

# Vintage Jesus 1

## How did people know Jesus was coming?

*Lecture*

- Well howdy to our first "Vintage Jesus" lecture, very glad to have you all with us, what I'm gonna do is pray briefly, 'cause I need it, and then we'll get right to work. Father God, thank you so much for an opportunity to get into the Bible and to talk about Jesus, and God, that's amazing that we have a God who speaks to us and He has come to meet with us, and so Holy Spirit, you wrote the Scriptures and you're here to teach us, help me to teach, help us learn, and help us to love Jesus, in whose name we pray. All God's people said,

- [Congregation] Amen.

- Amen. Well welcome to it, this is a class format, and just to give you a brief introduction, back in 2007, I had the honor of co-authoring a book called "Vintage Jesus" with Dr. Gerry Breshears, I'm in the midst of rewriting it to do a 15th anniversary edition, and these lectures will be the precursor to that, so that'll be 12 lectures, we'll deal with one topic at a time, some of the content will be revisited, some of it's gonna be brand new, and I hope you'll enjoy it, and that being said, as we get into it, think of questions you might have at the end and we'll do some Q&A at the end for as much time as we've got left together, and if you don't remember your question and you leave and you send it in to [hello@realfaith.com](mailto:hello@realfaith.com), I might turn that into an "Ask Pastor Mark" video for you and throw it out on the internet as well. That being said, the reason we're using the title of "Vintage Jesus" is because it's all about Jesus, but every generation needs to go back and remember, revisit to relearn who He is and what He's done, and so in this, let me just start by telling you about Jesus 'cause I know some of you know Jesus and some of you don't. When we're talking about Jesus, His name, Jesus Christ, really gives us an indication of who He is, so Jesus is a derivative of the Old Testament name of Joshua, and it means God is salvation, Christ means messiah or anointed or chosen of God. Jesus lived about 2,000 years ago and He had a rather simple resume, the first 30 years of His life, He's working a carpentry job with His dad, He's obeying His mother and father, He's growing up in a small rural town outside of Nazareth, and ultimately, it's not til He's around the age of 30 that He goes public with His ministry preaching and teaching, His ministry only lasts a short three years, but in His wake, Jesus has the biggest movement of any sort or kind in the history of the world. Christianity has now been across the globe for a few thousand years, it is the most diverse, bilingual, multicultural, multigenerational, multinational movement of any sort or kind in the history of the world, which is pretty astonishing and amazing 'cause Jesus didn't get married, He didn't hold a political office, He didn't own a lot of money, He didn't have a company, He didn't have the kind of resources that that kind of impact would indicate, but it all comes because He said He was God with His words and He showed He was God with His deeds, and what makes Jesus so precious to us is that for most religions, they have a place that serves as their headquarters, for us, we have a person who serves as our head, and so the center of Christianity is not a place that we go to, but a person who has come to be with us, and His name is Jesus. On the brink of the millennium, "Newsweek" magazine ran a cover story and they said, and I quote, "By any secular standard, "Jesus is the dominant figure of Western culture. "Like the millennium itself, "much of what we now think of as Western ideas, "inventions, and values "finds its source or inspiration "in the religion that worships God in His name. "Art and science, the self and society, "politics and

economics, marriage and the family, "right and wrong, body and soul, "all have been touched and often radically transformed "by the Christian influence." So looking back, they were trying to figure out, who is the person of the year? What they decided was Jesus is the person of the millennium, He's the person of the last few millennium. Now, that being said, anytime someone or something significant is going to happen, there's a PR campaign, there's a marketing campaign, there's a, "Hey, let's let you know what's coming." This can be someone running for a political office, this can be a forthcoming product in the marketplace, they let us know, "Hey, here's what's coming." In the Old Testament, the social media influencers were called the prophets, and what they would do, they would go declare, "Hey, He's coming, "He's coming, He's coming, He's coming." And so the prophets in the Old Testament were the ones preparing the way and keeping God's people motivated for the arrival of Jesus into human history, so where we're gonna start tonight is in prophecy in the Old Testament, and it's all in your notes, and so if you're a copious note-taker, this should make your job easier, I'll give you the Scripture and then the fulfillment, and these themes and threads of promise and fulfillment in prophecy, they really do thread the whole Bible together, so about 25% of your Bible was prophetic in nature, meaning it was predicting the future, and God not only rules, He also reveals the future, and we call that prophecy, and so if you're taking notes, I won't get into all of the Scriptures of fulfillment, I think you've got nine pages of notes, you've got 25 categories of prophecy, it'll be great, we'll just spend seven or eight hours together and we'll go through all of that. But I'm giving you more than I could cover in the lecture 'cause some of you wanna go deeper and I wanna help you do that. So what we will do is we will look at these prophecies, and lastly, the Old Testament scholars tell us that what are called messianic prophecies, or prophecies about the coming of Jesus, they number anywhere from around 60, some would say as many as 300 or 400, and the difference in number would be many of the prophecies have multiple prophecies within them, so there might be one section of Scripture that says five things about the coming of Jesus in the future, and some would say, "Well, let's count that as one." Others would say, "Let's count that as five." But at the minimum, there's at least 60, at the maximum, there's maybe 400, we're gonna cover around two dozen, and we're gonna do so rather quickly, so let me start with number one, 4,000 years before Jesus Christ was born, and it's interesting that we measure time by Jesus, B.C. is before Christ, A.D., anno Domini, the year of our Lord. We celebrate His birth every Christmas, we celebrate His resurrection every Easter, so literally, how we measure time is around the life, death, burial, resurrection of this God-man Jesus Christ, so 4,000 years before Jesus entered into human history, He met roughly that many years ago with our first parents, Adam and Eve, this promise was given from God in the Garden, and God gives the first prophecy in human history, the prophecy begins with God and all prophecy comes from God, God either speaks directly or He speaks through one of His servants, a prophet who writes or speaks on His behalf. Here, it is God directly giving the first prophecy after our first parents' sin, Adam and Eve, God makes this promise that the solution will be Jesus, and it says this in Genesis 3:15, "I'll put enmity between you and the woman," God says to our first parents, "and between your offspring and hers, "he will crush your head, "and you will strike his heel." One thing I wanna observe there, the first promise and prophecy is Jesus is coming to fix the problem that human beings have made through sin, and when God speaks, He talks about Jesus' mother but not His father. There's the beginning here of the intimation of the virgin birth, if you read the remainder of Genesis, over and over and over it tells us who everybody's dad is, the book is patriarchal, Genesis is, as the Old Testament is, this guy had these kids, and this guy had these kids, and everything is traced back to the father. Here, we're told that Jesus would eventually

come and He would have a mother but there's no mention of a father, and so that's the beginning of prophecy about the coming of Jesus. Second one is in a couple of Old Testament books, but it talks about Jesus' family line, and the promise was He would come through this family and through this child and that child, and this child and that child, and if you're familiar with the Old Testament, they had a ton of kids, so even in one generation, God is not just predicting the family, but which member of the family through whom Jesus would come, so Genesis 12:3 says, to Abraham, "All peoples on Earth will be blessed through you." So the blessing of Jesus to be the Savior of the nations is first given to Abraham, and if you know the Old Testament, Abraham had two wives, which is too many, he had some kids, and then the question is, well, which kid will be the one that Jesus comes through? Genesis 17:9, "God said, 'Your wife Sarah will bear you,'" A what? "a son." So you're gonna have a baby boy, you're gonna name him Isaac, which means laughter, they were elderly and barren and they were laughing at God, the moral is God always gets the last laugh, and He says, "I will establish my covenant with him." And so what He's talking about there is Isaac, not Ishmael, so Abraham's got two wives, too many, two sons, and the question is, which one will be the son of the promise through whom Jesus comes? He says it's gonna be the son that comes through Sarah, not through the other woman, it'll be Isaac, not the other son. Just so you know, not to get too far down a rabbit trail, this is the whole debate between Christianity and Islam, which son is the son of the promise? Which is the son is the rightful heir? Which son is the son of the covenant? And God told us. So all of Islam is wrong and they reread the Old Testament and they make all the promises to Ishmael, not to Isaac, and God was very clear. Goes on in Numbers 24:17, says, "I see Him, but not now." Here, the prophet is looking down the corridor of history, it's like on the horizon, he says, "I see Him coming, but not yet, "I behold Him, but not near." It's gonna be a while. "A star will come out of Jacob, "a scepter will rise out of Israel." He's talking about Jacob here, not the other brother, Esau, and that language of scepter, that was the ancient language for a king or a ruler, so it's telling us that Jesus is gonna come through the family line of Abraham, of Isaac, and Jacob, and then it tells us this in Genesis 49:10 as well, "The scepter will not depart from Judah, "nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, "until He comes to whom it belongs "and the obedience of the nations is His." Here it's mentioning Judah, and there were at least 10 other brothers because these guys had some kids they weren't supposed to have so they have full siblings and half siblings and the debate is, how many sons are there? Well, there's at least 10 others depending upon how you reckon the family history and genealogy, and God says it's gonna be this guy and this son, and then this son and then this son, out of all of the other options, God is predicting very specifically exactly which family line Jesus would come through, it's amazing and specific. Third thing, we'll jump forward, predicted, prophesied, anticipated, the Old Testament did, Jesus' virgin mother, this is the great Christmas card verse you get every year, shows up in the mail on the Christmas card, 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah 7:14, "Therefore the Lord Himself "will give you a sign, "the virgin," That's an unmarried young woman. "will be with child and give birth to a male son," Not a female. "and they will call Him Immanuel." Which means what? God with us, very specific. So Jesus is gonna have a mother, not a father, we learned in Genesis, but ultimately, Jesus is gonna come through this specific family line and you're gonna know for sure it's Him because He'll have an earthly mother but not an earthly father, just so you know, this narrows down the list of candidates for who He's talking about, right? You all know who your dad is, Jesus didn't have an earthly father, He had an adoptive father in Joseph, but all this came to pass because He is Immanuel, God with us, but God the Father is His only father, He doesn't have a human father, doesn't have a human father. So then it continues, number four, that

He would be born in Bethlehem, and what sometimes happens when it comes to Old Testament prophecy, people say, "Well yeah, Jesus read the Bible "and then He architected and organized "the details of His life "to seem like He was fulfilling prophecy "and that was a forgery." No one predicts where they're born, these are circumstances fully outside of Jesus' control, where would He be born? Where would He be born? It says in Micah 5:2, 700 years before Jesus was born, "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, "though you are small among the clans of Judah, "out of you will come for me "one who will be ruler over Israel," That's a king. "whose origins are from old from ancient times, "or eternity." And actually, if my memory's correct, that might be 400 B.C., I might have an error there, but nonetheless, it does predict not only that Jesus would be born, that He would be the king of the nation of Israel, so it's also prophesying that Israel would exist, that His origins would be from eternity, that He pre-dated His entrance into human history, and furthermore, what city is He gonna be born in? What city is He gonna be born in? Bethlehem, big town or little town? Little town. All right, we even sing that song every Christmas, so little town of Bethlehem, there's not a lot of people there. We've been there as a family, it's a small, it's a small town, it was not a big town. And Jesus' family didn't live in Bethlehem, instead, the Roman government that was ruling and reigning in that day, they called a decree or a census, because it's all about the tax revenue, and they wanted everyone to register to make sure that they were maximizing their taxable base, and so everyone had to go to their hometown of origin where their family was from and then to sign up for their tax purposes. Well, Jesus' adoptive father, Joseph, was from the family line of David, and the hometown for the family of David was Bethlehem, and all of this happens, the Bible says that Jesus came in the fullness of time, and so it just so happens that Mary is pregnant, and it just so happens that the government calls a census and that she, though she is very pregnant, has to make the long journey to Bethlehem to register for the taxable census, and it just so happens that in the short window that she's there, she gives birth to Jesus to fulfill prophecy. I want you to see that God is very specific and He's into the details. I want you to see that God doesn't just have some hope for the future, He has complete and ultimate control of the future, and I want you to know that not only is God into the macro and the big issues, He's into the micro and the small issues, and what's true of this is true of your life, He's also in the details, and so God makes these very specific, very, very, very, very specific promises. We're only four in, here's number five, it says that Jesus would live a sinless life in Isaiah 53, in the Book of Isaiah, some call the Old Testament Book of Isaiah the fifth gospel because it talks so much about Jesus, and from chapter 40 to chapter 66 in the Old Testament Book of Isaiah, the hero, the centerpiece is someone called the Suffering Servant, it's Jesus, it's Jesus coming into human history, and right in the middle, if you wanna just have your mind blown, and I wanna honor my first pastor, as a brand-new Christian in college, she took me through Old Testament prophecy and it just cemented for me my love for Jesus and my trust in the Bible, so I wanna pass that same gift onto you that my pastor gave me, but one of the things that absolutely stunned me as a new Christian was the second half of Isaiah 52 through Isaiah 53, if you wanna go home and just read one section tonight and say, "I really wanna drill down somewhere." The end of Isaiah 52 through the end of Isaiah 53, and right in the middle it says, "He had done no violence, "nor was any deceit in His mouth." Violence is your works, deceit in your mouth is your words, what it's saying is that the one who would come, and in context, it's the Suffering Servant, chapter 40 through 66, chapter 52 and 53, it's really focused specifically on the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, and it's saying that His works will be flawless and His words will be sinless, what it's talking about is the total perfection of the life of Jesus, and in context here, it's predicting His death being completely unjust because He said and did nothing

that was untrue or wrong. Number six, it predicted His flight to Egypt, His family fleeing to Egypt, Hosea 11:1, "When Israel was a child, "I loved him, and out of Egypt I called," Who? "my Son." Who's the Son of God? Jesus. What happened when Jesus was a little boy? Well, there was a political leader who was demonically inspired, that was threatened by the potential rule and reign of Jesus, and so he wanted to eradicate, to eliminate, to practice genocide on the young boys in Israel, something similar to what happened back in the days of the exodus, and so the word was given to Jesus' family, they're going to execute all the sons of the Hebrew people so that they could eradicate Jesus before He grew up to be a man, and receiving this revelatory insight, His family fled to the nearby nation of Egypt where they could be for a season so that Jesus wouldn't die as a little boy. Here's what I'm telling you, when government tries to take the life of a child, we know that it's demonic, okay? And it's nothing new, it happened in the exodus, it happened in the days of Jesus, it's happening in our own day, so to preserve His life, I'll just say it, being a pro-life family, they were pro for the life of their child, they fled to a different country so that He could live because the governmental structure they were under was so corrupt that the government was going to take the life of their son, and it wasn't time for His life to be taken, because He is the Son of God and He would be called out of Egypt, so His family relocates to Egypt, and then God the Father calls them back, and then Jesus proceeds to fulfill His ministry in Israel according to all of these Old Testament prophecies, but had the government had its way, it would have eliminated His life as a little boy before He could fulfill Scripture, the point is that every time God is at work, Satan is at work, and when God is trying to redeem people, Satan is trying to destroy them, and where God brings life, Satan brings death, and sometimes he uses the government to do so, that's the story there. Number seven, we're moving fast, right? You guys keeping up? Okay. 400 years before Jesus is born, the prophecy was given that He would enter the temple, says this in Malachi 3:1, "See, I will send my messenger," That's John the Baptizer. "who will prepare the way before me. "Then suddenly, the Lord," That's the Lord Jesus. "you are seeking will come to," Whose temple? "His temple." The temple in the Old Testament was the connecting point between heaven and Earth. God is in heaven, we're on Earth, God is holy, we are sinful, how do we meet with God? Where do we meet with God? The temple was created so that God's presence could be available for God's people, and so if you want to get close to God, you go to the temple, you'd offer a sacrifice for your sin, you'd have your High Holy Days, your festivals, you'd give your tithes and offerings, it was the connecting point between heaven and Earth, and the promise and prophecy was given that when Jesus came, He would go to the temple, not just a temple, His temple, 'cause He's the Lord of the temple. "The Lord you are seeking will come to His temple, "the messenger of the covenant," That's the new covenant of salvation. "whom you desire," The one you've been waiting for, longing for, the prophets have been preparing you for. "will come,' says the Lord Almighty." Okay question, some of you may or may not know this, does the temple exist today? It was destroyed in 70 A.D., very significant historical date. I've been to Israel before, we went there as a family some years ago, I preached live on the Temple Mount during Ramadan and had fireworks thrown over the wall at me, which was fun, while I was preaching Jesus, and what there is is just rubble and ruins, there's no temple, there's no temple, because it was destroyed in 70 A.D., so that being said, for those who are Jewish friends, maybe give me the honor of listening to this, if you are waiting for a messiah, when did he have to come by? 70 A.D. because the temple was destroyed and we were told He's gonna come to the temple, there's no temple for Him to go to, so any of our Jewish friends who are saying, "I'm awaiting the Messiah." You missed Him, He had to come while there was a temple, He had to come before 70 A.D. This

gives specific historical timeline to the coming of Jesus, not only would He come to the temple, it'd be His temple, and now the temple no longer exists because here's the big idea, we don't need the temple, we have Jesus, and God the Holy Spirit has made your body His temple. So no longer do you need to go to a place to be in God's presence, God's presence is with you in every place, your body literally is the temple of the Holy Spirit, it's the Holy of Holies, it's the place where God has chosen to meet with you continually, it's a tremendous blessing and gift that God gives to the children of God, it's a sacred trust that God has given to the children of God, and as a result, we don't go to the temple anymore, instead, God the Holy Spirit has come to us and He's made us into a temple so we don't need the temple, 'cause the temple was about a priest and Jesus is our High Priest, the temple was about a sacrifice, Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, the temple was about the presence of God on the earth and now the Holy Spirit has been unleashed and released into the lives of the children of God, so Jesus fulfilled everything, we don't need the temple, we just need Jesus, and He makes us the temple. Number eight, John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus' coming. Again, back to Isaiah, 700 years before Jesus was born, Isaiah 40:3 promises a voice, right? 'Cause it was a preacher, it's a proclaimer, John the Baptizer, Jesus' cousin, "One calling, 'In the desert, prepare the way for,' " Whose coming? "The Lord." A prophet is a holy man of God, and they would have considered him the most holy, and what he is saying is, "One who is coming is holier than me, "I'm the voice, but He's the Lord. "I'm the voice, but He's the Lord." And he goes on to say, "Make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God." And I've got this in the fulfillment section of your notes, but John the Baptizer fulfills this and this very quote from Isaiah is attributed to John the Baptizer as the fulfillment of the promise. Just, why did I tell you all of this? Number one, every generation needs to be discipled, none of us are born understanding Jesus, or the Bible, or anything, we've all gotta learn, and we're always just one generation away from forgetting and losing everything, that just like we've gotta teach our kids to read and write and add and subtract, we need to tell them about Jesus and the Father and the Spirit and the Scriptures, salvation, the good news of the gospel, and every generation needs to be retaught and reminded, so it's an honor to teach you, and I want you to receive this, and I want you to be thinking about, "Who can I share this with?" Maybe they don't know the Lord, and this would help them start to consider the Lord, or maybe they do know the Lord but their confidence in the Lord and/or the Scriptures is weak, and I wanna strengthen it, and I know that many of you are parents, and guess what? These are great conversations to have with your kids. Now, don't do it like I'm doing it, dump it all on them once in an hour, okay, don't do that, instead, take these notes and just do a little drip at dinner. "Hey, read that, let's talk about that." Maybe one a night, one every other night, help them build confidence in the Word of God because ultimately, in the world we live in, they're gonna need it, amen? So I'm honored to teach you and I just feel encouraged in the Spirit to just tell you to be thinking about who you could share the information with, starting with your own kids. Number nine, Jesus performing miracles was promised and prophesied 700 years in advance, we're back to Isaiah 35:5-6, "Then the eyes of the blind opened, "the ears of the deaf unstopped, "the lame will leap like a deer, "and the mute tongue shout for joy." That's miracles, that's miracles. Jesus, when He was on the earth, said, "If you don't believe the words I am saying, "look at the works I am doing." Who else has the resume? Blind people see, deaf people hear, mute people speak, and people who are disabled are running marathons. Those are miracles. Did Jesus do those things? Yeah, He did, He did, and that makes Him unique in human history. Number nine, number 10, sorry, 500 years before Jesus was born, He came riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Zechariah 9:9 says it this way, "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion!"

When you hear the language of Zion in the Old Testament, it's their concept of heaven. We tend to think of heaven as an immaterial, substanceless existence spiritually, for them, Zion was very earthy, it was heaven coming to Earth, it was the seen and unseen realms coming together, it was a king ruling and reigning, protecting and providing for his people, so when you hear Zion, that was sort of ancient Hebrew code language for the kingdom of God, okay? "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! "Shout." So we're not talking about worship, praise and worship, this is God saying, "I want more Pentecostals, "I want more charismatics, "I wanna hear a little whoop, whoop." So, "Shout, daughter of Jerusalem!" It's very specific, not just the nation of Israel, but also the city of Jerusalem, "See," Who comes? "your King," The King of what? The King of Zion, the King of heaven, the King of the kingdom is coming, your King is coming, how do we know it's Him? "righteous, having salvation," So this isn't just some ordinary king, this is the King of the kingdom, and He comes with righteousness and salvation, so He is sinless and He's your Savior, "gentle and riding on a donkey, "on a colt, the foal of a donkey." It's in the fulfillment Scriptures that I gave you, but all of this happened during a High Holy season for the people of God. Jesus actually rode into town on a donkey, fulfilling exactly what the prophecy said. Why does God give us so much specificity? Because for hundreds and thousands of years, God's people had to wait in anticipation and faith without losing hope or losing heart, and so God would raise up a prophet, after a prophet, after a prophet, like, He is coming, He is coming, and here's another detail, and all of the details are architected in advance so that when Jesus comes, you're like, "Okay, He meets this, He meets this, "He meets this, He meets this, "He meets this, He meets this, "He must be the one." God wants us to have certainty about who His Son is, so He gives us specificity through the prophecy. Number 11, Jesus' betrayal by a friend 1,000 years before he was born, Psalm 41:9, "Even my close friend." How many of you have had a close friend betray you? It's the worst, it's the worst of all, you're like, "I love them, I trusted them, "I opened my heart to them, "I opened my family to them, "I opened my life to them, "I opened my wallet to them, "they betrayed me." Jesus had this, He understands, we have a High Priest who sympathizes. It says this, "Even my close friend, "whom I trusted, "he who shared my bread," That's friendship, that's relationship, "has lifted up his heel." To us, we may miss the significance of this, but in that culture where you walk on dirty roads, animal excrement, they're not paved, it's dirt, it's gross, you're wearing sandals, what kind of shape are your feet in? It's disgusting. So when you would come into a house, it would be the job of the lowest slave to wash your feet. This is what makes it so significant in the ministry of Jesus when they arrived at a home and nobody has the humility to get down and to wash the feet, so what does Jesus do? He washes the feet of His disciples, including the feet of whom? Judas Iscariot. Judas Iscariot. Knowing that Judas was just about to fulfill Psalm 41:9 and lift up his heel against Him, so in that culture, if you really wanted to dishonor, disregard, and disrespect someone, you'd put your feet up and point them at them, 'cause your feet are dirty, they're unclean, they're filthy, they're stinky, they're covered in animal excrement and whatever else was on the road, it was, not to be vain or gross, but it was their version of the middle finger, that's what it was, that would have been emotionally how an ancient Jew received it, and so what's amazing to me, I never even thought of this til standing right here, some amazing things happen when I teach and the Holy Spirit just shows me stuff, it's amazing to me that Jesus knew that Judas would raise his heel against Him, and Jesus would get down and wash that heel. That tells you that whatever problem was between Jesus and Judas wasn't a problem from Jesus, it was a problem with Judas, and Jesus loves His enemies and Jesus serves His enemies and Jesus blesses His enemies even if He knows that they will never repent and trust in Him. That's how good our Jesus is. But here, it is promising what

Judas Iscariot would do in relationship to Jesus, it predicted it in advance. Knowing this, the three years that they were together and Jesus is teaching him and loving him and feeding him and he's hearing the sermons and he's witnessing the miracles and he's evidencing the healings, Jesus knows the whole time that this is what he's gonna do. Just think of how patient Jesus was with Judas, and then just think of how patient Jesus has been with us, and how blessed we are not to end up in the position that Judas did, that's just the grace of God for us. Number 12, Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver thrown in disgust into the temple. Zechariah 11:12-13, 500 B.C., "They paid me." How many? 30, now this is getting real specific, right? If Judas betrayed Jesus for 31 pieces of silver, then the Bible isn't true, if Judas betrayed Jesus for 29 pieces of silver, then the Bible isn't true. I've got it in the fulfillment section of the notes, Judas betrayed Jesus for how many pieces of silver? 500 years in advance, God told us this was gonna happen. The point is that God is never shocked or surprised, He always knows in advance and he knows in incredible detail. I've used this analogy before but maybe it'll be helpful in the moment, when you and I watch the news, we can get very emotional because it seems like the outcome of events is open. You watch the History channel, usually not as anxious, you're like, "Oh my gosh, who's gonna win World War II? "I hope it's us." No, we know how that ends, right? We know how that ends. For God, everything is the History channel, nothing is the nightly news, okay? God sees and knows all, and He's not surprised by anything in the middle of history. Great specific detail here. Not only that, it tells us that it would be thrown into the potter, this was a subsection of the temple, the temple had different sections, and the potter's house was one particular aspect, element of the temple, the 30 pieces of silver thrown into that area was done so in disgust, so Judas, Jesus' pretend friend, betrayed Him for 30 pieces of silver, and then it was thrown into where? The potter's house, at where? The temple. I told you, when was the temple destroyed? 70 A.D., so I told you at the beginning, in the Old Testament, some say, well, there is as few as 60 or as many as 300 prophecies, this would be one example, 30 pieces of silver, there's one, into the potter's house, there's two, which is in the temple, there's three, so there's three prophecies right there. The 30 pieces of silver would be the price on Jesus' head as a bounty, that the temple would exist, so this is before 70 A.D., and that in disgust, the 30 pieces of silver would not be thrown in this room, they'd be thrown in that room, the very room that God chose. So that's why there's a disagreement sometimes on the number of prophecies, 'cause sometimes in just two verses, you get three prophecies, and there may even be more, may even be more. Number 13, Jesus would be beaten and abused, we're back to Isaiah, 700 B.C., Isaiah 50:6, "I offered my back." What happened to Jesus' back? He was flogged. This is where the ancient Roman executioner would take the cat of nine tails, it was a handle that had strips of leather proceeding from it, at the end, there would have been balls made either of metal or of stone to tenderize flesh, as you would a steak, and then there were hooks at the end, metal or sometimes bone, and they would dig deeply into a man's flesh, they would have the man exposed so that his back and buttocks were exposed, an executioner would stand on each side and would whip the man, they would wait for the hooks to sink deeply into the man's flesh, and then they would literally rip the flesh off of his body, some of the ancient historical records say that occasionally, a man's rib would come flying off of his body, that many men didn't even survive scourging, and what the Bible says, they took him and had him scourged, that's all it tells us, in that day, they saw it so they didn't need the details, but the details give us some indication of the brutality, Isaiah also says that He would be marred beyond human likeness. Meaning if you knew Jesus, and after He got flogged, you saw Him, you wouldn't recognize Him 'cause He didn't even look like the same person. All of that is foreshadowed here, "I offered my back to those who beat me, "my cheek to



those who pulled out my beard." In the ancient world, that was absolute disrespect. In our culture, we have different ways that we dishonor men and rob them of their dignity, in that day, a man would grow a beard, and to dishonor or disrespect him, you would literally rip the beard off his face. How many of you guys have got a beard and you think that sounds horrible? Right, that's what we did to God, not only was it painful, it was basically emasculating Him, it was treating Him as less than a man publicly, a man's soul is fueled by respect, and what they did is they disrespected Him. "I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting." So they yelled at Him, they jeered at Him, they ultimately beat Him, and they spit upon Him and cursed Him, all of this happened to our God. And again, Isaiah 40 through 66, the whole subsection is the Suffering Servant, that's the overlying theme. Number 14, Jesus' clothing would be gambled for, prophesied 1,000 years in advance in Psalm 22:18, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So Jesus is clothed when He goes to be crucified, most of His clothes are removed, and what the soldiers decide is, "This has value," so what we will do is literally gamble, "we'll roll the dice," and we'll see who wins what garments." And so ultimately, this was fulfilled and you've got it in your fulfillment, the Roman soldiers did exactly what God prophesied in advance they would do, and they cast lots for Jesus' clothes. Number 15, Jesus would be hated and rejected, 700 years before Christ, Isaiah 53, we're back to Isaiah, 53:3, "He was despised," Is Jesus still despised? Some things never change, amen? I mean, if you walk onto the average college campus and just say, "I wanna talk about Jesus." You will find He's still despised. He's still despised. "and He was rejected by men," Lot of rejection, some received Him, many rejected Him, the same is still true. "a man of sorrows," The shortest verse in the whole New Testament is two words, "Jesus wept." Jesus wept over Jerusalem, He wept over the death of His friend Lazarus, that Jesus as God, He comes to Earth and He sees what we have done through sin and rebellion and folly through despising and rejecting God, and He's a man of sorrows. I just wanna say sometimes we think of sin as breaking God's laws, which it is, but sin is also breaking God's heart, God is a father, we're his kids, how many of you have a kid who's rebellious, or a grown child that's rebellious and self-destructive? They're self-destructing, and as a parent, they're breaking your rules, but more than that, they're breaking your heart. If any of you have a prodigal child, you know exactly what this feels like. It says in Genesis 6 that God looked at the hearts of all human beings on the earth, I'm paraphrasing, and He saw that the inclination of the human heart was only evil all the time, and it says that God was grieved in His heart, and so God looks at the heart of sinful humanity that has despised and rejected Him, and God's heart is grief and sorrow. You know, to me, if we have a God who loves us as a perfect Father, sin against Him not only breaks His laws, it breaks His heart, 'cause God isn't just a lawyer, He's a father, and He doesn't want just obedience, He wants children who live, so His endgame is always love that leads to blessing and flourishing of the life of the children, there's a great parenting example here and that is, if you're angry 'cause your kids have broken your rules, you should check your heart because more than breaking your rules, they should be breaking your heart, and unless they see that sorrow and compassion, it doesn't encourage them toward repentance, that's why the Bible says, I think it's in Romans 2:15, that, "It is the kindness of God that leads us to repentance." And we see that God loves us, He wants good for us, rebellion against Him hurts us and grieves Him, and we should want to course-correct and return to life and relationship with the dad who loves us, that's how God parents us. "Despised and rejected by men," "a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering." What's amazing to me is that our God lived in a perfect environment, no suffering, no sin, no death, no demonic, He's living in a perfect environment, and what does God do? He comes down here. Every one of us is trying to

get out of here. Every one of us, as soon as people hear about heaven, they're like, "How do I get there? "How do I leave here and get there?" Well, He was there and He came here. This is the great humility of Jesus Christ, this is a God who loves us so much that He knows that we will never ascend to Him so He descends to us, and what it tells us here is that He chose to familiarize Himself with suffering. How many of you, if you could stop suffering in your life, you would choose that? Think of all the suffering that He endured, economic suffering, He was poor, relational suffering, He was betrayed, familial suffering, His family thought He was crazy, religious suffering, the religious leaders said that He was the son of the devil, reputational suffering, horrible things that were untrue were said about Him and still are, I mean, Jesus suffered physically, He was beaten, flogged, used and abused, He suffered legally, He was falsely accused, falsely tried, falsely condemned by false witnesses, He suffered spiritually on the cross where He cries out in one of His seven final words, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And the Father turned His back on the Son, and 2 Corinthians 5:21 says that, "God made Him who knew no sin to become sin "so that in Him, "we might become the righteousness of God." A sinless God took upon Himself sin, the Son who would only eternally enjoy perfect intimacy with the Father was rejected by the Father and took our place to put us in His place. We have a Jesus who's understanding of our suffering, that's the point. "Familiar with suffering. "Like one from whom men hide their faces," There were people who were ashamed of Him, embarrassed by Him, they still are, and then especially when He was scourged and beaten and crucified, He was a gruesome sight. "and we esteemed Him not." We didn't respect Him, we didn't honor Him, we didn't praise Him, we didn't thank Him, and sadly, sometimes, that is still the case. Number 16, Jesus not defending Himself was predicted in Isaiah 53:7, 700 B.C., "He was oppressed and afflicted," That's injustice, suffering. "yet He did not open His mouth." He didn't defend Himself. How many of you would? How many of you have been wrongfully accused of something, major or minor, and your first instinct is, "I need to tell my side of the story "and set the record straight"? Every one of us has experienced that, the truth is, Jesus experienced that and He's the only one who in every occasion it was untrue and unjust because He was never sinful or wrong, so everything that was said about Him was 100% untrue. For you and I, there may be degrees of truth, you may say or do something, some people spin it into something else, but at least 10% is true, or at least, 10% of the time, the things that are said about you is true. Google me, 10%, okay? Or don't Google me, 10%. And I can never stand up and say, "Like Jesus, I am without sin, "please cast the first stone." But Jesus could say that 'cause He didn't have any sin and there were no stones to throw, yet it didn't prevent people from throwing stones at Him. All of it was unjust, all of it was wrong, and how many of us that, you're like, "I'm gonna tell you the truth"? How many of you, that's your instinct? He didn't, He was meek, not weak, meaning He practiced self-control because in the middle of His greatest suffering on the cross for us, Jesus was thinking about us and not Himself. Instead of defending Himself, He was serving us. He didn't concern Himself with vindicating Himself, He concerned Himself with saving us. That's just shocking to me, that's just amazing to me, in those same circumstances, I think we all would try and set the record straight and give our side of the story, and Jesus didn't. He focused on glorifying the Father and serving you and me. "Did not open His mouth." Let me say this to you, on the cross as men were being crucified, some of the ancient historical records, they'd be nailed through the most sensitive nerve centers in the human body, the hands and the feet, and what would happen is oftentimes they were crucified at eye level, we'll get to crucifixion in a moment with another prophecy, so that your enemies and your critics were, most of the time, they were looking you right in the eye, this is really personal, isn't it? What do you

think they were saying? They were cursing at you, spitting at you, they were lying about you, they were placing bets for when you would die, so who was there? Who was there? Jesus is looking at His enemies as He's being crucified, probably at eye level, who's there? His mom. His mom. His mom. Obviously, she's wrecked, this is her son. Some of Jesus' family and friends and followers are there, they're wrecked. The ancient historical record says that oftentimes men in that circumstance, they would get incontinent, so at the base of the body, dripping off the feet, urine, feces, sweat, blood, urine, gross. What do you think the crowd is saying then? I mean, this is like a drunken mob placing bets and making fun of you. How many of us in that moment would wanna say something? And it wouldn't be, "Thus saith the Lord." Jesus didn't say anything. For you men that hear this, sometimes shutting up is a miracle, okay? Just sometimes shutting up is a miracle. As a man, sometimes it takes more self-control to say nothing than it is to speak your mind. That's what He does in the moment, He says nothing, and He could have, "He was led like a lamb." He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, all of that is foreshadowing the Day of Atonement where sacrifice is made for sin, all of that is showing Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, it's what John the Baptizer says, I think it's 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, Christ, our Passover Lamb, has slain all of the sacrificial system of the Old Testament, unblemished, innocent Lamb, substituting, bleeding, dying in the place of the sinner, was all foreshadowing the forthcoming of Jesus the Lamb of God. "Was led like a lamb to slaughter, "as a sheep before her shearers is silent," He didn't what? "didn't open His mouth." Didn't open His mouth. He endured everything, and He stayed focused on doing the will of the Father and serving us so that we could be saved. That's why we love Jesus so much, amen? 16, 17 is next, crucifixion, 1000 years B.C., Psalm 22:16, and this is pretty remarkable, "Dogs." That's negative, if you've ever been to a Middle Eastern country, Greece, Israel, Turkey, there's a lot of wild dogs, if you grew up in a rural area with wild dogs, these are not domesticated animals, these are horrible animals, these are vile animals. "Dogs have surrounded me," And I think that would include not only human beings but demonic beings. "a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced," What? "my hands and feet." Okay, when is this written? 1000 B.C. Let me just tell you something shocking, this is predicting the crucifixion of Jesus and predicting crucifixion. Crucifixion did not exist when this prophecy was given. Crucifixion was created by the Persians 200 years later. It was invented by the Persians, it was perfected by the Romans in the days of Jesus. Crucifixion historically started with impaling, they would get a long log, long stick or pole, they would sharpen the edge, and then they would run it through the midsection of a man, they would dig a hole in the ground, they would flip him upside down and they would drop the pole into the ground and the man would sit there impaled for hours or days, that was the beginning of crucifixion. Later on, the cross bar was added and the torture and torment was multiplied and increased through the hands and the feet, but it was invented by the Persians 200 years after it was prophesied in the Psalms. Not only is God here, through His servant, telling us that Jesus would be crucified, He was telling us that the Persians would create and invent crucifixion in a few hundred years. Again, this is where some prophecies, there are multiple prophecies, here, it's not just the crucifixion of Jesus, it's crucifixion and the hands and the feet, so there's four. In one verse, we've got four promises, one verse, we've got four promises. Number 18, Jesus' death with sinners was prophesied 700 years B.C., Isaiah 53:12, "Therefore I will give Him "a portion among the great, "He will divide the spoils with the strong because He poured out His life unto," What? "death," Jesus is gonna die. "and He was numbered with the transgressors." What does that mean? Guilty sinners who deserve it, and He's the one who does not. Jesus was crucified, one guy to His right, one guy to

His left, did He die with the guilty transgressors? He did. This guy and this guy deserved it, this guy did not. That's what it's saying. If you just looked, you would say, "Those must be three horrible men." No, that's two horrible men and God. We're so horrible that we treat God like we treat the horrible men, that's not an denunciation of who He is, that's a denunciation of who we are. Number 19, Jesus' bones would not be broken, 1400 B.C., it says in the Exodus, and then 1000 B.C. it says in Psalms, Exodus 12:46, "Do not break any of the bones." Here it's the Passover, so God's people started as a nation of 60-ish people in Egypt, and then over the course of some 400 plus years, they became a nation of a few million, that's the transition from Genesis to Exodus. They are then tormented by a pharaoh who forgot the promise made to protect and provide for the people of God, and they are enslaved and they're not free to worship God or live life, furthermore, the people of God can't get back to the nation of Israel so that they can have the temple and prepare for the coming of Jesus to fulfill all the prophecy, so the backdrop for all of this is spiritual warfare and the demonic seeking to resist the coming of Jesus, and so ultimately, God says, "I'm gonna send a succession of plagues, "I'm gonna judge the nation of Egypt." Everything God creates, Satan counterfeits, so all of the counterfeit religious leaders in Egypt, they mimic and mirror many of the miracles of God's servants, and then the final is the killing of the firstborn where God says, "To every household "that does not take a lamb, "confess its sin as a family, "shed the blood of the lamb in place of sin, "and paint the doorposts of the home with the blood," 'Cause faith is to be something that is private and public, something that we do as a family and we let everyone know we're on team Jesus, "unless you paint the doorposts of the home, "then the death will not pass over you, "it'll come to your home and it'll take the firstborn son." So God is like, "You got two options, "I take your firstborn son, "or you trust my firstborn Son, "those are your options. "Either my firstborn Son dies, "or your firstborn son dies, "but this is what's going to happen." So they took the animal and then they sacrificed it, and this became the Jewish feast of Passover, and it culminated with Jesus' Last Supper, Jesus' Last Supper was Him celebrating the Passover, and Jesus says, "When you drink this cup, remember my blood, "when you eat this bread, remember my body." That was something that was added by Jesus and had not existed since the days of the exodus, and what He was saying was, "I am ultimately the fulfillment of the entire Passover." And part of the Passover was when you take the lamb, one of the rules and regulations was you don't break any of the bones, why? 'Cause when Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world, when He comes, none of His bones will be broken. Why is this important? When you are crucified, they would nail your feet, they would nail your hands, and crucifixion was painfully slow death by asphyxiation, in a future lecture I'll get into the specific details of crucifixion, but this can serve as a summary, and so what would happen is sometimes men would pass in and out of consciousness, and then as they were sort of losing their oxygen, they're asphyxiated, they would push themselves up to try and prolong their life, almost a natural physiological response to the death cycle, so what they would do then, they would break the legs of the man so that he couldn't push himself up and prolong his death. Now Jesus died rather quickly because of the sleepless night, the beating and the scourging, but here, it was prophesied, predicted in advance that none of His bones would be broken. Said the same thing in Psalm 34:2, "He protects all His bones." How many of them will be broken? None. If one bone was broken on the body of Jesus, then the Scriptures were not fulfilled. Everything He endured did not include the breaking of bones, and it does say in the gospel account, I've got this in your fulfillment notes, that they didn't break His bones, that He died suddenly, quickly, His life ended shortly because of the degree of scourging and beating that He anticipated before the cross. Last few, number 20, Jesus would be forsaken

by God 1000 B.C., Psalm 22:1, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Who says that? Where does He say that? On the cross. On the cross, Jesus Christ quotes Psalm 22:1, when Jesus is on the cross, the theologians say He had seven final words, one of them was Psalm 22:1, Jesus was a Bible guy, knew and memorized the Bible, and when He's dying, He knows that He is fulfilling the Bible, and He tells us what verse He's fulfilling 'cause He knows exactly what He's doing, says, "Why are you so far from saving me, "so far from the words of my groaning?" In that moment, the Father turned His back on the Son, and the Son substituted Himself and took our place, we'll get into this when I get into the lecture on the cross, but this was fulfillment, Jesus is saying that He is fulfilling all that the Psalms were anticipating. Number 21, Jesus' death, 700 B.C., Isaiah 53:8 says, "He was cut off from the land of the living." That's death. Here's everybody who's alive, He's cut off. "For the transgression of my people, He was stricken." That he died for our sins, this predicts the death of Jesus. Number 22, Jesus' burial, 700 B.C., Isaiah 53:9, "He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with," Who? "the rich in His death, "though He had done no violence "nor was any deceit in His mouth." He died, but He did nothing wrong, He didn't deserve death, this is the greatest injustice in the history of the world, and it says that He would be buried with the rich. Okay, was Jesus rich? Nope, His parents were poor peasants, Mary and Joseph were probably teenagers, middle school, high school-age kids, they were betrothed to be married, she became pregnant of the Holy Spirit by a miracle of God to fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, they were a poor, rural family, dad was a carpenter, they're not an affluent, prominent family, the house that Jesus grew up in was probably about the size of a parking stall, so where you parked your car, I've been to Israel, I've actually been to Nazareth, there was only one well, so it was a small population center, and people were poor and they were peasants, they live far away from the big city, they lived in tiny little homes that included a section for their animals. We know that Jesus' parents were poor because when it came time to bring their offering to the temple, they couldn't afford the regular offering, and there was a provision in the law for those who were poor to offer a different kind of offering and that's what they offered 'cause they were the poor people. In addition, Jesus didn't make much money during His ministry, and the bit that He did make, who stole it? Judas, His bookkeeper, was always helping himself. So after Jesus dies, how does Jesus get buried in a rich man's tomb when He's a poor man? And again, this is a fulfillment of prophecy that happens after Jesus died so He couldn't have coordinated these events, the Bible says that He had more of a quiet, distant disciple named Joseph of Arimathea who was probably an affluent and well-known man of the community, and that after Jesus died, Jesus didn't have a burial plot, He was a poor man, not a rich man, Joseph of Arimathea gifted to Jesus post mortem his own burial chamber. Now this becomes very important when we get to the lecture of the resurrection of Jesus, that's why we knew where Jesus was buried because Joseph of Arimathea was the legal owner of the plot, had it deeded in his name and it was his legal property, so he knew exactly where it was, and so what happens is he gifts that to Jesus post mortem, Jesus is laid in the tomb of a rich man though He is a poor man, and three days later, He gives it back to Joseph of Arimathea, so Joseph of Arimathea got his gift back, so everybody won in that deal. Number 23, Jesus' resurrection. A lot of people will say, "Well, the Old Testament and the New Testament are different "cause the New Testament's about Jesus." Here's what I'm telling you, the whole Bible's about Jesus. Psalm 16:10, "You will not abandon me to the grave," "I'm gonna go to the grave but I'm not gonna stay there." "nor will you let your Holy One." Who is that? There's only one Holy One, that's Jesus. Says He's gonna go to the grave but He's not gonna stay in the grave, it's predicting His resurrection, "And will not let me see decay." His body is not going to decay, it'll rise glorified.

Isaiah 53, again, tremendous section, verses 10 and 11, "Though the Lord makes His life a guilt offering," That's his death, this was a sacrifice, an animal would die, Jesus comes to die in our place for our sins. "He will see His offspring and prolong His days," After He dies, He's gonna live some more, do you see that? "And the will of the Lord will prosper in His hand." He says it again, "After the suffering of the soul," What? "He'll see the light of life." He's gonna die and He's gonna rise, that's what it says. Tells us exactly, Jesus says the same thing, "Destroy this temple, "and in three days I will rebuild it." He's telling us what's gonna happen. 24, Jesus' ascent into heaven, not only would He die, not only would He rise, He also would return to heaven. I've been to the place in Israel where they believe that this happened, it was pretty amazing to be there, just to think in that moment, "Gosh, what was it like to be in the opening chapters "of the Book of Acts, "and Jesus lived, Jesus died, "Jesus, okay, we're crying, "we're celebrating, "40 days, we're hanging out with Him, "and then there He goes." The one who came down finished His mission and then He went back up. "When you ascended on high," Psalm 68:18, "you led captives in your train." There's a Scripture in the Book of Ephesians that actually quotes, or at least alludes to, this section of the Psalms, and it says that the saints who died awaiting the resurrection of Jesus and His return to heaven, when He died, He proclaimed to them His victory, and when He ascended, He took those with Him who died in faith for Him, and it's quoting the Psalm here, and what it's saying is when Jesus returned to heaven, heaven was open, and those who had departed in faith waiting for His death, burial, and resurrection, they went with Him and they followed Him into the heavenly kingdom, that's His ascension leading captives in His train. Last one, Jesus is seated at the Father's right hand, that's where He's at today, 1000 years B.C., Psalm 110:1, "The Lord says to my Lord." We got two Lords, the Lord, the Lord, this is God the Father, God the Son, this is the Trinity, "Says, 'Sit at my right hand "until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.'" When Jesus was on Earth, He was mistreated, used, and abused, ascended to glory, His enemies will serve as His footstool. Next time you go home and you pull the lever, your feet go up, or you put your feet on the coffee table, just think, "Jesus' enemies "are where He's gonna put His feet." When all is said and done, He's gonna be ruling and reigning, and again, in the Book of Ephesians, the apostle Paul says this same thing, that He is seated at the right hand of the Father and that all things have been placed under His feet. Under His feet, that's exactly what it says. Let me close by telling you that what we are learning here is unprecedented, unparalleled, and unexplainable apart from the involvement of God. So I told you there's at least 60 prophecies, there's many as 400, we've looked at 25. A statistician some years ago just ran the numbers, a college professor, for eight prophecies to be fulfilled, not the 25 that we covered, just eight, here's his quote, and this is Peter Stoner, he was professor of science at Westmont College, he says, "Suppose we take 10 to the 17th power." Some of you are mathematicians, you can tell me what that is, like I said, I went to public school, I don't know, it sounds like a lot. "Suppose we take 10 to the 17th power silver dollars "and lay them on the face of Texas. "They will cover all of the state two feet deep." Can you envision this? All of Texas, silver dollars, two feet deep. "Now mark one of these silver dollars "and then stir the whole mass thoroughly all over the state. "Blindfold a man "and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, "but he must pick up one silver dollar "and get the right one. "What chance would he have of getting the right one? "Just the same chance that the prophets would have had "of writing these eight prophecies "and having them all come true in any one man, "from their day to the present time, "providing they wrote using their own wisdom." Does the word picture help? We covered 25, he's saying let's take eight, take Texas, two feet deep, the whole state, in silver dollars, mark one, blindfold a guy, say, "Go wherever

you want, "you have one shot, "pick up the right silver dollar." The odds of that guy picking the right silver dollar are similar to one man fulfilling eight prophecies, I just gave you 25, I just gave you 25. What does Jesus say about prophecy? I wanna give Him the final words. Matthew 5:17-18, at the beginning of His ministry, Jesus said, "Do not think I have come "to abolish the law or the prophets," That's the Old Testament, "I have not come to abolish them, but to," What? "fulfill them. "For truly I say to you, "until heaven and Earth pass away, "not an iota, not a dot, "will pass from the law until it is accomplished." Today we'd say every T was crossed and every I was dotted, and Jesus says, "You know what? "I'm a Bible guy. "In fact, I'm the guy in the Bible, "and so everything in there, "I'm here to fulfill down to the detail." Like 30 pieces of silver, like 70 A.D., details. Middle of His ministry, the religious leaders come and they argue with Jesus, and they're fighting and debating over what the message of the Bible is, that's really the heart of their debate, and what they are is they are religious scholars, and let me say this, you can know the Bible and not know Jesus. Do I want you to know the Bible? For sure, but if you know the Bible and you don't know Jesus, you don't understand any of the Bible 'cause the point of the Bible is to have a relationship with Jesus. This is what Jesus says, He's arguing with the religious leaders, and these are guys that would memorized whole books of the Old Testament, maybe even in Hebrew, they've given their whole life to scholarship, they're very devoted, top of their class, these are the guys that are the semifinalists on Bible Jeopardy, I mean, they can answer every one of Alex Trebek's questions in Hebrew, they got it all buttoned up, and they come to Jesus and they say, "You know, "your problem is, Jesus, "you don't know the Bible." Jesus says, "Actually, since I'm the rabbi, "how about I teach and you take notes." "You search the Scriptures," Is that a good thing or a bad thing? That's a great thing, we're searching the Scriptures now, "because you think that in them, you have eternal life," The Bible reveals Jesus who saves us, but the Bible does not save you. The Bible reveals the Savior but the Bible is not the Savior. He goes on to say, "and it is they that bear witness about me." So what's Jesus saying? "The Bible, it's about me." And he says, "Here's your problem, "yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life." Here's what Jesus is saying, "You know the Bible but you don't know me, "so you don't understand the Bible." Have you ever met somebody that knows a little bit of Bible, or maybe a lot of Bible, but they don't know Jesus, and as a result, they don't really understand what the Bible's saying? Happens all the time to cults, sometimes legalistic religious people. I had a buddy in college, was telling me about his professor, said, "He quotes the Bible all the time "but I don't think he loves the Lord." And then I ended up taking one of his classes, he was a professor, and this guy would quote the Bible every class, and absolutely hated Jesus with everything in him, but he had a photographic memory. So I went up to him one day, I was a brand-new Christian, I was like, "Okay, you're my professor," at a state university, "you know way more Bible than I do, "like, I just got saved 15 minutes ago, "I still got smoke coming off me, "I just barely escaped the flames." He's like, "I've memorized thousands of Scriptures, "whole chapters and books of the Bible." I said, "What do you think about Jesus?" He said, "I hate Him." I was like, "Okay, so why did you spend so much, "because people who love Jesus "don't know as many of his verses as you." He said, "My brother's a missionary "and I like to argue with him." That was it. He knew the Bible but he didn't know Jesus. For him, the Bible was about information, not about transformation, it was about arguing, not about learning. Sometimes the most religious people, they know the most verses, but they don't really know Jesus. I want you to know the Bible but I want you to know that to understand the Bible, you need to know Jesus, and here's how it happens, so Jesus dies, Jesus rises, Jesus has fulfilled all of these prophecies, and then at the end of Luke's Gospel, he holds two Bible studies, which had to

be amazing, like, I hope Jesus redoes these Bible studies in heaven, I'm signing up for the first class. Can you imagine that? You're like, "Oh my gosh, "Jesus fulfilled the whole Bible "and I heard "He's teaching a class." Question! You know what I mean, this would be amazing. And beginning with Moses, this is first five books of the Old Testament, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, the Pentateuch, which means book in five parts, "Moses and all the prophets, "He interpreted to them in all the Scriptures "the things concerning Himself." "Oh priest? "That's about me, the High Priest. "King? "That's about me, the King of Kings. "Oh, sacrifice? "That's about me, the sacrifice for humans. "Oh, the temple? "That's about me being the presence of God on the earth. "Oh, Abraham? "Yeah, I was the fulfillment of the promise to him. "Oh, the virgin birth part? "That would be me and my mom, Mary. "All the feasts, the festivals, the High Holy Days, "here's how they all point to me. "Passover? "Yeah, that was me. "Day of Atonement where sins are confessed "and blood is shed, "the holiest day of the year, "that was me." I mean, He's walking through everything in the Bible, and just, "It's about me, it's about me, "it's about me, it's about me." The point is that the whole center of human history in Scripture is Jesus, you know that you've studied the Bible well when at the end, you love Jesus more, you know you've done a good Bible study, you're like, "What did you get out of it?" "I love Jesus more." Then you did a good Bible study, you did a good Bible study. He then does one other additional Bible study with another group, "Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you "while I was still with you "that everything written about," Who? "me, "me in the Law of Moses," First five books. "the Prophets and the Psalms." the Psalms were a category of literature that we would call Wisdom literature, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon, He's taking here the three major genres of Old Testament literature, the 39 books of the Old Testament, and He's saying, "There's one thing they all have in common, "and that is me, "me." Goes on to say, "Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." And let me just say this, if God opens your mind to understand the Scriptures, then Jesus has done the same Holy Spirit miracle for you that He did for them. These were people who grew up in a religious environment, maybe they knew some Bible, and all of a sudden, the Holy Spirit, they're like, "Aah! I get it! "Jesus, I get it! "I love Jesus, I belong to Jesus, "I trust in Jesus, yay Jesus!" All of a sudden, their minds open up. How many of you have had that experience in God's Word? You're like, "Ah!" It's because the same Holy Spirit who wrote the Scriptures is the same Holy Spirit who empowered the life of Jesus, is the same Holy Spirit who indwells the child of God to make them the temple of God, and it's the same Holy Spirit who opens our understanding and heart and mind to understand the Scriptures so that we love Jesus. If you've experienced that, you've experienced a miracle, and every time you open the Scriptures and you understand and love Jesus, you're experiencing another miracle, this is the miracle of Christian faith, and that's why the Word of God is living and active, the God, the Holy Spirit continually uses it to reveal Jesus, to teach us about Jesus, to cause us to love Jesus, to deepen our relationship with Jesus, to cause us to have more wonder and more joy, more hope in who Jesus is and what Jesus does, and looking forward to the day when we see Him face to face, until then, we trust Him by sight. Couple of things I wanna share in closing and then I'll pray and we'll do Q&A, number one, no other religion has anything like biblical prophecy. When I was in college, I started studying as a non-Christian, different religions, and I came across the prophecy in the Bible, I was like, "That's amazing, "does any other group, team, belief system have that? Answer, no. No other religion has prophecy like the Word of God, like the Christian faith. Number two, despite all of our technological advances, have we made any progress in predicting the future? I don't wanna date this lecture, but we've been through something called the



coronavirus and they keep giving us estimates of what the numbers will be, not always accurate. Last presidential election, not to get political, but since we got nothing else to do, all the polls said one thing and something else happened. We live in a world where everybody wants to know what's gonna happen and no one does, amen?

- [Congregation] Amen.

- If you knew that, you would've bought Microsoft stock a few decades ago, right? And you wouldn't have bought a house in Arizona in '07 and '08, if you would've known some stuff, you would've made some different decisions. The point is, no matter how much we make advances, we still don't know or control the future, but God does, but God does. Number three, the burden of proof is on those who would reject this as the Word of God. In argumentation, there's something called burden of proof, and that is you can't just critique a position, you need to propose a better alternative. So if I say, "God wrote this book, here's the prophecy." Somebody says, "I disagree." Okay, well, then who wrote the book? I just gave you 10 books of the Bible, 25 prophecies over the course of hundreds and thousands of years in different nations, countries, possibly even continents, and ultimately, it all says the same thing and points to Jesus and sings in complete harmony, and if God wasn't involved, then how do you explain that? I mean, how many of you are married and you can't even agree with your spouse? I probably shouldn't have said it like that, but you know what it's like. Imagine getting 39 people over hundreds and thousands of years in different cultures and nations and languages to all agree. If it's not God, then give me some reasonable alternative explanation to consider. And I'll close with this and then I'll pray and take your questions. Most objections to the Bible as the Word of God are not mental, but they're moral. It's not that we don't understand what it says, we don't like what it says, because if it's true, then there is authority over us and we are sinners who need a savior. Romans 1 says that, "What can be known about God has been made plain." It's been made obvious to those who have ears to hear, eyes to see, but that we suppress the truth because of the unrighteousness of our deeds. If we agree that this is the book that God wrote and we need the Son whom God sent, then that means that we need to acknowledge our sin, and we need God to forgive us, and we need to, with God's grace, change our lifestyle. And then it goes on in Romans 1 to talk a lot about sexual sin, and what really it comes down to is many times we are living in ways that are sinful, foolish, and/or rebellious, selfish, autonomous, and prideful, many of those are in regards to self-indulgence, particularly sexuality, and then we hear all of these lines of reasoning and evidence that this is the book that God wrote about the Son that God sent, and it's not that we don't understand what it says, it's that we don't like what it says, and so the major objection for most people to the Bible, just so you know, is not mental, it's moral. This was Satan's problem with his rebellion, it's not that he didn't know who the Lord was, it's that he didn't love who the Lord was. Satan's problem was not mental, it was moral. It's not that he didn't understand, it's that he didn't love God. And so for you and I, it really is incumbent upon us, and the reason I make this the first lecture, I want to establish for you the authority of God's Word, when I first wrote the book, this was a chapter in the middle of the book, I wanna put it right up front so that as we spend time together in the ensuing 11 lectures, we really have confidence in the Word of God as the Word of God, and as exclusively and solely the Word of God, the only perfect thing on the earth, the only book that God wrote, and ultimately, the highest human authority and the perfect and clear revelation about Jesus, amen?