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# **Prelude to Star Wars: The Messianic Prophecies**

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**P**rophecy is like the rudder on a ship. The rudder gives the ship direction, and prophecy gives our lives direction and purpose. Where did I come from? Why am I here? And where am I going? It seems as if the majority of people never get these questions answered in their entire lifetime.

I too had these questions as a child. I asked them over and over, and God listened and answered my questions. I did not know God, but God knew me and answered the cry of my heart.

At the age of eighteen, I got a job as a salesman and met many people. One of these people led me to a knowledge of God and the Messiah through the biblical prophecies—something I will be eternally grateful for.

The answers to these three basic questions of life are vitally connected to prophecy. God knows where you and I came from, why we are here, and where we are going! He is the Author of all true prophecies—the non-tabloid prophecies—of His book, the Holy Bible!

All true prophecy is connected to the first major prophecy of the Bible, Genesis 3:15. This is the first prophecy dealing with the promised Mes-

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siah. The promises of the coming Messiah were made throughout the Old Testament portion of God's holy book, the Bible.

This chapter is divided into three parts. Part One deals with the prophecies of the Messiah as given by King David in the book of Psalms. Part Two deals with the prophecies of the Messiah as given by the prophet Isaiah in the book of Isaiah. And Part Three deals with the messianic prophecies of other Old Testament prophets.

In our search to find what life is all about, we will start by examining the prophecies of two books of the Bible—the book of Psalms and the book of Isaiah. King David wrote his prophecies of the Messiah in the book of Psalms nearly three thousand years ago. Isaiah wrote his prophecies of the Messiah over two thousand seven hundred years ago. Let's find out who the Messiah of Psalms and Isaiah is.

### **Who Does the Prophet King David, in the Book of Psalms, Identify as the Messiah of Prophecy?**

Just as a detective gathers clues to find out who committed a particular crime, the Bible, in contrast, *gives* us prophetic clues of who the Messiah of the world would be. Let's examine those clues that David wrote down for our benefit. David foretold many different characteristics of the Messiah so that everyone who would read his words would know beyond the shadow of a doubt who the real Messiah would be.

Jesus of Nazareth quoted more frequently from Psalms and Isaiah than from any of the other Old Testament books. No other Old Testament books are so frequently quoted in the New Testament as the books of Psalms and Isaiah.

The prophet King David wrote psalms about 950 B.C. In the book of Psalms he tells us that the Messiah would be born into this world to one of his own direct descendants. David predicts that the Messiah would be rejected, like the huge stone that the builders of the temple rejected in building it.

An immense stone was taken to the building site of the temple in Solomon's day. The builders took one look at it and wondered why on earth anyone would bring such a stone to their building site. They pushed the stone aside. They rejected it. That huge stone was in their way and was very annoying.

Finally the day came when the workmen needed a very large and very strong stone that would serve as the cornerstone of the foundation to the temple. They looked everywhere and could not find a stone that was strong

enough and of the right size and shape to be the cornerstone for the foundation of the temple. Days dragged by and then weeks as they searched for the right-sized stone with the right amount of strength.

Finally someone suggested the rejected stone. They found it to be exactly the right size and shape. The rejected stone became the most important stone in the building of the temple. David predicted that the Messiah would be rejected by most people just as the stone was at first rejected that was used in building the Temple in King Solomon's day.

The Prophet King David predicted about 950 B.C. that the future Messiah would:

1. Be rejected like the rejected stone.
2. Be a teacher of parables.
3. Be welcomed to Jerusalem by people shouting, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD."
4. Be betrayed by a trusted friend after they ate together.
5. Be judged unfairly by earthly rulers.
6. Be offered a drink containing gall.
7. Die naked on a cross.
8. Be stared at.
9. Have part of his clothing divided between those at the cross.
10. Lose the other part of His clothing to those who would gamble for it.
11. Be ridiculed by people shaking their heads and saying, "He trusted in the Lord—let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him."
12. Cry out. "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me" before dying.
13. Speak these last words: "Into Your hand I commit my spirit."
14. Die without any broken bones.
15. Be raised from the dead before His body started to decay.
16. Bring others to life and take them home with Him after being resurrected.

From these many clues from the prophet King David in the book of Psalms, who then is the promised Messiah?

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### CLUE #1

The Messiah would be in the descendant line of King David.

#### *The Prophecy*

“The LORD swore an oath to David, a sure oath that he will not revoke: ‘One of your own descendants I will place on your throne.’” Psalm 132:11.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham. . . . David was the father of Solomon, Solomon the father of Rehoboam. . . . and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of who was born Jesus, who is called Christ [Messiah].” Matthew 1:1-16.

### CLUE #2

The Messiah would be rejected by most people like the stone that was at first rejected in building the temple in King Solomon’s day. It later was found to be the perfect size for the most important part of the foundation—the cornerstone.

#### *The Prophecy*

“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” Psalm 118:22, NKJV.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Jesus said to them, Have you never read in the Scriptures: The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.” Matthew 21:42, NKJV.

### CLUE #3

The Messiah would be a teacher of parables.

#### *The Prophecy*

“I will open my mouth in parables.” Psalm 78:2.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable.” Matthew 13:34.

### CLUE #4

The common people would use the words, “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord” to welcome Jesus.

***The Prophecy***

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.” Psalm 118:26.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’” Matthew 21:9.

**CLUE #5**

The true Messiah would be betrayed by a trusted friend after they had eaten together.

***The Prophecy***

“Even my close friend whom I trusted, He who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.” Psalm 41:9.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Then one of the Twelve—the one called Judas Iscariot—went to the chief priests, and said, What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?” Matthew 26:14-16.

**CLUE #6**

The betrayer of the Messiah would be replaced by another person.

***The Prophecy***

“May his days be few; may another take his place of leadership.” Psalm 109:8.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Then they cast their lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.” Acts 1:26.

**CLUE #7**

The Messiah would be judged unfairly by earthly rulers.

***The Prophecy***

“The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the LORD and against his Anointed One.” Psalm 2:2.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death.” Matthew 26:59.

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“Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death.” Matthew 27:1.

“Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed.” Acts 4:27-31.

### CLUE #8

King David, around the year 950 B.C., predicted that the true Messiah would die the death of the cross.

#### *The Prophecy*

“They have pierced My hands and My feet.” Psalm 22:16. Remember that David wrote nearly a thousand years before Jesus, the Messiah, was born into this world.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“They crucified Him.” Mark 15:24.

### CLUE #9

The type of drink to be offered to the dying Messiah was foretold.

#### *The Prophecy*

“They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” Psalm 69:21, NKJV.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“They gave Him sour wine mingled with gall to drink. But when He had tasted it, He would not drink.” Matthew 27:34, NKJV.

### CLUE #10

The people would stare at Jesus.

#### *The Prophecy*

“People stare and gloat over me.” Psalm 22:17.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.” Matthew 27:36.

### CLUE #11

David, in the book of Psalms, predicted that some at the cross would divide up part of His clothing to keep and gamble over the other part.

***The Prophecy***

“They divide my garments among them, and cast lots for my clothing.”  
Psalm 22:18.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ‘Let’s not tear it,’ they said to one another. ‘Let’s decide by lot who will get it.’”  
John 19:23, 24.

**CLUE #12**

King David predicted that the Messiah would be ridiculed by people, saying, “He trusted in the Lord . . . let Him deliver Him.”

***The Prophecy***

“All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying. ‘He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him’.” Psalm 22:7, 8.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He said, I am the Son of God.” Matthew 27:43, NKJV.

**CLUE #13**

The Messiah would be insulted by people who were shaking their heads.

***The Prophecy***

“I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.” Psalm 109:25.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Those who passed by hurled insults at Him, shaking their heads and saying, ‘You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself!’” Matthew 27:39, 40.

**CLUE #14**

The Messiah would cry out “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me” before dying.

### *The Prophecy*

“My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” Psalm 22:1.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, . . . My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34.

### **CLUE #15**

The final words of the Messiah on the cross were foretold by David in the book of Psalms.

### *The Prophecy*

“Into your hands I commit my spirit.” Psalm 31:5.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Jesus called out with a loud voice, ‘Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.’ When he had said this, he breathed his last.” Luke 23:46.

### **CLUE #16**

The Passover lamb was not to have any broken bones. The Messiah was to die, like the passover lamb, without any broken bones.

### *The Prophecy*

“He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.” Psalm 34:20.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break His legs.” John 19:32, 33.

### **CLUE #17**

The Messiah would be killed but raised before His body started to decay.

### *The Prophecy*

I have set the LORD always before me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.” Psalm 16:8-11.



***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.” Acts 2:31, 32.

**CLUE #18**

The Messiah would take others with Him after being resurrected.

***The Prophecy***

“When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train.” Psalm 68:18.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit. At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; the earth shook, and the rocks split. The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life.” Matthew 27:50-53.

“After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.” Acts 1:9.

**Who Is the Messiah, As Identified by the Prophet Isaiah in the Book of Isaiah?**

Isaiah the prophet wrote the book of Isaiah around 700 B.C. He tells us that the Messiah would be born to a virgin and born as a direct descendant of King David. Isaiah uses the same story that David uses in the book of Psalms to describe the predicted rejection of the Messiah. He reminds the people of the story they all knew—the story of the rejected stone.

The prophet Isaiah predicted that the future Messiah would:

1. Be rejected like the rejected stone in the building of the temple.
2. Have His way prepared by a wilderness prophet.
3. Spend time in Galilee teaching the people of Galilee.
4. Warn others to avoid hypocrisy.
5. Restore eyesight to the blind and hearing to the deaf.
6. Make the lame walk.
7. Be a gentle, Spirit-filled servant.
8. Teach both Jews and Gentiles.

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9. Teach people to take care of the hungry and care for the needs of others.
10. Preach to the poor and would do a work of healing to comfort those in sorrow and to bring discomfort to the careless.
11. Be taken a prisoner and be unjustly given the death penalty.
12. Be silent in His own defense when others would seek to kill Him.
13. Go through suffering that would change His appearance.
14. Allow others to whip His back.
15. Allow others to spit in His face.
16. Die, not from the mistreatment of the people, but rather from the weight of the sins of the entire world crushing out His life. The Messiah would be “crushed” to death by the weight of your sins and mine—the sins of the world.
17. Die with criminals.
18. Have a burial site provided for by a rich person.

From these many clues from the prophet Isaiah in the book of Isaiah, who is the promised Messiah?

### CLUE #1

Isaiah tells us that the Messiah, God with us, would be born of a virgin.

#### *The Prophecy*

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel [God with us].” Isaiah 7:14.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. . . . You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.” Luke 1:26, 27, 31.

### CLUE #2

The Messiah was to be born into the descendants of David and reign as King.

### ***The Prophecy***

“Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David’s throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.” Isaiah 9:7.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham: and Jesse the father of King David. David was the father of Solomon. . . .” Matthew 1:1, 6.

### **CLUE #3**

Isaiah lets us know that the Messiah would be rejected by most people, like the stone that was at first rejected in building the temple in King Solomon’s day. It later was found to be the perfect size for the most important part of the foundation—the cornerstone. Trust this Messiah. He will never let you down.

### ***The Prophecy***

“So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: ‘See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.’” Isaiah 28:16.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“As it is written: ‘See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’” Romans 9:33.

“As the Scripture says, ‘Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame.’” Romans 10:11.

### **CLUE #4**

Isaiah tells us that the Messiah would not draw attention to Himself. To many people He would be as unnoticed as an unseen stone that people stumble over.

### ***The Prophecy***

“He will be a stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare. Many of them will stumble; they will fall and be broken, they will be snared and captured.” Isaiah 8:14, 15.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: ‘This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against.’” Luke 2:34.

Matthew 21:44 “He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.” Matthew 21:44.

#### **CLUE #5**

Someone living in the wilderness would prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

### *The Prophecy*

“A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed. . . . For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40:3-5.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!’ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying, ‘The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make His paths straight’.’” Matthew 3:1-3.

#### **CLUE #6**

The Messiah would spend time teaching the people of Galilee.

### *The Prophecy*

“Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan—the people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Isaiah 9:1, 2.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: ‘Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, along the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people living in dark-

ness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.” Matthew 4:13-16.

“On His robe and on His thigh he has this name written: King of Kings and Lord of Lords.” Revelation 19:16.

### **CLUE #7**

Isaiah predicted that the Messiah would restore eyesight to the blind and hearing to the deaf—and that the lame would walk.

#### ***The Prophecy***

“In that day the deaf will hear the words of the scroll, and out of gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.” Isaiah 29:18.

“Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.” Isaiah 35:5, 6.

#### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? Then he said to the paralytic, ‘Get up, take your mat and go home.’ And the man got up and went home. As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, ‘Have mercy on us, Son of David!’ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, ‘Do you believe that I am able to do this?’ ‘Yes, Lord,’ they replied. Then he touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith will it be done to you’; and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, ‘See that no one knows about this.’” Matthew 9:5-7, 27-30.

### **CLUE #8**

The Messiah would teach people to take care of the hungry and to care for the needs of others.

#### ***The Prophecy***

“Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter— when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?” Isaiah 58:7.

#### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer

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him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:35-40.

### CLUE #9

The Messiah would preach to the poor and would do a work of healing to comfort those in sorrow and to bring discomfort to the careless.

#### *The Prophecy*

“The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.” Isaiah 61:1, 2.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’” Matthew 3:16, 17.

“The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” Luke 4:18, 19.

### CLUE #10

The Messiah would be a gentle, Spirit-filled servant.

#### *The Prophecy*

“Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his law the islands will put their hope.” Isaiah 42:1-4.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I

delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets.” Matthew 12:18, 19.

“As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.’” Matthew 3:16, 17.

“While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, ‘This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!’” Matthew 17:5.

### **CLUE #11**

The Messiah was to teach both Jews and Gentiles.

#### ***The Prophecy***

“I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness; I will take hold of your hand. I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people and a light for the Gentiles.” Isaiah 42:6.

#### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: ‘Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.’ The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.” Luke 2:25-33.

### **CLUE #12**

The teachings of the Messiah on hypocrisy are foretold.

#### ***The Prophecy***

“The Lord says: ‘These people come near to me with their mouth and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship of me is made up only of rules taught by men.’[” Isaiah 29:13.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.” Matthew 15:8, 9.

“He replied, ‘Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you hypocrites; as it is written: “These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”’” Mark 7:6, 7.

### **CLUE #13**

The Messiah would go through suffering that would change His appearance.

### *The Prophecy*

“His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man.” Isaiah 52:14.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” Luke 22:44.

### **CLUE #14**

The Messiah would be rejected by the very people He would come to help. He would go through suffering in order to save us.

### *The Prophecy*

“He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering. Surely he . . . carried our sorrows.” Isaiah 53:3, 4.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Then the chief priests and the elders of the people assembled in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas, and they plotted to arrest Jesus in some sly way and kill him.” Matthew 26:3, 4.

“And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.” Luke 22:44.

The weight of the sins of all mankind was crushing out His life. He would have died right in the garden before being nailed to the cross if an angel had not come to give him strength to endure the weight of the sins of the world.



**CLUE #15**

The Messiah was to be taken as a prisoner and unjustly judged worthy of death. The real cause of death would not be the usual physical cause of death—the actual cause of death would be the weight of the sins of the entire world crushing out His life.

***The Prophecy***

“He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.” Isaiah 53:8, NKJV.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, ‘Are you the king of the Jews?’ ‘Yes, it is as you say,’ Jesus replied. When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd.

At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, ‘Which one do you want me to release to you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?’ For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him. While Pilate was sitting on the judge’s seat, his wife sent him this message: ‘Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.’ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’ asked the governor. ‘Barabbas,’ they answered. ‘What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?’ Pilate asked. They all answered, ‘Crucify him!’ ‘Why? What crime has he committed?’ asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, ‘Crucify him!’ When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. ‘I am innocent of this man’s blood,’ he said. ‘It is your responsibility!’ All the people answered, ‘Let his blood be on us and on our children!’ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.” Matthew 27:11-26.

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3.

### CLUE #16

The Messiah would be silent in His own defense when others would seek to kill Him.

#### *The Prophecy*

“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.” Isaiah 53:7.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, ‘Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?’ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.” Matthew 27:12-14.

“And he went back inside the palace. ‘Where do you come from?’ he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer.” John 19:9.

### CLUE #17

People would whip the back of the Messiah and spit in His face.

#### *The Prophecy*

“I offered my back to those who beat me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.” Isaiah 50:6.

Remember that Isaiah wrote nearly 700 years before Jesus the Messiah was born into this world.

#### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Then they spit in His face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him, and said, ‘Prophesy to us, Christ! Who hit you?’” Matthew 26:67.

“Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.” Matthew 27:26.

### CLUE #18

The Messiah would be whipped. That whipping would bring healing to sinful mankind.

#### *The Prophecy*

“By His stripes [blows that cut in] we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5, NKJV.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures.” 1 Corinthians 15:3, 4.

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” 1 Peter 2:24, 25.

“The eunuch was reading this passage of Scripture: ‘He was led like a sheep to the slaughter, and as a lamb before the shearer is silent, so he did not open his mouth. In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth.’ The eunuch asked Philip, ‘Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about. . . ?’ Then Philip began with that very . . . Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.” Acts 8:32-35.

#### **CLUE #19**

The Messiah would die with criminals, and a burial site would be provided by a rich person.

### ***The Prophecy***

“And they made His grave with the wicked—but with the rich at His death.” Isaiah 53:9, NKJV.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Two robbers were crucified with Him, one on his right and one on his left.” Matthew 27:38.

“As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away.” Matthew 27:57-60.

#### **CLUE #20**

The Messiah would be “crushed” to death by the weight of the sins of the world.

### ***The Prophecy***

“Yet it was the Lord’s will to crush him [bruise him] and cause him to

suffer, and though the Lord makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his day, and the will of the Lord will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many and he will bear their iniquities. . . . he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53:10-12.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.” 1 Peter 2:24.

David, in Psalms, and Isaiah, in his prophetic book known as Isaiah, do enough detective work to pinpoint with absolute accuracy that Jesus Christ is this world’s Messiah. In the next chapter, we will explore how the need for a Messiah, a Saviour from sin, came about. The author believes in the Word of God as our final authority. God loves us and has revealed the past, present, and future to us in His holy book, the Bible. In my attempts to clarify what I believe happened, from my extensive study of God’s Word, I will take the reader with me on a journey that will involve both the infallible Word of God and my conclusions of those specific events.

Who is the true Messiah of Bible prophecy, according to other prophets?

Other prophets predicted that the future Messiah would:

1. Come to Planet Earth to restore communication between heaven and earth.
2. Be born in a certain small town called Bethlehem.
3. Be born into the Jewish race.
4. Have His way prepared by a powerful prophet like Elijah (John the Baptist).
5. Be baptized (“anointed”) in the year A.D. 27.
6. Enter Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey.
7. See His followers run away when He was mistreated.
8. Die a bloody death like a sacrificial lamb.

9. Die (“be cut off”) in the year A.D. 31.
10. Not have any broken bones.
11. Allow His body to be “pierced” by those He came to save.
12. Die, and that afterward, some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem would grieve over what they had done.

**CLUE #1**

Moses tells us in Genesis that the true Messiah would be “bruised.”

***The Prophecy***

“He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.” Genesis 3:15, NKJV.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

Jesus’ “heel” was wounded at the cross—a wound type that is survivable. The devil will receive a “head wound.” He will lose his life and be reduced to ashes, as revealed in Ezekiel 28:18, 19: “I reduced you to ashes on the ground . . . you . . . will be no more.”

**CLUE #2**

The Messiah would come from the Jewish race.

***The Prophecy***

“In you [Abram] all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 12:3.

***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.” Matthew 1:1.

**CLUE #3**

The Messiah was to restore communication between heaven and earth!

***The Prophecy***

Jacob “dreamed, and behold a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. . . . in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 28:12-14, NKJV.

Jesus claims to have fulfilled this prophecy. Read what Jesus said!

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“Hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” John 1:51, NKJV.

In claiming to fulfill this prophecy, was Jesus a liar, a lunatic, or was He, and is He, Lord of all creation?

#### **CLUE #4**

The Messiah would come to Planet Earth to give His life and shed His blood as a gift to each and every individual. Through accepting the Messiah as the Saviour from sin, man can find victory over death.

Every death of every lamb in the sacrificial service was to represent the future death of the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. Because the Messiah was sinless, He could pay the penalty for our sinful lives and give us the gift of eternal life. A plague of death would come to Egypt in Moses' day. The only safety was to kill the lamb representing the death of their future Messiah and paint the door frames of their houses with the blood. Those who did not do it had death in their family, and those who did had safety. This is a prophecy that the Messiah would shed His blood to save His people from death. Many have claimed to be the Messiah, but if they did not fulfill these pinpoint prophecies, they were not. Only one individual in history has made such a claim and has fulfilled these prophecies. That individual is Jesus Christ!

### *The Prophecy*

“When He sees the blood the Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses<sup>7</sup>. At midnight the Lord struck all the firstborn in the land of Egypt.” Exodus 12:23, 29, NKJV.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.” 1 Corinthians 5:7.

John the Baptist said “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” John 1:29.

#### **CLUE #5**

The Passover lamb, a symbol of the Messiah, was to have no broken bones in its death. In the same way, the Messiah was to have no broken bones in His death.

### *The Prophecy*

“It must be eaten inside one house; take none of the meat outside the

house. Do not break any of the bones.” Exodus 12:46.

“Moses then took the blood, sprinkled it on the people and said, ‘This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.’” Exodus 24:8.

“The Lord’s Passover. They shall eat it with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones.” Numbers 9:10-12.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.” John 19:32, 33.

### **CLUE #6**

The Messiah would be mistreated and beaten and would submit to it.

### ***The Prophecy***

“Let him offer his cheek to the one who would strike him.” Lamentations 3:30.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“‘Look, now, you have heard the blasphemy! What do you think?’ ‘He is worthy of death,’ they answered. Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, ‘Prophecy to us, Christ, Who hit you?’” Matthew 26:65-68.

### **CLUE #7**

The word *Messiah* means “anointed one.” The true Messiah would be baptized or “anointed” in the year A.D. 27 and be “cut off,” or killed, in the year A.D. 31. This time prophecy of Daniel, written over 600 years before it happened, foretold the exact year of the coming Messiah’s death.

### ***The Prophecy***

Read about this amazing, precisely accurate time prophecy in chapter 9 of *Prophecy Made Easy*.

### **CLUE #8**

The Messiah would be born into the human race in Bethlehem.

### *The Prophecy*

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel.” Micah 5:2, NKJV.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi from the East came to Jerusalem.” Matthew 2:1.

### **CLUE #9**

The Messiah would enter Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey.

### *The Prophecy*

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.” Zechariah 9:9.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.’ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet: Say to the Daughter of Zion, ‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

“The disciples went and did as Jesus had instructed them. They brought the donkey and the colt, placed their cloaks on them, and Jesus sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, ‘Hosanna to the Son of David!’ ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!’ ‘Hosanna in the highest!’” Matthew 21:1-10.

### **CLUE #10**

The Messiah would be “pierced” by “the inhabitants of Jerusalem.” Some of these “inhabitants of Jerusalem” would grieve over what had taken place.

### *The Prophecy*

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem a Spirit of grace and supplication; They will look on me, the one they



have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” Zechariah 12:10.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Instead one of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water.” John 19:34.

Peter said, “You with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. But God raised him from the dead. . . . When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:23, 24, 37, 38.

### **CLUE #11**

Zechariah the prophet predicted that people would oppose the Messiah physically and wound Him. When that would happen, His followers would run away.

### ***The Prophecy***

“If someone asks him, ‘What are these wounds on your body?’ he will answer, ‘The wounds I was given at the house of my friends.’ ‘Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is close to me!’ declares the LORD Almighty. ‘Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’” Zechariah 13:6, 7.

### ***The Fulfillment of Prophecy***

“Then Jesus told them, ‘This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: “I will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.”’” Matthew 26:31.

“Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.” Matthew 26:56.

### **CLUE #12**

A powerful prophet like Elijah would prepare the way for the Messiah.

### ***The Prophecy***

“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me.” Malachi 3:1.

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their

children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.” Malach 4:5, 6.

### *The Fulfillment of Prophecy*

“For this is the one about whom it is written: I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before You.” Matthew 11:10.

“Jesus replied, ‘I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands.’ Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.” Matthew 17:12, 13.

John the Baptist called the nation to repentance several months before Jesus Christ was baptized. Christ was baptized by John in the Jordan River, and the Spirit came down on Christ in the form of a dove.

Old Testament Bible prophets made the following predictions concerning the promised Messiah.

The Old Testament prophets predicted that the future Messiah would:

1. Be born a Jewish male child to a Jewish virgin in Bethlehem.
2. Be an unpretentious man who taught both Jewish and Gentile people in parables.
3. Live in Galilee and often teach in Galilee.
4. Restore eyesight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and make the lame to walk.
5. Have the gentle spirit of a servant.
6. Be introduced to others by a great wilderness prophet.
7. Be baptized in A.D. 27.
8. Enter Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey while people shouted “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.”
9. Be betrayed by a friend.
10. Be rejected and judged unfairly by earthly rulers.
11. Be silent in His own defense.
12. Be beaten with a whip.
13. Allow people to spit in His face.
14. Be nailed to a cross in the year A.D. 31.

15. Be stripped naked, nailed to the cross, and watched as others divided up part of His clothing and gambled for the other part.
16. Be laughed at by people coming up and shaking their heads and saying, "He trusted in the Lord; let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him."
17. Carry the weight of the sins of the world until they crushed out His life.
18. Cry out on that cross: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"
19. Cry out: "Into Your hands I commit my spirit."
20. Be beaten and die without any broken bones.
21. Be raised from the dead before His body had begun to decay.
22. Take many back to heaven with Him who were specially resurrected from the dead.

### **Jesus Christ Is the Only Individual in All of History Who Fulfills All of These Prophecies!**

#### ***BIRTH***

Between 2,500 and 6,000 years ago, the ancient prophets, including Moses, Isaiah, David, Daniel, Micah, Solomon, Zechariah, Malachi, and others predicted that a Messiah, a Saviour, a King, would come. The prophets predicted that He would be born a male Jewish descendant of King David to a virgin in the little town of Bethlehem.

#### ***LIFE***

They predicted that He would live in Galilee and that the Messiah would be introduced to the world by a great wilderness prophet. They said that the Messiah would be baptized in the year A.D. 27 and would restore eyesight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and make the lame walk. He would be a gentle, Spirit-filled servant and be rejected by the majority.

#### ***TEACHINGS***

These prophets also predicted that the Messiah would be an unpretentious man. He would teach both Jewish and Gentile people in parables and warn the religious people to avoid the religious hypocrisy of saying one thing and doing another. He would teach people to take care of the hungry and those in need. He would preach to the poor and would do a work of healing to comfort those in sorrow and bring discomfort to the careless.

### *LAST WEEK*

The ancient prophets further predicted He would announce Himself a king by entering Jerusalem riding on the back of a donkey while people shouted “Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.” And they predicted that He would be betrayed by a trusted friend for thirty pieces of silver, after they ate together

### *LAST DAY*

These ancient prophets predicted that the Messiah would go through suffering that would change His appearance. They predicted that He would be taken a prisoner and unjustly judged by earthly rulers as guilty of death, that He would say nothing in His own defense, and that He would allow others to whip His back and spit in His face.

### *DEATH*

They predicted the exact year in which He would be crucified. They accurately predicted that to be the year A.D. 31. He would be stripped naked and nailed to a cross while others stared at Him. They predicted what would happen to the very clothes worn by the Messiah on that day. They predicted that some of His clothing would be divided up between those who were there, and another part of His clothing would be gambled for.

They said He would be offered a drink containing gall. They predicted that people would pass by, shaking their heads and saying, “He trusted in the Lord; let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him.” Not only were the words of the people foretold, but the actual dying words of the Messiah were also foretold. They predicted that the Messiah would cry out on that cross, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?”—and also the words “Into Your hands I commit my spirit.” They predicted that He would die without any broken bones.

His death, they predicted, would not be from the mistreatment of the people, but rather from the weight of the sins of the entire world crushing out His life. The Messiah would be “crushed” to death by the weight of your sins and mine—the sins of the world. He would die with criminals, and He would have a burial site provided for by a rich person.

### *RESURRECTION*

The ancient prophets predicted that He would be raised from the dead before His body started to decay and would bring others to life and take them home with Him after being resurrected.

Were these prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ? Did everything the prophets predicted would happen, happen? Absolutely! Everything they said would happen to the Messiah happened to Jesus Christ. Read the first four books of the New Testament and see the fulfillment of all the Messianic prophecies of Jesus Christ. These are just some of the Messianic prophecies that convince me that Jesus Christ is the true Messiah. Do you know of another Jewish person, in all of history, who was baptized in A.D. 27 and crucified in A.D. 31 and was born of a virgin in Bethlehem?

There are many Messianic prophecies in the Holy Bible, but there is no other person in history who fulfills even these five Messianic prophecies. No one else fulfills all the many prophecies mentioned in this book—*Prophecy Made Easy*—or even just the five mentioned in the previous paragraph. Jesus Christ is the only one who meets every one of these pinpoint prophecies exactly. He came to live a sinless life and to love and teach and reestablish His church on correct principles. But most of all, He came to carry your sins and mine and to pay the penalty for our sins. Sin separated everyone from eternal life. The Messiah, Jesus Christ, came to bridge the gulf that sin makes with His own broken, bleeding body.

God loves you and me. He wants us to have evidence for our faith in Him. The evidence for God's existence and His love is GIGANTIC. The Messianic prophecies and their fulfillments are irrefutable evidence! They constitute evidence that cannot be overthrown by reason! Only our sinful desires can overcome this evidence. Reason alone would have to be on the side of the overwhelming evidence that Jesus Christ is the promised Messiah.

Those who are out of harmony with God can choose not to believe this evidence by ignoring it, neglecting it, or by choosing to close their eyes for fear of the cost of following Jesus Christ. This choice is a foolish choice, however, because the Messiah will return the second time. He will then invite us to sit with Him upon His throne. We will explore the universe with greater powers than Superman ever dreamed of—powers similar to that of the angels of God. We will build houses that will last forever—and we will plant and eat and travel. We will never know pain or suffering or loneliness ever again. What will you do with this evidence? The choice is yours. You can accept Jesus Christ as your Messiah, your Saviour from sin, and live forever—or you can choose not to believe. You can choose death. See Revelation 3:21.

What stronger evidence could you have for God's existence and His love but these great Messianic prophecies? God gave pinpoint-accurate prophecies of how the promised Messiah would be born—how He would live and

teach and heal and serve and suffer and die and be resurrected. Prophecy predicted when it would happen, where it would happen, where He would be born, where He would live, what He would teach, what year He would be baptized, what year He would be crucified, how people would treat Him, and how a friend would betray Him. Also how much money the friend would get for betraying Him, what the people around him would do and say, and what the Messiah Himself would say. Prophecy predicted how His burial costs would be taken care of, when He would be resurrected, and what would happen after that. What more could God do to prove His existence and His love?

Every one of these Messianic prophecies was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. This chapter has limited itself to just some of the Messianic prophecies. There are others. They all point to Jesus Christ as the Messiah of Bible prophecy as well.

All of this information is given by the prophets, predicting the coming Messiah over 600 years in advance. These are all Old Testament prophecies. Not one of these identifying pieces of prophetic information came from the New Testament. We include the New Testament only to show how each prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

The blindness of the people who lived during Christ's appearance on earth as the Messiah should not surprise us. It is not a question of race—it is a question of human nature. God says that modern man is no less blind to spiritual truth than the people who lived at that time. God says to modern man, "You say, I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing. But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see." Revelation 3:17, 18.

The prophets Moses, Isaiah, David, Daniel, Micah, Zechariah, and Malachi are a few of the prophets God used to pass on clues as to the true identity of the Messiah. God expects us to gather these clues like a detective. When we do, the overwhelming evidence points with absolute accuracy to Jesus Christ as this world's Messiah.

In his book *Science Speaks*, Professor Peter W. Stoner says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to just eight of the scores of Messianic prophecies, "We find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in  $10^{17}$ ." That would be 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000. In order to help us understand these amazing odds, Stoner explains it by imagining that "we

take 10<sup>17</sup> silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and 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 say that this is 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 them in their own wisdom.” And remember, that is using just eight of the scores of Messianic prophecies that are found in the Old Testament part of the Bible!

The overwhelming weight of fulfilled prophetic evidence leads to no other option. Prophecy speaks and says that Jesus Christ is the true Messiah. He loves you. Won’t you choose to let Him be your Messiah, your Lord, and your Master today? Read about the way to accept Him as your Messiah, your Lord, and your Master in the Introduction to *Prophecy Made Easy*.

Why did our world need a Messiah? Why do we need a Messiah? *Star Wars*—the next chapter—will provide the answer to that question. The reconstructed conversations found in the *Star Wars* chapter are based on the biblical evidence documented in this book, *Prophecy Made Easy*.

