

CAN WE TRUST THE BIBLE? - 2

Yes, because the Bible is miraculously confirmed by prophecy.

Eighteen prophecies fulfilled

(1) His virgin birth – Prophesied about the Messiah in the Old Testament 700 years before the event - **Isaiah 7: 14** – *"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."* **Fulfilled in the New Testament - Matthew 1: 18-25** – *"This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel'—which means, 'God with us.' When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus."*

(2) His tribe would be Judah – Prophesied about the Messiah in the Old Testament in **Genesis 49: 10** – *The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."* **Fulfilled in the New Testament by Jesus - Luke 3: 23, 33,** *"Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Joseph, the son of Heli... the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah..."*

(3) He would be a descendent of Jesse - Prophesied about the Messiah in **Isaiah 11: 1** – *"A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit."* **Fulfilled 700 years later by Jesus - Luke 3: 23, 32** – *The Genealogy of Jesus - "Now Jesus himself was about thirty years old when he began his ministry. He was the son, so it was thought, of Josephthe son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon..."*

(4) He would be from the house of David – Prophesied about the Messiah 600 years before Jesus in **Jeremiah 23: 5** - *"The days are coming," declares the LORD, "when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land."* **Fulfilled by Jesus - Luke 3: 31** – *The Genealogy of Jesus – "...the son of Melea, the son of Menna, the son of Mattatha, the son of Nathan, the son of David..."*

(5) He would be born in Bethlehem – Prophesied about the Messiah 700 years before the event - Micah 5: 2 – *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."* **Fulfilled by Jesus Matthew 2: 1** – *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem."*

(6) John the Baptist would come before Jesus (the Lord) – Prophesied 700 years before in Isaiah 40:3 - *"A voice of one calling: 'In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a*

highway for our God.' " **Fulfilled by John the Baptist - Matthew 3: 1-3** – "In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea² and saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.' This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him." "

(7) He would ride a donkey into Jerusalem - Prophesied 500 years before in **Zechariah 9:9** - "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." **Fulfilled by Jesus - Luke 19: 35-37** – "They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen..." **Matthew 21:5** – "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.'" **John 12: 15** – "Do not be afraid, O Daughter of Zion; see, your king is coming, seated on a donkey's colt."

(8) A friend would betray him – Prophesied several hundred years before - **Psalm 41: 9** – "Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me." **Fulfilled by Judas - Matthew 26: 48-50** – "Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: 'The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.' Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, 'Greetings, Rabbi!' and kissed him. Jesus replied, 'Friend, do what you came for.' Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him."

(9) He would be quiet before his accusers – Prophesied 700 years before - **Isaiah 53: 7** – "He was oppressed and 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 did not open his mouth." **Fulfilled by Jesus - Matthew 27: 12** – "When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer."

(10) His hands and feet would be pierced – Prophesied several hundred years before the event in **Psalm 22: 16** – "Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet." **Fulfilled by the Romans** who nailed Jesus to the cross - **Luke 23: 33** – "When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left." **John 20: 25** – "So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord!' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe it.' "

(11) He would be crucified with sinners – Prophesied 700 years before - **Isaiah 53: 12** – "Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because 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." **Fulfilled by Jesus - Matthew 27: 38** – "Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left."

(12) He would be a mediator for sinners – Prophesied in Isaiah 53: 12 – "Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because 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." **Fulfilled by Jesus - Luke 23: 34** – "Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.' And they divided up his clothes by casting lots."

(13) His garments would be divided – Prophesied in Psalm 22: 18 – "They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." **Fulfilled by the soldiers - John 19: 23** – "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."

(14) They would cast lots for his clothes – Prophesied in Psalm 22:18 – *"They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing."* **Fulfilled by the soldiers - John 19:24 –** *"Let's not tear it,' they said to one another. 'Let's decide by lot who will get it.' This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, 'They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.' So this is what the soldiers did."*

(15) They would give him something bitter to drink – Prophesied in Psalm 69: 21 – *"They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst."* **Fulfilled several hundred years later by the soldiers - Matthew 27: 34 –** *"There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it."*

(16) His bones would not be broken – Prophesied in Psalm 34: 20 – *"He protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken."* **Fulfilled** when his bones were not broken as **John 19: 33, 36** says, *"But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs.... These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' "*

(17) His body would be pierced – Prophesied 500 years before the event in Zechariah 12: 10 - *"And I will pour out on the house of David and 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 an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son."* **Fulfilled** when the soldier pierced Jesus' side with a spear - **John 19: 34-37 –** *"Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: 'Not one of his bones will be broken,' and, as another scripture says, 'They will look on the one they have pierced.' "*

(18) He would rise from the dead – Prophesied in Psalm 16: 10 – *"...because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay."* **Fulfilled** when Jesus rose from the dead – **Matthew 28: 1-7 –** *"After the Sabbath, at dawn on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. There was a violent earthquake, for an angel of the Lord came down from heaven and, going to the tomb, rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men. The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you.' "* **In Acts 2: 31** Peter refers to the passage in Psalm and said – *"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."*