

- ***READ John 20:30,31*** A few weeks back, we began a series of lessons based within John's Gospel concerning the proposed bold claim that Jesus is the Son of God. We noted that John's Gospel is a great place to start with teaching about the deity of Jesus because it states plainly from our opening text that the things recorded within this book were written for the purpose of people believing in Jesus as the Son of God and being able to find life in His name. Before we get into the meat of this fourth and final lesson, let's take a few minutes to remind ourselves of where we have been in this study concerning why we can have faith that Jesus is truly the Son of God who came in the flesh.

I. Quick Review

A. A Claim That Matters!

1. Defines Jesus, who He was, and what He did. The claims found in the Bible concerning Jesus would either confirm Him as a liar, lunatic, or the Lord based upon whether or not the claims could be substantiated.
2. Determines the validity of our faith and hope. If Jesus is not the Lord then those of this world who have put all of their faith in Him are most to be pitied because we have believed in either a liar or a lunatic.
3. Demands our acknowledgement of His deity in order to have fellowship with the Father. If the evidence does point to Jesus as the Lord then we would have to accept and act accordingly to this finding. Failure to acknowledge Jesus when the evidence points to Him being Lord will only leave us at odds with the God who inspired this book that we hold that contains the confirming evidence. We cannot fail to acknowledge Jesus and at the same time expect God to accept us.

B. A Claim Jesus Himself Made!

1. **John 5:17-23** "Jesus responded to them, *"My Father is still working, and I am working also." This is why the Jews began trying all the more to kill him: Not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal to God... Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him."*
2. **John 8:48-59** "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day; he saw it and was glad." The Jews replied, "You aren't fifty years old yet, and you've seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, *"Truly I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."* So they picked up stones to throw at him."
3. **John 14:1-7** "If you know me, you will also know my Father. From now on you do know him and have seen him."
4. **John 19:6,7** "We have a law," the Jews replied to him, "and according to that law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God."

We noted that Jesus didn't only make this bold claim, but He was willing to support such claims by asking the hearers to weigh the evidence based upon the testimony and witness of four different sources that can be found in **John 5:31-47**. The first of which was John the Baptist who we considered in our first study this past Sunday night from **John 1:19-34**. As you recall...

C. A Claim John The Baptist Made! (John 1:19-34)

1. He repeatedly stated that he was not the Son of God.
2. While speaking humbly of himself, he sought to speak very highly of the one who was going to be coming after him.
3. Upon seeing Jesus, John proclaimed that He was truly the Lamb of God who had come to take away the sins of the world.
4. John the Gospel writer records John being told that he would know who the Son of God was based upon who the Spirit descended and rested upon.

In addition to the claims of John the Baptist, the miraculous signs that were recorded by John the Gospel writer were given as a means of showing that these signs of Jesus were clearly an indication of Him being someone extremely special. When Nicodemus came to Jesus in **John 3**, he freely admitted that someone could not do what Jesus was doing unless he was from God. So what was it about these signs that helped to support the claim that Jesus was the Son of God?...

D. A Claim Supported By Jesus's Miracles!

1. The signs highlighted by John in his Gospel account were given to show and emphasize the glory of God that dwelt in Jesus while He was here on the earth.
2. The signs of John's Gospel showed that Jesus's power was endless in scope. John's Gospel records seven incredible miraculous signs that begins with turning water into wine and ends with Jesus raising his friend Lazarus from the dead after he had been in the grave for four days.
3. These signs, and in fact the entire Gospel account, were recorded for the purpose of giving every reader the opportunity to believe in Jesus as the Son of God and have life through Him and His sacrifice.

The third witness mentioned in **John 5** is the witness of the Father himself. This witness seems to be very much tied together with the second witness of Jesus's miracles. Again, I say this based upon the fact that Jesus's miraculous abilities were understood by many to be a sign that God was with Him. This was Nicodemus's conclusion in **John 3:2** and Jesus Himself plainly states that the works He has been doing were from His Father. (**John 10:31-33**) Beyond that there are two instances when the Father explicitly endorsed Jesus as His Son.

E. A Claim Supported By God The Father!

1. The first instance is when Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist. Upon coming up out of the water, Matthew's Gospel account tell us, *"The heavens opened for Him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming down on Him. And A voice from heaven said: 'This is My Beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased.'" (Matthew 3:17)*
2. Then there was the instance on the mountain when Jesus was transfigured. Moses and Elijah also appear before Peter, James, & John, and Peter wants to make tabernacles for each of them. However, the heavenly Father was not pleased with what Peter said. Again, Matthew records, *"While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased. Listen to him!'" When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown and were terrified." (Matthew 17:5,6)*
3. In both of these instances, it cannot be argued that the Father was anything other than fully supportive of Jesus in the work that He was striving to accomplish while here on earth. He approved of Jesus's work by saying He was well pleased, and He believed that Jesus was worthy of respect, honor, and glory by telling Peter and the other disciples that they ought to listen to Him above all others. The Father clearly testified to Jesus being His Son and Lord, but these people were not willing to even hear the testimony of the Father. *"The Father who sent me has himself testified about me. You have not heard his voice at any time, and you haven't seen his form. You don't have his word residing in you, because you don't believe the one he sent." (John 5:37,38)*

These people had not listened to Jesus or the Father...or the miracles...or John...but maybe they would listen to the final witness that is given by Jesus in this text which would be the witness of the Old Testament Scriptures. We might hope this is the case, but reading this text makes it obvious that this wasn't true either. *"You pore over the Scriptures because you think you have eternal life in them, and yet they testify about me. But you are not willing to come to me so that you may have life." (John 5:39,40)* This statement of Jesus fits so well with our opening text of **John 20:30,31** because the same thing John's Gospel is doing was already done by the Old Testament. It told of Jesus as Lord.

In fact, Jesus and John the inspired writer would go on from this point mentioning a couple more times of how what Jesus was doing was fulfilling what had already been written. Let's remember that by the time of Jesus (probably by the 3rd or 2nd century BC), the Tanak (the Jewish reference to the Old Testament, an acronym) that contained the Torah (Pentateuch), the Nevi'im (Prophets), and the Ketuvim (writings). These writings were well established by the time of Jesus, and He along with John and other New Testament writers recognized their inspired nature and authority. It wasn't as if Jesus did things and then the Tanak was written after the fact. This is why Jesus is able to reference the Nevi'im (Prophets) in **John 6:45**, *"It is written in the Prophets: **And they will all be taught by God.**"* (**Isaiah 54:13**) John also records later on at the crucifixion of Jesus, *"When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes and divided them into four parts, a part for each soldier. They also took the tunic, which was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said to one another, "Let's not tear it, but cast lots for it, to see who gets it." This happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled that says: **They divided my clothes among themselves, and they cast lots for my clothing. This is what the soldiers did.**"* (**John 19:23,24...Psalm 22:18**)

These are a couple of examples of a number of instances from John's Gospel concerning occasions where Jesus and John reference the fulfillment of the Old Testament writings in Jesus, but we will spend the rest of our time considering two major ways in which Jesus is testified about through the Old Testament writings. Those two ways include Jesus as the Messiah that would bless the people of the world and then specific attributes of Jesus that He fulfilled that He would have no control over fulfilling. These were things that the children of Israel should have known about, but they completely missed the fact that Jesus was fulfilling these prophecies and foretellings before their very eyes.

II. The John 5 Witness Of The Old Testament Scriptures:

A. Testify to the coming of God's Messiah who would be a blessing to all people.

1. This Messiah would come in order to provide a deliverance for mankind from the curse of sin.

- a) *"I will put hostility between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."* (**Genesis 3:15**)
- b) *"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* (**Genesis 12:3**)
- c) *"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"* (**John 1:29**)
- d) *"The one who commits sin is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose: to destroy the devil's works."* (**I John 3:8**)

2. The future Messiah would come as the divine Ruler and King of an eternal Kingdom He would establish.

- a) *"See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel, which is translated "God is with us."* (**Matthew 1:23** → **Isaiah 7:14**)
- b) *"The Lord declares to you: The Lord himself will make a house for you. When your time comes and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up after you your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will discipline him with a rod of men and blows from mortals. But my faithful love will never leave him as it did when I removed it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and kingdom will endure before me forever, and your throne will be established forever."* (**II Samuel 7:11-16**)
- c) *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David."* (**Luke 1:32**)

3. This Messiah would suffer, be killed, and be resurrected.

- a) The entirety of **Isaiah 53** foretells of His future sufferings and death.
- b) The crucifixion accounts of the Gospel accounts.
- c) *"I always let the Lord guide me. Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken. Therefore my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices; my body also rests securely. For you will not abandon me to Sheol; **you will not allow your faithful one to see decay.** You reveal the path of life to me; in your presence is abundant joy; at your right hand are eternal pleasures."* (**Psalm 16:8-11**)
- d) *"Brothers and sisters, I can confidently speak to you about the patriarch David: He is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn an oath to him to seat one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was to come, he spoke concerning the resurrection of the Messiah: **He was not abandoned in Hades, and his flesh did not experience decay.**"* (**Acts 2:29-31**)

B. Testify to specific characteristics of the Messiah that He had no ability to purposefully fulfill.

1. Born of a virgin woman.

- a) *"Therefore, the Lord himself will give you a sign: **See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel.**"* (**Isaiah 7:14**)
- b) *"In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. **The virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you."** But she was deeply troubled by this statement, wondering what kind of greeting this could be. Then the angel told her: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Now listen: **You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David.**" He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end." Mary asked the angel, "How can this be, since I have not had sexual relations with a man?" The angel replied to her: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. And consider your relative Elizabeth—even she has conceived a son in her old age, and this is the sixth month for her who was called childless. For nothing will be impossible with God."* (**Luke 1:26-36**)

2. He would be of the Abrahamic bloodline.

- a) *"I will bless those who bless you, I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt, and all the peoples on earth will be blessed through you."* (**Genesis 12:3**)
- b) *"An account of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, **the Son of Abraham...**"* (**Matthew 1:1**)
- c) *"Now the promises were spoken **to Abraham and to his seed.** He does not say "and to seeds," as though referring to many, but referring to one, and **to your seed, who is Christ.**"* (**Galatians 3:16**)

3. He would be of the Davidic bloodline.

- a) *"...I will raise up after you **your descendant, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom...**"* (**II Samuel 7:11**)
- b) *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end."* (**Luke 1:32,33**)

4. He would be born in Bethlehem.

- a) *"Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are small among the clans of Judah; one will come from you to be ruler over Israel for me. His origin is from antiquity, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2)*
- b) *"After Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star at its rising and have come to worship him.'" (Matthew 2:1,2)*

5. He would be killed alongside sinners.

- a) *"Therefore I will give him the many as a portion, and he will receive the mighty as spoil, because he willingly submitted to death, and was counted among the rebels; yet he bore the sin of many and interceded for the rebels." (Isaiah 53:12)*
- b) *"Two others—criminals—were also led away to be executed with him. When they arrived at the place called The Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals, one on the right and one on the left." (Luke 23:32,33)*

6. He would be raised from the dead.

- a) *"Therefore my heart is glad and my whole being rejoices; my body also rests securely. For you will not abandon me to Sheol; you will not allow your faithful one to see decay." (Psalm 16:9,10)*
- b) *"When they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side; they were alarmed. 'Don't be alarmed,' he told them. 'You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they put him.'" (Mark 16:5,6)*

Jesus fulfilled all of these prophecies! Everything that was foretold of concerning the coming Messiah by the Old Testament Scriptures found their fulfillment in Jesus of Nazareth. He fulfilled all of the Messianic promises concerning His kingship. He fulfilled all of Messianic promises concerning what He would do and what would happen to Him. Everything that was said would be of God's Messiah...was true of Jesus Christ. Jesus tells those listening in **John 5** that they had been searching in the Word of God to find life, but they couldn't find it because life was right before them in the form of Jesus. They failed to recognize that God's Messiah was before them, and therefore they would not be able to the life they were so desperately searching for. They failed to listen to the testimonies of the Tanak, and this is seen by them failing to recognize Jesus as the Son of God...the Lord...the Christ.

Many hundreds of years later, we have those same Old Testament Scriptures and more before us that contain these testimonies that we have considered over the past few weeks. It is my hope & prayer that we have become more founded in our belief in Jesus through a greater understanding of the evidence that is before us concerning His being the Christ...the promised One of God. If we understand such to be true, then the only proper response is to give our lives wholly to Him in faithful and devoted service. The evidence is before us...will we heed it? Or will we search the Scriptures hoping to find life, but fail to do so because we don't recognize Jesus as the Son of the Most High God? May this never be said about any of us! Instead, may we be a people who have examined and weighted the evidence of Jesus as the Son of God, and may we do just as John said...may we believe in Him and have life through His name.