact of the accuracy of their prophecies is simply impossible, if not for God.

You young people are going to have your faith attacked. It probably has already happened some, and it will continue to happen. And you will find, if you already haven't, that trusting what you believe because you trusted **the people who taught it to you** will not stand. You have got to make sure you know **what you believe** and you know **WHY you believe**. And you have got to do that **for yourself**.

When I first came to Christ at age 12 I had no assurance of salvation because I didn't experience anything emotionally when I received Christ. So for the next 3 years I ended up reading books that would show my **why what I believe is true**. I looked at some of the major religions and what they believed. I looked at apologetics to see what **proof** there was that Christianity was true. And I looked at doctrine to make sure I was believing the right thing. **I had to**, because I had to know, first, that I was truly a Christian and second, that Christianity was the right way.

You will have to do this for yourself if you have not. Because, I guaranty you, in the world we live in, something is going to rise up to shake your faith. Maybe it will be suffering that you did not expect. Maybe it will be a friend who falls from his faith. Maybe it will be some genius who is able to use facts to make Christianity look ridiculous. This threat will come. And only **you** can prepare yourself for it. No one can do that for you.

Take a look at this list of prophecies about Christ I just went over. They will be on the internet with all the references. You might also want to google prophesies about Christ.

Then take a look at **all** the prophecies in scripture. There are none that either **have not been fulfilled** or are not still **able** to be fulfilled. Don't let the devil bluff you into thinking that your position is so weak it can't be defended. It can be. And you must.

I had some information from the internet about the chances that one man could have fulfilled all the prophecies in scripture. They were astronomic. And the truth is, there is **no man** who **would have done** it **intentionally** knowing that the end of it would be his own death at a young age. Think about that. Some would say that Christ read these prophecies and then intentionally fulfilled them. But there is no one who would do that for a selfish motive. There is nothing in it for the flesh of the person who does it. No, Christ had to be who He said He was. We need to stand our ground on that. There is nothing else that fits the facts. I wanted to add a little more to that on the apologetics field this morning.

A lot of people cast doubt on the legitimacy and accuracy of the Bible. They act like it is an ancient book of superstitions and we have risen far beyond that level. But like Mike always said, Science books need rewritten every year because the knowledge keeps changing. The Bible was written once and it still stands. It needs no revisions.

Let's take a look at things the Bible has referred to in ancient history and this information has been confirmed by archeological discoveries.

From BiblicalUniverse.com

"The Hittites referred to in the Old Testament were once thought to be **a biblical legend** until a find in Turkey uncovered the Hittite capital and historical records. **Solomon's wealth** was once thought to be exaggerated, until records uncovered that wealth in that time was indeed concentrated with kings; this made Solomon's vast wealth entirely possible. A discovery in Khorsabad, Iraq proved the existence of **the Assyrian king Sargon** mentioned in Isaiah 20:1: the account of Sargon's capturing Ashdod, recorded on the palace walls. **Belshazzar**, the king of Babylon referred to in Daniel 5, was proven to have reigned with his father Nabonidus, the previously reported last king of Babylon, when tablets were found showing his co-reign with his father.

The Flood

Several documents from Babylon have been discovered that describe a world-wide flood. One tablet reports a king's enjoyment of reading the writings of people who lived before the flood! An ancient tablet listing Sumerian kings shows that they reigned for long periods of time until a flood came. Following the flood, the kings' reigns shortened considerably. This lines up with the Bible's account of the shortened human lifespan following the flood. The Gilgamesh Epic describes an ark, how animals were taken into the ark, birds being sent out before the waters receded, and the ark's landing on a mountain followed by a sacrifice.

Noah's Ark

References to the ark begin in about the 3rd century B.C. From these references, historians infer that it was common knowledge the ark was still visible on the top of Mt. Ararat. Other references throughout history report the existence of a boat on the mountain in this region.

Tower of Babel

Both Sumerian and Babylonian historical records report a time when all of humanity spoke the same language, until a temple tower was destroyed and language confused. This matches the account in [Genesis 11:1-9](#) of the tower of Babel.

More than 50 Old Testament and about 27 New Testament characters are known from sources other than the Bible. Of these, archaeologists have discovered the likenesses of nearly 20. These likenesses include:

- King Shishak of Egypt. [1 Kings 14:25-26](#) describes Shishak's invasion of Judah and plundering Jerusalem and other cities. Archaeologists have confirmed this story. Shishak recorded his campaign on the south wall of the Great Temple of Amon at Karnak in Egypt.
- King Jehu of Israel ([2 Kings 9:1-10:36](#)). Jehu ruled Israel for 28 years. Although the prophet Elisha anointed him as king to eliminate Baal worship in Israel, Jehu "was not careful to keep the law of the Lord" ([2 Kings 10:31](#)) and once his crusade to eliminate the family of Ahab was over, he turned back to his fathers' evil ways. His is the only surviving likeness of a king of Israel or Judah.
- King Tiglath-Pileser III of Assyria ([2 Kings 15:29, 30](#); [1 Chronicles 5:26](#)). The Bible reports that Tiglath-Pileser, also known as Pul, invaded Judah and took the people captive. Two inscriptions of Tiglath-Pileser confirm biblical accounts of his invasion of Judah.
- "Pekah their king they had overthrown, I placed Hoshea over them. From him I received 10 talents of gold and 1000 talents of silver." (See [2 Kings 15:30](#)) Five Hebrew kings, Uzziah, Ahaz, Menahem, Pekah and Hoshea, are mentioned in Tiglath's inscriptions.
- "The people of the land of Omri I deported to Assyria, with their property." (See [2 Kings 15:29](#))

- King Sargon II of Assyria ([Isaiah 20:1](#)). No other historical record mentions the name of King Sargon. Until French archaeologist Paul Emil Botta discovered the ruins of his palace in 1843, Sargon was considered a myth. Huge winged bulls, mythical creatures with a human head, bull's body and angel's or bird's wings, thought to have power to protect the palace from evil spirits, stood on either side of the palace entrances. These bulls were more than 14 feet tall and weighed more than 16 tons. An inscription on a clay tablet found among the ruins said, "In my first year I captured Samaria. I took captive 27,290 people. People of other lands, who never paid tribute, I settled in Samaria."
- King Tirhakah of Egypt ([2 Kings 19:9](#)) Also known as Taharqa, Taharka and Manetho's Tarakos. Tirhakah reigned in Egypt from 690 to 664 B.C. He is identified by scholars with the Ethiopian king who waged war with Sennacherib during King Hezekiah's reign in Judah. Esarhaddon, son of Sennacherib, later defeated Tirhakah.
- King Esarhaddon of Assyria ([2 Kings 19:37](#)). Less well-known than his father Sennacherib or his son Assurbanipal, Esarhaddon usurped his brother's right to the throne of Assyria. Esarhaddon's rule had a sweeping historical influence on the region. His was a fierce but efficient rule, despite the fact that he suffered from poor health.
- King Merodach-baladan of Babylon ([2 Kings 20:12-19](#)). A Chaldean who seized the Babylonian throne and was later overthrown by Sargon.
- King Xerxes I of Persia (Esther; [Ezra 4:6](#)) Identified by most as the Persian king Ahasuerus in the story of Esther, he reigned from 485 to 465 B.C.
- King Darius I of Persia ([Ezra 4:24-6:15](#); [Haggai 1:1, 15](#)) The king who decreed that the Jews were to return home from exile and rebuild the temple in Jerusalem.
- King David- Did you know that there were no extra-biblical references to King David made until 1994? The scoffers used this lack of fact, not really a fact in itself, to make fun of the biblical narrative. But the scoffers were silenced when a reference to the House of David was found on a building that was built 150 years after David's death, proving the importance of David and the fact that his kin were still on the throne.
- Roman emperor Augustus ([Luke 2:1](#)). Augustus ruled at the time of Christ's birth. It was his census decree that brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.

- Roman emperor Tiberius ([Matthew 22:17, 21](#); [Mark 12:14-17](#); [Luke 3:1; 20:22-25](#); [23:2](#); [John 19:12,15](#)). Tiberius reigned at the time of Christ's death.
- Roman emperor Claudius ([Acts 11:28](#); [18:2](#)) Claudius reigned from A.D. 41 to 54.
- King Herod Agrippa I of Judea ([Acts 12:1-23](#); [23:35](#)) Herod Agrippa reigned from A.D. 37 to 44. He had good connections with Rome.
- King Aretas IV of the Nabateans ([2 Corinthians 11:32](#)) Aretas's daughter married Herod Antipas but returned home when Antipas took Herodias as his wife—an event that led to John the Baptist's beheading. Aretas then declared war on Antipas, but Antipas appealed to Tiberius of Rome who sent the governor of Syria to attack Aretas.
- Roman emperor Nero, also known as Caesar ([Acts 25:11,12,21](#); [26:32](#); [28:19](#); [Philippians 4:22](#)) Nero is known for his persecution of Christians and the great fire that destroyed much of Rome during his reign, which he blamed on the Christians.

Now other than David, this is just a list of those historical figures for whom likenesses were found.

The first physical remains of a biblical character were discovered in Jerusalem when workers constructing a road through a park came across a tomb containing 12 limestone bone boxes with the names of 63 people. The most ornately decorated of the boxes was inscribed with the name **“Joseph son of Caiaphas”** and contained the bones of a 60-year-old man

Ancient historian Josephus records this name as the full name of the High Priest who led the plot to kill Jesus. King Darius I ruled the Persian Empire from 522 to 486 B.C. His tomb was one of three cut into a cliff near Persepolis, Iran.

Caesar Augustus ruled the Roman Empire from 27 B.C. to A.D. 14. When Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, it was Augustus's census decree they were obeying. ([Luke 2:1-7](#)) Augustus built a large mausoleum, 143 feet high and 248 feet across, on the banks of the Tiber River in Rome, the remains of which still exist in the Piazza Augusto Imperatore. An urn in the center contained his ashes; other rulers' urns were placed in a corridor around the mausoleum. Some urns were still in place when the building was excavated.

A number of structures described in the Bible have also been found, including:

- The palace at Jericho where Eglon, king of Moab, was assassinated by Ehud ([Judges 3:15-30](#))

- The east gate of Shechem where Gaal and Zebul watched the forces of Abimelech approach the city ([Judges 9:34-38](#)) The Temple of Baal/El-Berith in Shechem, where funds were obtained to finance Abimelech's kingship, and where the citizens of Shechem took refuge when Abimelech attacked the city ([Judges 9:4, 46-49](#))
- The pool of Gibeon where the forces of David and Ishbosheth fought during the struggle for the kingship of Israel ([2 Samuel 2:12-32](#))
- The Pool of Heshbon, which the eyes of the Shulammite woman were likened to ([Song of Songs 7:4](#))
- The royal palace at Samaria where the kings of Israel lived ([1 Kings 20:43; 21:1, 2; 22:39; 2 Kings 1:2; 15:25](#))
- The Pool of Samaria where King Ahab's chariot was washed after his death ([1 Kings 22:29-38](#))
- The water tunnel beneath Jerusalem dug by King Hezekiah to provide water during the Assyrian siege ([2 Kings 20:20; 2 Chronicles 32:30](#))
- The royal palace in Babylon where King Belshazzar held the feast and Daniel interpreted the handwriting on the wall (Daniel 5)
- The royal palace in Susa where Esther was queen of the Persian king Xerxes ([Esther 1:2; 2:3, 5, 9, 16](#))
- The royal gate at Susa where Mordecai, Esther's cousin, sat ([Esther 2:19, 21; 3:2, 3; 4:2; 5:9, 13; 6:10, 12](#))
- The Square in front of the royal gate at Susa where Mordecai met with Halthach, Xerxes' eunuch ([Esther 4:6](#))
- The foundation of the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus cured a man with an unclean spirit ([Mark 1:21-28](#)) and delivered the sermon on the bread of life ([John 6:25-59](#))
- The house of Peter at Capernaum where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law and others ([Matthew 8:14-16](#))
- Jacob's well where Jesus spoke to the Samaritan woman (John 4)
- The Pool of Bethesda in Jerusalem, where Jesus healed a crippled man ([John 5:1-14](#))
- The Pool of Siloam in Jerusalem, where Jesus healed a blind man ([John 9:1-4](#))
- The tribunal at Corinth where Paul was tried ([Acts 18:12-17](#))
- The theater at Ephesus where the riot of silversmiths occurred ([Acts 19:29](#))
- Herod's palace at Caesarea where Paul was kept under guard ([Acts 23:33-35](#))

I know that I gave you a lot of detail this morning. But I did it for a reason. I know you won't remember the facts, but I hope you will remember the sheer volume of just a few of the facts that support the authenticity and accuracy of scripture. The Bible is simply historically accurate where it refers to historical facts. My goal this morning was to create an impression. When you think back on it I want one thing to stand out. Those who make fun of the Bible do not know the facts. And the facts are plentiful for those who care to look.

Mockery is like a magician's slight of hand. They get you to focus on one place while the important stuff is going on somewhere else. We need to focus on the **somewhere else**. When your faith is being challenged, don't listen to the skeptics and mockers. Seek out the facts. The facts support our faith. Do not allow the mockers to have sway in your life. Don't let them cause you to focus on their speculations. Focus on the truth.

Jesus Christ came to confirm the promises of God. There is evidence **we can see** and God saw to it **that we could**. Our faith is not blind. It is supernatural. But it is supported by the facts we can see and know. I hope that you found this as encouraging to you as it was to me.