

Thursology 75: Perfect Proof That Jesus is Messiah: Rome & Capital Punishment (The Preposterous Claims of Christ-Pt 2)

(Thursology Live! 3/31/22)

--The (preposterous) claims of Jesus of Nazareth:

--I AM the Messiah...and...I AM the Great I AM

--The incredibly high bar set for Messiah: Any and all apparent _____ between Jesus' life and the Messianic prophecies must be _____...or the entire foundation of Christianity _____!!!

--Ten fulfilled prophecies: The astronomical mathematics

- 1) [Exod 12:1-4](#): The Passover Lamb was taken out of the flock on Nisan 10 to be observed
- 2) [Exod 12:5-6](#): The Lamb was SLAIN by Israel on Nisan 14
- 3) [Dan 9:24-25](#): Prediction of the EXACT date of the Triumphal Entry
- 4) [V. 26](#): Messiah had to die...and it had to happen before the destruction of the Temple in AD 70
- 5) [Gen 49:10](#): The Prince of Peace had to be born before the scepter was taken away from Israel.
- 6) [Micah 5:2, 4-5](#): Messiah had to be born in BETHLEHEM
- 7) [Psa 22:18](#): LOTS would be cast for His GARMENTS
- 8) [Zech 11:10-13](#): Exactly 30 shekels of SILVER would be paid for the betrayer's wages...and the silver would go to the POTTER to buy a field.
- 9) [Exod 12:43, 46](#): The BONES of the Lamb could not be BROKEN
- 10) [Psalm 22:16](#): MESSIAH would be CRUCIFIED

--The incomprehensible probability of meeting just TEN of the Old Testament prophecies: Approximately 1 in 9,300, _____, _____, _____, _____

--The Historical Timing of the Life and Death of the Jewish Messiah: Narrowing the Timeframe

--Historical Fact #1: There is an _____ historical _____-point...after which the Messiah could no _____ come ([Dan 9:24-26](#))

[Seventy weeks](#) have been decreed for your people and your holy city...So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off...

--The prophetic end-point: No one living _____ AD 70...could possibly be the Jewish _____!!!

--The practical end-point: When General Titus destroyed the Temple in AD 70...the _____ were also destroyed...and thus...after this it was no longer possible to verify the _____ of any potential Messiah

--Historical Fact #2: That Messiah had to be _____...is an incredibly important factor in the historical _____ of His death...and reflects specific prophecy of the _____ order!!!

--Key Concept: The battleground for belief is not the _____ of Jesus...the battleground is Jesus _____!!!

--The mundane, commonly-known, non-controversial, universally-accepted event from history: Jesus of Nazareth was _____ by Rome in the _____ decade AD

--John 18:28-32: Then they led Jesus from Caiaphas into the Praetorium, and it was early; and they themselves did not enter into the Praetorium so that they would not be defiled, but might eat the Passover. Therefore Pilate went out to them and said, "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" They answered and said to him, "If this Man were not an evildoer, we would not have delivered Him to you." So Pilate said to them, "Take Him yourselves, and judge Him according to your law." The Jews said to him, "We are not permitted to put anyone to death," to fulfill the word of Jesus which He spoke, signifying by what kind of death He was about to die.

--Why where the Jews not permitted to put Jesus to death? The right of Israel to declare _____ punishment was taken away in AD ____ by Rome

--John 8:56-59: Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." So the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was born, I am." Therefore they picked up stones to throw at Him, but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple.

--What does this Scripture make clear?

--If the Jews had _____ Jesus...He would have been _____

--A Messianic disqualification: Anyone who was _____ could not be the _____ !!!

--A series of Crucifixion-related Messianic requirements:

--Requirement #1: To be Messiah...His hands and feet had to be _____

--Psalm 22:15-16: My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and You lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.

--Requirement #2: To be Messiah...He had to be _____

--Numbers 21:4-9: Then they set out from Mount Hor by the way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; and the people became impatient because of the journey. The people spoke against God and Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food." And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died. So the people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned, because we have spoken against the Lord and you; intercede with the Lord, that He may remove the serpents from us." And Moses interceded for the people. Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard; and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, he will live." And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on the standard; and it came about, that if a serpent bit any man, when he looked to the bronze serpent, he lived.

--John 3:13-16: No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; so that whoever believes will in Him have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.

--Requirement #3: He had to be lifted up...to _____ the _____

--John 12:27, 32: "Now My soul has become troubled; and what shall I say, 'Father, save Me from this hour'? But for this purpose I came to this hour...And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."

--V. 33: But He was saying this to indicate the kind of death by which He was to die.

--The point of being "lifted up": Stoning would have _____ Jesus...but it wouldn't have _____ anyone!

--Why??? Malachi 4:6: "And he will restore the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the land with a curse."

--What did humanity need? To save the world...someone had to come Who could _____ the _____ away!!!

--A key biblical concept: To take the curse away...the Messiah couldn't just _____ sin...He had to _____ sin!!!

--II Cor 5:21: "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us..."

--Deut 21:22-23: "And if...you hang him on a tree...he who is hanged...is the curse of God."

--Galatians 3:13: "Christ redeemed us from the _____ of the Law, having _____ a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who hangs on a _____'."

--Historical Fact #3: There is an explicit historical _____-point...for the Messiah's _____...and the "_____ " is the key!!!

--Esther 4:10-11; 5:1-2: Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai: "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days."...Now it came about on the third day that Esther put on her royal robes and stood in the inner court of the king's palace in front of the king's rooms, and the king was sitting on his royal throne in the throne room, opposite the entrance to the palace. When the king saw Esther the queen standing in the court, she obtained favor in his sight; and the king extended to Esther the golden scepter which was in his hand. So Esther came near and touched the top of the scepter.

--Gen 49:10: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes..."

--The Genesis 49 prophecy...interpreted in historical context...means:

--The Messiah would come into the world _____ Rome _____ Israel's right to declare Capital Punishment

--The Messianic starting point:

--Jacob's prophecy meant that _____ the right of Capital Punishment was taken away from Israel in AD 7...it was forever too _____ for Messiah to be _____

--Spectacularly threading the historical needle

--Messiah's Prophetic Timeline: Threading the Needle between 7 AD and 70 AD

Abraham				Today
I		II		I
2000 BC	(Too early to come)	II	(Too late to come)	2022 AD
----- <u>Stoned</u> rather than crucified-----I-----Had to be born before the Scepter departed (7 AD)-----				
-----Daniel's prophecy-----I-----Messiah must die before Temple destroyed-----				

--Application: Through Scripture and the unfolding of verifiable history...God has given us indisputable _____ that Jesus is the Savior of the world...but this leads to the enormous question of whether we'll _____ it with _____ !!!

--I Peter 3:14-15: "...sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a _____ to everyone who asks you to give an _____ for the hope that is in you..."

--The conclusion of I Pet 3:14-15: _____ believer is responsible to be _____ to defend the faith!!!

--Six attributes of Apollos...a defender of The Faith:

--Attribute #1: Despite being "merely" a _____...Apollos was _____ in the Scriptures!!!

--Acts 18:24: Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

--Attribute #2: Despite being without formal theological _____... Apollos was _____ in his teaching about Jesus!!!

--Acts 18:25: This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John...

--Attribute #3: God used him to speak _____...even though he didn't have _____ understanding of the Scriptures

--Acts 18:26a: "...and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue..."

--Attribute #4: He was _____ to being _____...even though he was mighty in the Scriptures!!!

--Acts 18:26b, c: "...But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

--Attribute #5: Even though he wasn't a rabbi or preacher or missionary... Apollos was willing to sacrificially _____ his life...to take the _____ to others!!!

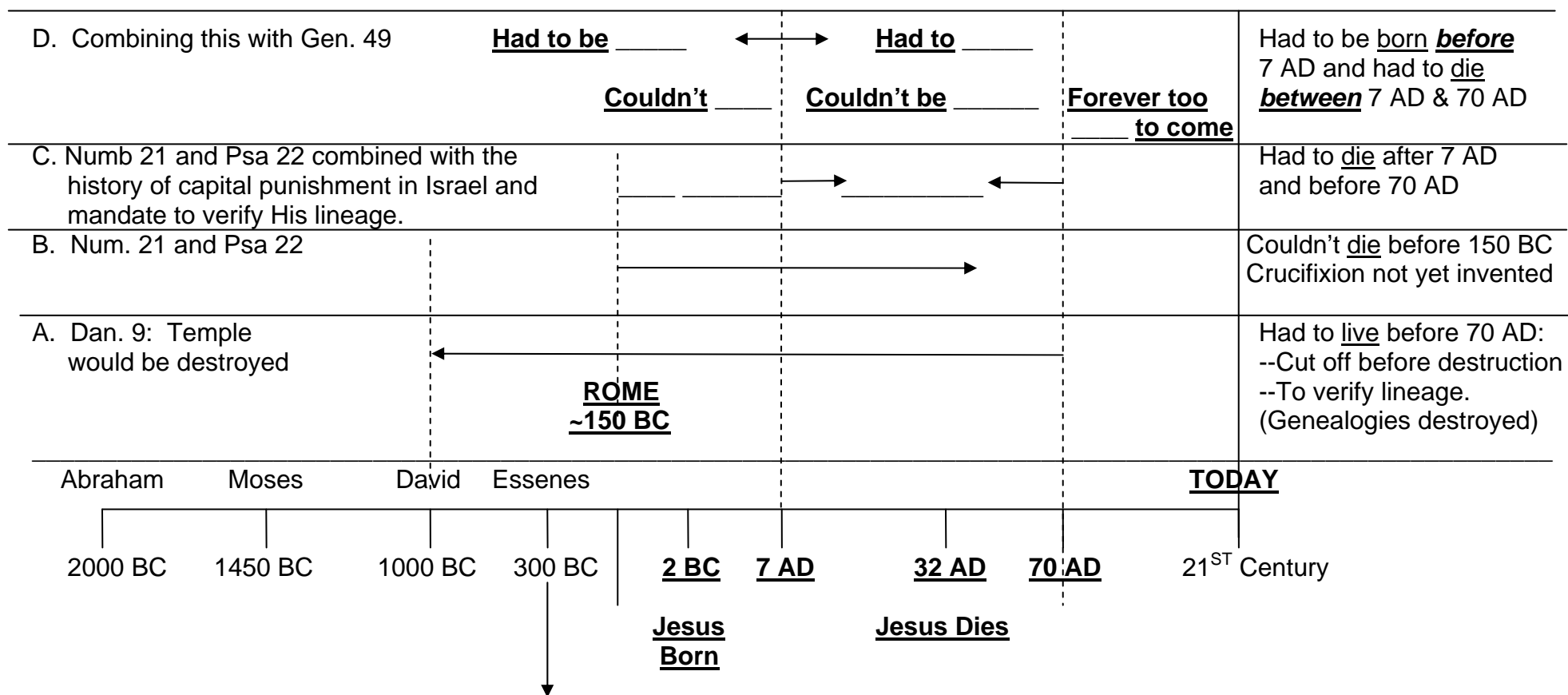
--Acts 18:27: And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace...

--Attribute #6: He clearly understood that one of the highest callings of _____ believer is to _____ by the Scriptures that Jesus is the _____ !!!

--Acts 18:28: "...for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ."

BIBICAL TIMELINE OF THE COMING OF THE JEWISH MESSIAH

The ultimate example of God threading the historical needle to prove Jesus of Nazareth to be the Christ



Dead Sea Scrolls prove that all of the OT was written before Rome came to power. Thus, death by crucifixion was true prophecy of a mode of execution that had not yet even been conceived. ALL prophecies about Jesus were written IN ADVANCE.

Thursology 74: Astronomical Messianic Mathematics: The Stunning Improbability of Fulfilling JUST TEN Prophecies

(Thursology Live! 3/24/22)

--Introduction:

--A scientific study:

--Finding #1: A multi-year study of "Ten best psychics in the world" showed that **98%** of their predictions were dead **WRONG**

--Finding #2: The **2%** that could be considered "close" or "correct" were phenomenally **VAGUE**

--Key Concept #1: **OUR** faith is also **BASED** upon **PREPOSTEROUS** claims

--Key Concept #2: The **PREPOSTEROUS** claims of Jesus of Nazareth are **VERIFIABLE!!!**

--A sad irony in the modern church: In a culture where the **NEED** to verify Christ's claims is **INCREASING**...the ability of believers to defend the faith...is **DECREASING!!!**

--The Claims Of Jesus:

--Claim #1: I am...The **I AM!!!**

--**John 8:23-24, 51-53, 57-59**

--Claim #2: I AM the **MESSIAH**

--John 18:33, 36-37: Therefore Pilate entered again into the Praetorium, and summoned Jesus and said to Him, "Are You the King of the Jews?"...Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting so that I would not be handed over to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Therefore Pilate said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice."

--Luke 1:1-4: Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished among us, just as they were handed down to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, it seemed fitting for me as well, having investigated everything carefully from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order, most excellent Theophilus; so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

--Key Concept #1: **FULFILLED** prophecy is the **MANDATE** for any would-be Messiah!!!

--Key Concept #2: **FULFILLED** prophecy is the hallmark of sovereignty...because it proves that He is not constrained by **TIME!!!**

--Key Concept #3: Any and all apparent **INCONSISTENCIES** between Jesus' life and the Messianic prophecies must be **RESOLVED**...or the entire foundation of Christianity **CRUMBLES!!!**

--Luke 24:44: He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."

--CS Lewis: I am trying to prevent anyone from saying the really foolish thing that people often say about Jesus: "I'm ready to accept Jesus as a great moral teacher, but I don't accept His claim to be God." That is the one thing we must not say. A man who was merely a man and said the sort of things Jesus said would not be a great moral teacher. He would either be a lunatic—on a level with the man who says he is a poached egg—or else he would be the Devil of Hell. You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not bring any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher. He has not left that open to us. He did not intend to.

--What logic demands from the Messianic claims of Jesus: He raised the bar so high that He is either a **LIAR**...a **LUNATIC** or...He is **LORD!!!**

--The Fulfillment of Prophecy By Jesus of Nazareth:

--Prophecy #1: The Passover Lamb was taken out of the flock on Nisan **10** to be **OBSERVED**

--Exod 12:1-3: Now the Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, "This month shall be the beginning of months for you; it is to be the first month of the year to you. Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'On the tenth of this month they are each one to take a lamb for themselves, according to their fathers' households, a lamb for each household.

--Prophecy #2: The Lamb was **SLAIN** by Israel on Nisan **14**

--Exod 12:5-6: Your lamb shall be an unblemished male a year old; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month, then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel is to kill it at twilight.

--Prophecy #3: **PREDICTION** of the **EXACT** date of the Triumphal Entry

--Dan 9:24-25: Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy place. So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks...

--From: The issuing of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem: Nisan 1, **445** BC

--Until: The Triumphal Entry: Nisan 10, **32** AD

--Prophecy #4: Messiah had to **DIE**...and it had to happen **BEFORE** the destruction of the Temple in AD **70**

--Dan 9:26: Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.

--Prophecy #5: Gen 49:1-2: Then Jacob summoned his sons and said, "Assemble yourselves that I may tell you what will befall you in the days to come. "Gather together and hear, O sons of Jacob; and listen to Israel your father.

--Gen 49:10: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until Shiloh comes..."

--What does Prophecy #5 mean? The **PRINCE** of Peace had to be born **BEFORE** the scepter was taken away from Israel

--The historical meaning of this prophecy: The Messiah had to be born...**BEFORE** AD **7**

--Prophecy #6: Messiah had to be born in **BETHLEHEM**

--Micah 5:4-5: And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. 5 This One will be our peace.

--V. 2: "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

--Luke 2:1-6: Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son...

--Prophecy #7: **LOTS** would be cast for His **GARMENTS**

--Psa 22:18: They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.

--Luke 23:33-34: When they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left. But Jesus was saying, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves.

--Prophecy #8: Exactly 30 shekels of **SILVER** would be paid for the betrayer's wages...and the silver would go to the **POTTER** to buy a field

--Zech 11:10-13: "I took my staff, Favor, and cut it in pieces, to break my covenant which I had made with all the peoples. So it was broken on that day, and thus the afflicted of the flock who were watching me realized that it was the word of the Lord." And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages. Then the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I was valued by them." So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the Lord.

--Matt 26:14-15: Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me to betray Him to you?" And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver to him.

--Matt 27:3-8, 10: Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" And he threw the pieces of silver into the temple sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." And they conferred together and with the money bought the Potter's Field as a burial place for strangers...Then that which was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one whose price had been set by the sons of Israel; and they gave them for the Potter's Field..."

--A fragile prophecy: All the chief priests would've had to do to **DISQUALIFY** Jesus as the Messiah would be to give Judas **31** pieces of silver!!!

--Prophecy #9: The **BONES** of the Lamb could not be **BROKEN**

--Exodus 12:43, 46: The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, "This is the ordinance of the Passover...It is to be eaten in a single house; you are not to bring forth any of the flesh outside of the house, nor are you to break any bone of it."

--John 19:31-22, 35-36: Then the Jews, because it was the day of preparation, so that the bodies would not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. So the soldiers came, and broke the legs of the first man and of the other who was crucified with Him; but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs...And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. For these things came to pass to fulfill the Scripture, "Not a bone of Him shall be broken."

--Prophecy #10: **MESSIAH** would be **CRUCIFIED**

--Psalm 22:16: For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evildoers has encompassed me; they pierced my hands and my feet.

--Crucifixion Prophecies:

--Moses: (Numb 21, Deut 21): **1450** BC

--David: (Psa 22): **1000** BC

--Zechariah: (Zech 12): 600 BC

--Historical fact: Crucifixion was first used for execution: ~**150** BC

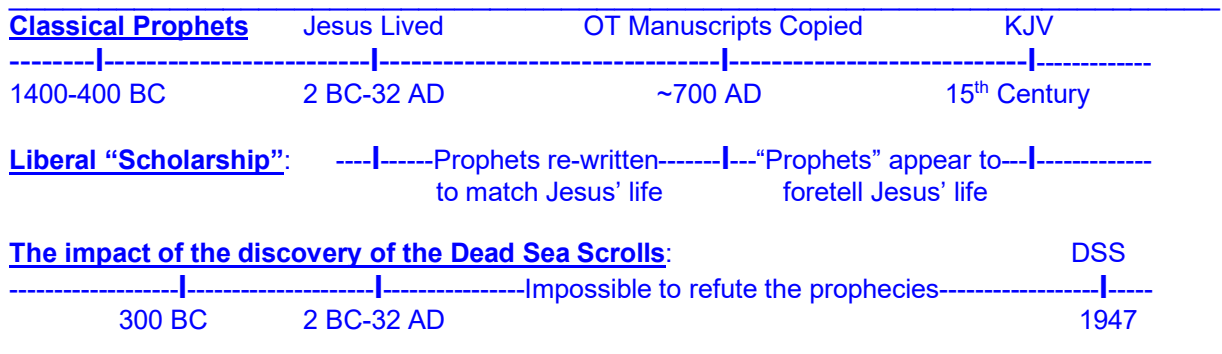
--An attack on Scripture: The only way to deny the miraculous implications of these types of prophecies is to maintain that the text was RE-written and MANIPULATED to fit the life of Jesus AFTER he lived.

--Be Armed to defend The Faith:

--The Argument against historical prophecy:

1. The DETAILS of the life of Jesus are so well DOCUMENTED that there's no way to meaningfully DENY the facts
2. The MATCH between what is contained in the OT Prophets and the life of Jesus is truly ASTONISHING
3. If the Prophets were written BEFORE Jesus lived...they prove that God knows and controls the FUTURE...and that Jesus is the True MESSIAH
4. The only way to DISCREDIT the Prophets...and Jesus' claims...is to maintain that the OT "prophecies" were written AFTER the events happened

Timeline of the Ancient Biblical Manuscripts



--**The take-home message from the Dead Sea Scrolls**: Any event that occurs after **300** BC that matches what is found in the Hebrew Scriptures is **TRUE** prophecy...and its authenticity cannot be logically **CHALLENGED**

--Application: Biblical faith is based upon VERIFIABLE truth...and is the RATIONAL response of people who are truly **OPEN**-minded

--Here's the enormous irony of modern skepticism

--The classical skeptics' theme: "Unless you can show me **CONVINCING** evidence supporting your **CASE** for faith...I won't **BELIEVE** what you claim."

--The modern skeptic's theme: "I already **KNOW** that what you believe about God **CAN'T** be true...no matter what the **EVIDENCE** shows."

--The summary of tonight's lesson: Given the truth about the scriptural fulfillment of prophecy by Jesus...the only **REASONABLE** conclusion...based upon the **EVIDENCE**...is that He's **EXACTLY** Who He says He is.

--The likelihood of a given Hebrew male fulfilling just **10** of the Messianic prophecies:

--One in 9.3×10 to the **18th** power = **9,300,000,000,000,000,000**

--The likelihood that Jesus could have fulfilled just **TEN** of the prophecies...is as likely as winning a state lottery **THREE** times in a row...*without LOSING in between!!!*

--II Peter 2:16: "For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were *eyewitnesses* of His majesty."