

## GOD'S SON, JESUS CHRIST



*The promise of a Messiah given and fulfilled.*

**T**HE history of the earth is the sad story of how we human beings have questioned God's great good plans for us, resisted His will, and have sinned again and again against His law. Ever since Adam and Eve's fall into sin, man has tried every conceivable plan to *earn* his way back into God's favor, and to quiet his guilty conscience. But God's plan is the only one which works. It is a plan which no human being would ever have guessed (I Corinthians 2:9). He sent from heaven His only Son, Jesus Christ. The plan was that Jesus would keep all of His Father's Law, and then offer His perfect life as full payment for the sins of the world.

The Old Testament is full of forecasts of the coming Savior. The closer the time came for the Savior to be born, the clearer were the forecasts about Who, What, Where and Why.

### Predictions of the Coming Savior in the Old Testament

1. Read again the first forecast of a Savior given to Adam and Eve right after their fall into sin, Genesis 3:15. *In whom were they and their children to believe, and to whom were they to look forward?*

2. Look up Numbers 24:17. *WHICH WORDS in this passage describe the Person who was coming to solve the problem of sin?*

3. Read Isaiah 9:6. *How is the coming Savior described in this verse?*

#### ICON KEY

- Introduction
- Important point
- For further reading

## "LEARN FROM ME"

4. Read Jeremiah 23:5-6. According to this verse, *what is the name by which the coming Savior would be called?*

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5. Look up Micah 5:2. This verse pinpoints the birthplace of the coming Savior. *Where would the promised Messiah be born?*

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These are but a few of the many hundreds of Old Testament prophecies regarding the coming Savior. You will discover many more as you read the first 39 books of the Bible. And yet, many people deny that the Old Testament says anything at all about Jesus Christ - that's how deceptive and powerful the devil, the world, and the sinful flesh of man are. In fact, if it weren't for the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, you and I would deny it as well!

6. Read Jesus' words to the Jews in John 5:38-39. These Jewish religious leaders were renowned for their Bible scholarship. *But what had they MISSED in all their study of the Old Testament?*

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## The Promise Fulfilled

7. According to the following passages, *what happened 4,000 years after the first promise of a Savior to Adam and Eve?*

Luke 2:1-11:

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Galatians 4:4-5:

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We know from the Bible that God's Son was born in the same way that all people are born. But this Person would be special in a number of ways.

8. Read Luke 1:26-38, the words of the angel to Mary. Especially from verse 35, *what would be different about this Child who was coming?*

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9. II Corinthians 5:21 tells of another way in which Jesus differed from every other human. *What was it?*

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10. Read I John 5:20. *The end of this passage describes Jesus Christ as...*

" \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ "

## The Qualities (Attributes) of Christ

11. Look up Hebrews 13:8. *What is another thing that can be said of Christ, which cannot be said of any other person?*

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One quality - or "attribute" - that makes Jesus different from the rest of us is that he is *eternal*.

12. Read Matthew 28:18-20 and complete the following sentences.

*From verse 18 - "Jesus is the only Person who can claim...*

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*From verse 20 - "Jesus is the only Person who can promise...*

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The qualities of *omnipotence* and *omnipresence* are demonstrated in this passage.

13. Look up John 21:17. After His resurrection from the dead, Jesus questioned Peter about Peter's love for Him. In answering Jesus, Peter confessed something about Jesus which can be said of no other person. *He said, "Lord...*

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This quality - or "attribute" - of Jesus is known as *omniscience*.

14. There is another power which is unique to Christ. Read Matthew 9:6, the account of how Jesus healed a paralyzed man. *Only Jesus has the power to...*

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15. Read John 5:23. Many people say that Jesus was a "good man," "a fine teacher," etc., but do not believe that He was or is true God. *But what does this passage say about Him?*

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16. Some people pray to the Virgin Mary, and ask her to "go between" them and God. Others rely on special saints as mediators with God. But read I Timothy 2:5-6. ***Who is the ONLY person who can act as our mediator with God?***

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17. Read Matthew 16:13-16. Jesus asked His disciples what people were saying about Him. Some thought He was John the Baptist come back to life. Some thought He was the Old Testament prophet Elijah. Then Jesus asked, "Who do *you* say that I am?" ***What good answer did Peter give?***

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Jesus Christ was and is the Son of God, the promised Savior of the world. Scripture reveals that He was true God and true man at the same time. As we will see, both are very important!

18. Read Galatians 4:4-5. Jesus was born a true human being. He was "born under the Law," that is, He was subject to God's Law and Commandments, just like we are. ***FOR WHAT PURPOSE did Jesus take on human form, subject to the Law?***

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19. Look up Hebrews 2:14. Jesus "shared our flesh and blood," that is, He took on human form like ours. ***What purpose did He have in mind when He did this?***

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Jesus *had* to become a human being in order to take our place, and fulfill all of God's Law in our stead. In every place where we have broken God's commandments, Jesus kept them, so that he could give us the gift of perfect righteousness!

20. Read Matthew 1:21-23. Why did Jesus have to be true God, as well as true man? ***One reason (from verse 21) is...***

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21. Look up and read Matthew 9:1-8 (especially verse 6). This is the full account of the healing of the paralytic, mentioned earlier. Complete the sentence: ***Jesus had to be true God, because ONLY GOD CAN...***

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22. Read Psalm 49:7-8. ***Why wouldn't it work for an ordinary human like us to give up his life in order to "redeem" someone else?***

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## "LEARN FROM ME"

23. Read Mark 10:45. *The reason Jesus came to earth was to...*

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The only "ransom" worth enough to save mankind would be the life of God Himself. That is why our Redeemer had to be true God, not an ordinary human being. Jesus fit the role perfectly! He was the Lamb of God, whose sacrifice on the cross of Calvary truly does take away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Praise God that our Savior was and is both true man and true God at the same time!



### **Additional Bible Readings**

In connection with the prophecies concerning the Messiah, our Savior, you may wish to read Isaiah chapter 53, as well as Philip's conversation with the Ethiopian in Acts 8:26-39. Also, compare Psalm 22 with the Gospel accounts of Jesus' suffering and death.