

# Evidence that Jesus Christ is the Son of God

For people who don't believe in Jesus, below is a list of reasons why we think you should consider giving Jesus a second look:

## Reason 1

### **The prophets foretold the life of Jesus:**

The Bible has several prophecies foretelling the life and mission of a Messiah, including that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem, be a descendant of King David, suffer for the sins of others and bring salvation to people throughout the world. These prophecies were written long before Jesus was born. It is no surprise that Christians believe that Jesus fulfills these prophecies. But even non-Christians must admit that no other person in history has fulfilled these prophecies.

## Reason 2

### **The prophets indicated when the Messiah would appear:**

The prophets Jeremiah and Daniel offer clues as to when the Messiah would appear. Both prophets lived during about 2600 years when the Babylonians invaded the Holy Land, destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and forced many Jews into exile.

In Jeremiah 23: 3-6, the prophet indicates that the Messiah would appear after the Jews returned from their exile. The Jews, however, were forced into exile a second time, by the Romans, about 1900 years ago. Jesus, however, announced that he was the Messiah after the return of Jews from Babylon and before the exile caused by the Romans.

In Daniel 9: 24-27, the prophet indicates that the Messiah would appear sometime after the first destruction of the Temple and before the second

destruction of the Temple. Jesus did indeed appear, and announce that he was the Messiah, during that interval.

If Jesus is not the Messiah, then who is? Is it possible that another Messiah appeared and no one noticed? Is it possible that the Messiah hasn't appeared yet, but will in the future? If so, how are we to make sense of these two prophecies from Jeremiah and Daniel?

## Reason 3

**There is evidence all around us that Jesus is the Messiah that the Biblical prophets spoke of:**

Some of the Bible's Messianic prophecies speak of a worldwide impact of a Jewish Messiah. Isaiah 49:6 (NIV translation), for example, says, "I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth." Is it merely a coincidence that Christianity, with its promise of salvation to anyone who accepts Jesus as their savior, was the first religion to be evangelized to people (Gentiles) all over the world?

## Reason 4

**Jesus said His words would spread worldwide, and that His words would never be forgotten:**

In Luke 21:33, Jesus said that regardless of what happens in the world, His words will never be forgotten. Here we are 2000 years later and the words of Jesus are all around us. More people in the world follow the teachings of Jesus than of any other person in history. The Bible is most widely published and most widely circulated book in the history of the world. Of all the people who have ever lived, could any of them have made this claim more convincingly than Jesus - that his words would never be forgotten?

As quoted in Matthew 24: 14, Jesus said that His teachings (the Gospel) would be preached throughout the world. And, the lessons of Jesus have been taught to people in every country. This feat was accomplished long before the worldwide availability of radio, television or the Internet. Can any other religious figure make this same claim? Has any other religious figure ever made such a claim? Jesus did make that claim. And Jesus' claim has been fulfilled.

## Reason 5

### **The fulfillment of some of Jesus's prophecies can be seen today:**

Jesus said that Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed, that the destruction of the Temple would be so complete that not a single stone would be left on top of another, that the Jews would be forced out of their homeland and into all the nations of the world, and that the church would prevail despite intense persecution. With our own eyes, we today can see the evidence that these prophecies have been fulfilled.

In Matthew 24:1-2, Jesus says that the Temple would be destroyed and that not one stone would be left standing on top of another. Ancient historians have described the Temple as a massive stone structure. Josephus claimed that some of the stones were about 37-feet long, 12-feet high, and 18-feet wide. (In meters, that's about 12-by-4-by-6). The Romans destroyed Jerusalem in 70 AD. The Temple's destruction was so complete that today people can only speculate as to its precise location on the Temple mount in Jerusalem.

In Luke 21:24, Jesus says that Jerusalem would be destroyed and that the Jews would be taken as captives to all the nations. When the Romans destroyed the city in 70 AD and again 135 AD, many Jews were taken as

slaves to different parts of the Roman Empire. Subsequent persecutions in those countries forced many Jews to seek new countries to live in. Eventually, the Jews were forcibly scattered throughout the world. Even today, the majority of Jews live outside of Israel.

In Matthew 16:17-18, Jesus tells Peter that even the gates of Hell will not overcome the church. Despite intense persecution during the first three centuries, Christianity became the first religion to spread to countries all over the world. Today, Christianity is the world's largest religion. The church not only survived, it thrived to an extent unmatched by any other religion in history.

## Reason 6

### **Jesus prophesized His own death and resurrection:**

In the New Testament of the Bible, Jesus prophesized His own death and resurrection. Of course, a non-believer could argue that there is no physical evidence to prove that Jesus was resurrected. But, if Jesus had not been resurrected, then why did His followers continue to believe in Him? Certainly, there have been many false messiahs throughout history, but would any of them have been taken seriously if they had falsely prophesized their own resurrection?

## Reason 7

### **The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies *after* the crucifixion and death of Jesus:**

Many of the Bible's prophets, especially Moses, speak of destruction, desolation, exile, dispersion and persecution as punishments for turning away from God. And they also speak of the re-gathering and restoration that

would take place after the punishments. Here are some specific details given by various prophets as to the things that would happen to the land and people of Israel:

- 1.** Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed.  
(See Micah 3: 11-12)
  
- 2.** The people of Israel would be exiled from their homeland.  
(See Deuteronomy 4:25-30, 28:36-37)
  
- 3.** Enemies would move into the land of Israel.  
(See Leviticus 26:31-32)
  
- 4.** The people of Israel would be scattered worldwide.  
(See Deuteronomy 4:25-30, 28:36-37)
  
- 5.** They would endure persecution worldwide.  
(See Leviticus 26:33)
  
- 6.** But they would be saved from total destruction.  
(See Zechariah 8:13, and implied in Deuteronomy 4:25-30)
  
- 7.** And the people who persecuted the people of Israel would be punished harshly.  
(See Genesis 12:2-3 and Jeremiah 30:11)
  
- 8.** And eventually the people of Israel would be re-gathered to their homeland.  
(See Jeremiah 32:37-41, Deuteronomy 4:25-30)
  
- 9.** And the land and people of Israel would undergo a restoration.  
(See Deuteronomy 30:3-5, Isaiah 35:1-2, Amos 9:11-13)

All of these things happened. In fact, they happened twice:

**The first time** that this cycle of destruction and restoration began was more than 2500 years ago, when the Assyrians and Babylonians had invaded the Holy Land. Prophets, including Jeremiah and Ezekiel, explained that many of the people of the land had turned away from God and worshipped the false gods of their Gentile neighbors. And for this, Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed, and the people would be exiled, etc. The prophets said that the people would be punished because they had turned away from God. Later, many Jews returned and rebuilt Jerusalem and the Temple.

**The second time** that this cycle began was about 2000 years ago, about 40 years after many people had rejected Jesus as the Messiah. The Romans utterly destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple, and forced Jews into an exile that eventually led to a worldwide dispersion. During the past few centuries, many Jews have returned and have re-established sovereignty for Israel. Jerusalem has been re-populated, but the Temple has not been rebuilt.

So why did this cycle of destruction and restoration begin the second time? The first time that it happened, the prophets said that it was because the people had turned away from God. So why did it happen the second time? We believe the reason is clear: Rejecting Jesus as the Son of God is the same as rejecting God.