

Welcome to: - Bible House of Grace.



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

The Gospel **Proved** **By the Old Testament Scriptures.** (2013)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises,
But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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The Gospel Proved by the Old Testament Scriptures.

Topics.

- The prophets spoke of Christ and the grace that was to come.
 - The prophets were serving New Testament believers.
 - We have something more-sure, the prophetic word.
 - A lamp shining in a dark place.
 - Until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.
 - From Bethlehem will come one who is to be ruler in Israel.
 - Rachel weeping for her children.
 - People dwelling in darkness have seen a great light.
 - A bruised reed he will not break a smouldering wick he will not quench.
 - You will hear but never understand, you will see but never perceive.
 - Christ must suffer and be first to rise from the dead.
 - The Gospel preached to Abraham.
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The Prophets spoke of Christ and the Grace that was to Come.

1 Peter 1:10-11 ----- ¹⁰Concerning this salvation, the prophets who prophesied about the grace that was to be yours searched and inquired carefully ¹¹inquiring what person or time the *Spirit of Christ in them* was indicating when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the subsequent glories.

Since the Jews greatly valued the prophets and treasured the Old Testament Scriptures Peter to encourage those he is writing to shine a spotlight on how much more blessed we are today than those of the Old Testament because we have far more light concerning the Good News of the Gospel than they did. They greatly desired the coming of their Messiah the Christ and though they prophesied of Christ as the redeemer of God's people and his salvation as spiritual and eternal and spoke of the glorious truths to succeeding generations. They could not fully comprehend them since they saw them only at a distance and then only dimly. They had to search out with care and by the revelations made known to them what they spoke concerning: -

- The salvation that was to come.
- God's grace in Christ.
- The sufferings of Christ.
- The glories of Christ.
- The good news of Christ.

After searching these things out they may have understood exactly what was implied in that which they proclaimed concerning the Good News of the Gospel and the salvation which was to be made known through Israel's Messiah, the Christ and Saviour whereas New Testament believers have the full light of the Gospel that all the Old Testament prophets spoke of concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Spirit of Christ was in the Old Testament prophets: the words, "The Spirit of Christ in them" refer to the Spirit of prophecy concerning Christ that was in the Old Testament prophets. When they spoke or prophesied of Christ, his salvation, his grace, his sufferings, his glories, his gospel and his coming it is referred to as the Spirit of Christ in them because they were prophesying of things concerning the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Prophets were Serving New Testament Believers.

1 Peter 1:12 ----- 12 It was revealed to them that they were *serving not themselves but you* in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the *good news* to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven things into which angels long to look.

The prophets (and by extension all the faithful) knowing that they were strangers and exiles on the earth seeking a heavenly city that God has prepared for them never received the things they spoke of, but only saw them and greeted them from afar. The words, "They were serving not themselves" means when the Old Testament prophets were speaking of Christ, his salvation, his grace, his sufferings, his glories, his Gospel and his coming they were not serving themselves since they all died in faith not having seen what they had spoken in prophecy off (Heb. 11:13-16) whereas we now understand them in brilliant light.

Those who preached the Good News to you by the Holy Spirit: the words, "The things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the *Good News* to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven" refer to the Holy Spirit inspiring the apostles and all who announced and expounded the Old Testament Scriptures that recorded all that the prophets had spoken concerning Christ, the Good News of the Gospel and the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ.

NOTE: the expression, "Sent from Heaven" and "Sent from God" is the same thing; some Jewish writers for fear of blaspheming God's name would use the word heaven rather than the name of the LORD. In Matthews' Gospel he refers to the Kingdom of God as the Kingdom of Heaven whereas Mark and Luke write, the Kingdom of God for the same verses.

Things angels longed to look into: Peter by telling his readers that even the angels desired to look into the things the prophets spoke of is once again shining a floodlight on the glory of light that we have today and the great privilege we have in being made partakers of the Good News of the Gospel since even the greatest prophets on earth and even the angels above the skies did not have: -

- The light of the Gospel and the light of the death and resurrection of Christ.
- Full understanding of God's grace that we have today.
- The great truths concerning the sufferings of Christ, the resurrection of Christ and the glory which would follow.
- The Good News of the Gospel and all the events pertaining to the redemption of mankind.

The following shows the splendour, majesty and glory of Bible shadows and types, the word look in the following verse, "Things the angels longed to look into" (v12) comes from the Greek word (parakupto) and means to bend beside as one who is leaning over so as to peer within and to stoop down. Perhaps there is an allusion here to, "The cherubim in the Most Holy Place with their wings overshadowing the mercy seat and their faces toward the mercy seat" (Exod. 25:20) especially since the Cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant are over the mercy-seat and looking down as if to behold what was in the ark which means the words, "Things the angels longed to look into" maybe a faint glimpse of the angels gazing upon mercy-seat and their desire to fathom the depths of the great mystery of the glory of Christ, the Gospel of grace and God's great mercy.

The Apostles did not Follow Cleverly Devised Myths.

2 Peter 1:16-18 ----- ¹⁶we (the apostles) did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷For when he received honour and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the majestic glory, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased," ¹⁸we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.

It seems there was men who were claiming that the Good News of the Gospel and the Christian faith especially the return of the Lord is simply a story of cleverly devised myths and fables in the same way as many of the teachings of the surrounding religions were. So Peter to strength the faith of those who might be influenced by such rumours reminds them that not one of the apostles learned the Gospel from man's clever imagination, but actually saw the majestic glory of Christ.

This majestic glory of Christ refers to the following awe-inspiring and breathtaking moment when Peter, James and John were standing on a high mountain and Jesus was transfigured (changed) before their eyes, his face shone like the sun, his clothes became white as light, a bright cloud overshadowed them and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (Matt. 17:1-5).

Peter to comfort those who might have been thinking that Christ was just another man tells them that even before his death and resurrection God revealed to the apostles that Jesus was the Son of God and who he claimed to be not only by transforming Jesus in brilliant light, glory and majesty that no mortal mind can conceive but also by speaking from heaven telling Peter, James and John that Christ is God's beloved Son.

We have Something More Sure, the Prophetic Word.

2 Peter 1:19 ----- ¹⁹And we have something more sure, the prophetic word to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,

Though Peter (in the previous verses) has just finished saying that that he with James and John were eyewitnesses of Christ's glory and majesty on the mountain of transfiguration, he was no-doubt fully aware that certain men (especially the Jews) might cast doubt on the apostles testimony by making trivial and unreasonable objections about unimportant points. So he now tells everyone that is seeking God that there is an even greater proof of Christ's majesty and glory than the testimony of Peter, James and John and that is "The prophetic word."

Since Peter in the following verses says, "No prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit" there can be no doubt that the more sure word of prophecy refers to the numerous majestic prophecies contained in the Old Testament. Peter is saying should anyone be in doubt regarding the testimony of Peter, James and John these prophecies will furnish an even stronger proof of Christ glory and majesty than the testimony of the apostles. This is because they were written over hundreds of years by different prophets from different periods of history and different countries and all this long before Christ appeared which means there could be no collusion between the different prophets and writers yet not only is there one beautiful theme that flows from Genesis through to revelations, but many have come to pass in stunning detail and many are still to come to pass in glorious wonder and breathtaking awe.

Fulfilled prophecy is not only proof that the Good News of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith is not built on cleverly devised myths, but is also proof of inspiration, because throughout the Old Testament there are Scripture predictions of future events that were uttered long before the events transpired that no mere human wisdom, intelligence or foresight could have anticipated especially in such minute and specific detail as the prophets proclaimed and psalmist sang.

No mortal man no matter how brilliant or clairvoyant could without the inspiration of God possibly predict, guess or anticipate the hundreds of predictions concerning Israel, the land of Canaan, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and numerous other prophecies that have been fulfilled throughout history, especially those prophecies which were fulfilled by men who struggled with frantic desperation to avoid their fulfilment and by others who utterly disbelieved in God.

It is certain, therefore, that no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2Pet. 1:21).

- For those who understand the wonder, beauty and glory of Bible prophecy there is no-doubt that Scripture is the Revelation of the mind and will of God.

Pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place (v19) means that the prophecies resemble a lamp shining in a dark room, the lamp makes the objects in the room distinct which were before unseen and things which would be otherwise invisible, but there is still much that is only dimly revealed and much in the room we are not able to see. The idea here is that as majestic and awe-inspiring as prophecies are they do not give a perfect light or remove all obscurity, but that they shed some light on objects which would otherwise be entirely dark, and that the light which they do give is so valuable that we should make every effort to seek out for ourselves the priceless riches and treasures the light of the prophecies do shine upon.

Until the day dawns: (v19) refers to the morning light as compared to the lamp, clearly the morning sun brings far more light than a single lamp. Thus the idea is that we should attend to the light given us by the prophecies until the obscurity of prophecy is revealed in much clearer and far more distinct light by the clearness of events when they actually occur and dispel those things that remain shadowed and obscured by the dimness of light. The difference between the light of the lamp and the light of the sun is the difference between seeing an event by faith and prophecy and between seeing the actual reality of it shining all around us. Peter in these verses is directing the mind of all believers to that glorious period of time when all prophecy will shine in absolute clearness when our Saviour the Lord Jesus Christ returns to receive his brothers and sisters to himself and to everlasting glory where all will be pure light.

John in the book of Revelation wrote: -

- The holy city, New Jerusalem has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and its lamp is the Lamb. By its light will the nations walk, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it and its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there (Revelation 21:23-25).
- Night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever (Revelation 22:5).

Is there any other religion on planet earth that has such awe-inspiring majestic and glorious prophecies, visions and promises for its followers (this author has not found one). While we patiently wait for this glorious and eternal new age to come, Peter is encouraging us to walk in the light that we have and diligently study the prophecies of the Old Testament (especially those still unfulfilled) and of those in the New Testament which direct our mind onward to brighter and more glorious scenes than this world has yet witnessed.

- Bible prophecies are a cheering lamp to guide our feet through the darkness until that illustrious and glorious day shall dawn.

The morning star rises in your hearts (v19) literally refers to the bright star that at certain periods of the year begins the day in the most magnificent brilliance. Figuratively the star is Christ and the reference is to that glorious day when Christ returns in the full revelation of his glory and the splendour of his Kingdom and his light shines its beams deep into our hearts and that hidden, but glorious light and love that dwells within the heart of every brother and sister in Christ rises in breathtaking and uncontrollable excitement and joy at the sight of seeing their risen Saviour.

Then all will be clear, clearer and brighter than any other time that has yet occurred on our fallen and corrupted world.

- Bible prophecies are as the morning star that shines brighter than the dawning sun as it heralds in the new day

Men Spoke from God by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20-21 ---- ²⁰knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation. ²¹For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

Not one of God's prophets spoke from their own mind, no Bible messages or prophecies are birthed from human thinking or human imagination. The Holy Spirit influenced and inspired the prophets of the Old and New Testaments to speak the messages of God and it is these messages that are now written down and recorded in the canon of the Bible

The Holy Spirit enabled the prophets to speak of: -

- Christ's birth, suffering, ministry and his death and resurrection.
- Christ's spiritual Kingdom his literal Kingdom and his eternal Kingdom.

NOTE: God is the source of the Holy Spirit and spoke his messages by the inspiration and influence of the Holy Spirit though men he chose. When the Holy Spirit testifies of Christ through the prophets it is spoken of as Christ (or the Spirit of Christ) being in the prophets. This is because they are by the Holy Spirit speaking of Christ and the things concerning him.

The inspired word of God: many people have the mistaken idea that the King James Bible is the only Bible that contains the inspired word of God. This is because they have been wrongly taught that every single word contained in the Scriptures is inspired, but this is a mistaken idea, certainly the Bible contains the inspired word of God, but it is the messages the individual words teach that is inspired not the individual words themselves.

Individual words form sentences and a paragraphs etc., it is the messages that are taught by these sentences and a paragraphs that are inspired. Though there are many good Bibles in the world today that use different words they nevertheless teach the same message and it is these messages that are inspired by God. If it was the individual words that were inspired people from other nations (i.e., China, Thailand, Mexico, Russia etc.), could never read the inspired word of God because these languages do not have the same individual words that the English language does, added to this the original Manuscripts are written in Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek, so none of us would be reading the inspired word of God, but the good news is that every language on planet earth can use their own language and individual words to translate the inspired messages that God has spoken so that no matter what language we speak we are able to read the inspired word of God.

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled.

Many think that the New Testament stands alone, but the following Scriptures show that many Old Testament prophecies concerning Christ and the Good News of the Gospel were not only spoken of long before Christ came, but also fulfilled when he did appear.

A Virgin shall Conceive and Bear a Son.

Matthew 1:22 ----- ²²All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet ²³"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

The words, "All this took place" refer to all that Matthew has spoken prior to these verses. Matthew is saying that all the births that came through the bloodline of Abraham and David took place so that a virgin would appear who would conceive and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel and fulfil the words of Isaiah the prophet. This fulfilled prophecy shows that Jesus birth was planned and purposes in the eternal mind of God before the world began and that the bloodline was being protected and kept for the right time for Christ to be born into this fallen and corrupted world.

The verse is cited from the following words of Isaiah: -

- Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14)

The words, "Immanuel God with us" does not mean Jesus is God, but that Gods favour is for us instead of against us, prior to this time Israel was in darkness and the Gentiles were separated from God, but now God's favour was coming into the world to the Jews and Gentiles alike through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. It means God is with us through His Son. The glory and wonder of this fulfilment of prophecy refers Jesus coming from the bloodline of Abraham and David and to his miraculous birth by the power of the Holy Spirit and to him being named Jesus and to people calling him Immanuel (meaning God with us).

NOTE: the local and immediate fulfilment of words, "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel" that Isaiah spoke in chapter seven apply to a sign the LORD is giving Ahaz king of Judah, but the promise of the prophecy majestically continues through chapter eight and then in chapter nine takes up wings and transcends the time of Ahaz and prophetically speaks of a future child to be born of a virgin. For the full story see: Isaiah chapter 7, 8, 9 in Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

From Bethlehem, will come One who is to be Ruler in Israel.

Matthew 2:5-6 -----⁵They (the wise men) told Herod the Christ was to be born, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet ⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for *from you shall come a ruler* who will shepherd my people Israel."

The prophet referred to in this verse is Micah and the words he wrote are: -

- But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be *ruler in Israel*, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days ³therefore he (the LORD) shall give them (Judah) up until the time when *she who is in labour has given birth* then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel (Micah 5:2).

God in His brilliance through Micah's prophetic message gives Israel (who are in captivity to Babylon) comfort by giving them a promise that a mighty judge who will rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem. These majestic and prophetic words of Micah obvious began to be fulfilled with the birth of Jesus, but their ultimate fulfilment will be when he returns in glory as, King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev 19:11-16). The dead in Christ and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world during the Lord's glorious millennial reign.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

And in Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done. Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

NOTE: some teachers use the words, “One will come for the LORD who is to be ruler in Israel whose origin is from of old, from ancient days” to support the theory that Jesus pre-existed before time began, but that is a mistaken interpretation. The term “Whose origin is from of old, from ancient days” simply means Christ was in the plans and purposes of God’s eternal mind from the beginning of time and it has been prophesied of him from ancient days through all the prophets that he would come. Jesus was with God before the foundation of the world, in the same way that an unborn baby is in the mind of the expectant mother, she plans in her mind her baby’s room long before the baby is born, she not only sees in her mind the design and colours of that room, but also the lighting, furniture and clothing long before the child is born.

Much like an architect long before a building is constructed plans the entire structure in his mind, he sees every detail of it in vivid clarity long before the builders begin to construct it and long before the workers even set foot on the site where it is to be built. In the same manner God planned and purposed in his timeless mind that Christ would be the central focus of His sovereign plan for mankind’s eternal salvation long before Jesus came into the world. To enjoy the wonder, splendour and beauty of Micah’s prophecy see: Micah 2 in, NT Commentary (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus pre-existed and is also God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God the Son will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was actually God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information see the title: "Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)" in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Out of Egypt I called my Son.

Matthew 2:13-15 ----- ¹³Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and *flee to Egypt* and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and *departed to Egypt* ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to *fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet*, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

The prophetic words, "Out of Egypt I called my Son" is cited from the following words of Hosea: -

- When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son (Hosea 11:1).

The local and immediate fulfilment of these words apply God calling the nation of Israel out of Egypt, but prophetically transcend time and history until they arrive at an angel of the LORD telling Joseph in a dream to leave Egypt with Mary and her child Jesus and go to the land of Israel because those who sought to kill Mary's child were dead (Matt. 2:19-21).

Rachel Weeping for her Children.

Matthew 2:16-18 ----- ¹⁶Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and *killed all the male children* in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. ¹⁷Then was *fulfilled* what was *spoken by the prophet Jeremiah* ¹⁸"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, *Rachel weeping for her children* she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

The prophetic words, "Rachel is weeping for her Children" is cited from the following words of Jeremiah: -

- Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. *Rachel is weeping for her children* she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more (Jer. 31:15).

This event is recorded in history as the Massacre of the Innocents.

To fully understand the tragic horror of these prophetic words we need to begin with Jacob who was struck by Rachel's beauty and immediately fell in love with her and she became his wife. Rachel gave birth to Joseph and Benjamin, but sadly died when giving birth to Benjamin. Even though it was Leah and her maid Zilpah and Rachel and her maid Bilhah who gave birth to the twelve sons of Jacob and who became the twelve tribes of Israel Rachel was the woman Jacob loved, and for this reason she is called the mother of Israel.

At the time of Jeremiah the land of Israel was full of gross idolatry. They were worshipping the host of heaven (i.e., the stars, sun, moon and heavenly planets. at Baal altars and, Asherims. Children were being sacrificed to Moloch in the Hinnom valley, pagan altars were set up in the temple court. There was shedding of innocent blood drunkenness, violence, robbery and gross sensuality permeated the land.

Added to this those in authority oppressed the less fortunate for their own gain. The rich cheated the innocent out of justice, and showed no sense of responsibility towards the poor, and instead of relieving their economic distress seemed bent upon devising new means of depriving them of their property.

This idol worship and indiscriminate, indulgent and excessive luxurious living resulted in the LORD having to use Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon to punish and Judge Israel. Nebuchadnezzar burned their houses, brought the city of Jerusalem to ruin, defiled the temple of God and took the inhabitants of Jerusalem into Babylonian captivity for seventy-years. This is why Jeremiah pictures Rachel as rising from her grave, to weep over her children who have been stripped from their land and Matthew uses this enormous grief expressed through Rachel for her children to depict the horror and sorrow all the mothers of Israel are feeling over the death of their children who have been murdered by Herod's soldiers.

NOTE: this prophecy clearly shows that prophecy is not the invention of the mind of man because no sane mind could ever imagine a king would ever inflict such brutal cruelty on innocent parents and their very young children.

People Dwelling in Darkness have Seen a Great Light.

Matthew 4:14-16 ----- ¹⁴so that what was *spoken by the prophet* Isaiah might *be fulfilled* ¹⁵"The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— ¹⁶the people dwelling in darkness have *seen a great light*, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them *a light has dawned*."

The prophetic words, "People dwelling in darkness have seen a great light are cited from the following words of Isaiah: -

- But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. ² The people who walked in darkness have *seen a great light* those who dwelt in a land of *deep darkness* on them has light shined" (Isaiah 9:1-2).

The majestic glory of the words "Those dwelling in deep darkness and gloom have seen a great light, is that though they refer to the people dwelling in the land of Zebulun and Naphtali, they are not limited to them, but prophetically fall upon everyone who by faith belongs to the Kingdom of Lord Jesus Christ.

This awe-inspiring prophecy is about the Lord Jesus Christ who has come into the world as the light and Saviour of both Jews and Gentiles alike and about the Good News of the Gospel which proclaims; "Whoever seeks after God regardless of what race, country or nation they were born into will be counted righteous and saved to eternal life by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and by God's grace in contrast to striving by self-effort to attain righteousness that leads to eternal life by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites and holy days or keeping religious customs and traditions etc. Jesus is called the great light because he not only has the words of eternal life that delivers a sinner from the domain of darkness and transfers them to the kingdom of God's beloved Son (Col. 1:13), but is also the royal door into the eternal Kingdom of God.

Behold, I send my Messenger who will Prepare your Way.

Matthew 11:9-10 ----- ⁹What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I (Jesus) tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is *he of whom it is written*, "Behold, I send my messenger (John the Baptist) before your face, who will prepare your way before you."

The prophetic words, "I send my messenger who will prepare your way before you" are cited from the following words of Malachi: -

- Behold, I send my messenger and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts” (Malachi 3:1).

This celebrated and fulfilled prophecy is about John the Baptised who prepared the way for Christ by teaching sinners (especially the religious leaders) that they should prepare themselves for the coming Messiah by repenting, being water baptised and turning from their wickedness. It is interesting to notice John never did any miracles yet Jesus considered him the greatest of all prophets this is because it was John who was privileged with the message “Prepare the way of the Lord” (Luke 3:4) all other prophets spoke of the coming Messiah, but John actually introduced Christ to the world making John the greatest of all prophets.

A Bruised Reed He will Not Break, a Smoldering Wick He will Not Quench.

Matthew 12:17-21 ----- ¹⁷This was to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah ¹⁸“Behold, my servant whom I have chosen, my beloved with whom my soul is well pleased. I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles. ¹⁹He will not quarrel or cry aloud, nor will anyone hear his voice in the streets; ²⁰a bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not quench, until he brings justice to victory; ²¹and in his name the Gentiles will hope.”

These prophetic words, of Matthew are cited from the following words of the prophet Isaiah: -

- Behold my servant (echoing Jesus) whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him (at his water baptism) he will bring forth justice to the nations. ²He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; ³a bruised reed he will not break, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. ⁴He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth (this is still a future event) and the coastlands wait for his law (Isaiah 42:1-4).
- I am the LORD; I have called you (echoing Jesus Christ) in righteousness; I will take you by the hand and keep you I will give you as a covenant for the people (on the Cross) a light for the nations, ⁷to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. ⁸I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other (Isaiah 42:6-8).

Here is the glory, splendour and wonder of Bible prophecy, thousands of years before Christ even appeared Isaiah in prophecy said he would: -

- Be called in righteousness as God’s chosen servant.
 - Delight the soul of God and that God would be pleased with him.
 - Have God’s Spirit put upon him.
 - Be given as a covenant and a light to the nations.
 - Proclaim justice to the nations (Jews and Gentiles).
 - Open the eyes of the physically and spiritually blind.
 - Never quarrel, argue or harm anyone physically or spiritually.
 - Continue his ministry until he brings justice to earth.
 - Bring together all nations and in his name they will hope and trust (Isaiah 11:10) (Isaiah 42:1-7) (Matt. 11:5) (Matt. 12:18-21).
-

You will Hear, but Never Understand, you will See but Never Perceive.

Matthew 13:14 ----- ¹⁴Indeed, in their case (those with a wrong heart attitude) (especially the religious leaders) the *prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled* that says: "You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.

These prophetic words, of Jesus are cited from the following words of the prophet Isaiah: -

- I (Isaiah) heard the voice of the LORD saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here am I! Send me." ⁹And he said, "Go, and say to this people: "Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive (Isaiah 6:8-9).

Isaiah was told to speak these words to the nation of Israel during his generation, but they are not limited to Isaiah's era, but simply pause there for a moment and then ascend on the wings of prophecy and transcend through time to the Jews of Jesus generation (especially the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes). They literally saw Christ and heard his parables, but because of their pride and selfish ambition they could not perceive who he was or understand the spiritual message contained in the parables Jesus spoke. The disciples in contrast to the hypocritical religious leaders had a right heart attitude and perceived who Jesus was and accepted him and therefore everything regarding salvation, the promises, and fellowship with God, the Lord Jesus Christ and eternal life was added to them.

Contrasted to this is the chief priests, the Pharisees and scribes had everything taken away in that the need for the Levitical priesthood, the holy days, and ceremonial law was totally abolished at the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, added to this the temple was destroyed in 70 AD by the Romans and even worse than all these losses is the reality that without Christ they will not inherit eternal life which they believed they had earned the right to because of their legalistic adherence to Moses Law, their meticulous practise of ceremonial rites their strict adherence to holy days and because they upheld their Jewish religious customs and traditions.

NOTICE: it did not matter how obvious and clear the Gospel message was the Pharisees chief priests and scribes pride was so great it stopped them from accepting Christ. They had even seen Christ perform amazing miracles and had him standing in front of them and still they could not perceive he was the Christ. Sometimes no matter what you do or say a person's pride, ego and desire to do their own thing is so high it will stop them from perceiving the wonder and beauty contained in the Gospel you are sharing with them. The practical application of this today is that those who accept Christ and follow him will be given everything needed to receive favour from God, forgiveness of sin, fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved to eternal life, but those who deny Christ will be spiritually blind and lose their life.

Jesus speaking in Parables Fulfilled what was Spoken by the Prophet.

Matthew 13:34-35 ---- ³⁴All these things Jesus said to the crowds in *parables* indeed, he said nothing to them without a *parable*. ³⁵This was to *fulfil what was spoken by the prophet* "I will open my mouth in *parables* I will utter what has been hidden since the foundation of the world."

These prophetic words are cited from the following Psalm: -

- I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old. They did not keep God's covenant, but refused to walk according to his law. They forgot his works and the wonders that he had shown them (Psalm 78:2, 10-11).

This Psalm is directed at Old Testament Israel because they were a stubborn and rebellious generation whose heart was not steadfast toward God nor was their spirit faithful to him. Matthew links us back to this Psalm of Asaph to shine a spotlight on the fact that thousands of years later the generation of Israel

(especially the religious leaders) at the time of Jesus ministry still had the same stubborn, rebellious heart and unfaithful spirit toward God as their fathers had. Though the words of Asaph applied to his generation they are not limited to them only, but travel through time until they reach the chief religious leaders of the nation of Israel who heard their own Messiah the Christ speaking in parables and yet could still not perceive the glorious message he was speaking because of their stubborn and rebellious heart and unfaithful spirit. It should be noted, this does not mean all Jews rejected Christ many embraced him and went on to become faithful disciples, but it is clear that the Jewish religious leaders of the nation of Israel opposed him with a vengeance so much so they had him murdered and it is these who would be the primary focus of Isaiah and Asaph prophetic words.

Jesus Riding into Jerusalem on a Donkey, Fulfilled Prophecy.

Matthew 21:4-5 ----- ⁴This took place to *fulfil what was spoken by the prophet* saying, ⁵"Say to the daughter of Zion, 'Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a *donkey*, and on a *colt*, the foal of a beast of burden.'"

These prophetic words are cited from the following words of Zechariah: -

- Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9).

This verse shows the remarkable and stunning detail of prophecy; thousands of years before Jesus even appeared Zechariah prophesied Israel's King and Christ would enter God's Holy city Jerusalem riding on a donkey, who could ever from their own mind predict such a thing? But the wonder and splendour of prophecy concerning Christ entering God's Holy City Jerusalem on a colt does not stop at Zechariah's prophetic words. Matthew goes on to say: -

- The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. ⁷They brought the *donkey* and the *colt* and put on them their cloaks, and *he sat on them*. ⁸Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. ⁹And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!* Hosanna in the highest!" (Matt. 21:6-9).

The words, "Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord" Hosanna in the highest!" link us back in time to the following Psalm which states: -

- The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone this is the LORD'S doing; it is marvellous in our eyes. This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. Save us, we pray, O LORD! O LORD, we pray, give us success! *Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD!* We bless you from the house of the LORD. The LORD is God, and he has made his light to shine upon us (Psalm 118:22-27).

This is a beautiful display of the beauty and wonder of the Bible, the writer of this Psalm is calling the nation of Israel during his generation to rejoice over the victories the LORD has given them over their enemies, but contained within the language of the Psalm is a glorious echo of the Lord Jesus Christ coming in the name of the LORD.

Jesus taken Captive was a Fulfilment of Prophecy.

Matthew 26:54-56 - ⁵⁴But how then should the *Scriptures be fulfilled* that it must be so?" ⁵⁵At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶But all this has taken place that the *scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled*." Then all the disciples left him and fled.

The following are just a few of the many Scripture that were fulfilled when Jesus was taken captive at the Garden of Gethsemane by the soldiers the religious leaders of Israel had sent to bring him before their tribunal so they could falsely accuse him and hand him over to the Romans to have him crucified.

- LORD, I cry to you; in the morning my prayer comes before you. O LORD, why do you cast my soul away? Why do you hide your face from me? (Psalm 88:13-14).
- My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning? (Psalm 22:1).
- All who see me mock me; they wag their heads; "He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him; let him rescue him, for he delights in him!" (Psalm 22:7-8).
- A company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet I can count all my bones they stare and gloat over me; they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots (Psalm 22:16-18).

Though the authors of these Scriptures are expressing their own feelings in prayer toward the LORD contained within the language of their prayer is an echo of Christ suffering on the cross. Added to these verses are the following heart-wrenching and humbling prophetic words of Isaiah concerning Christ's sufferings that were fulfilled by his death and resurrection.

- He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not (Isaiah 53:3).
- Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted (Isaiah 53:4).
- He was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:5) (meaning saved from our sins to inherit eternal life).
- All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned everyone to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all (Isaiah 53:6).
- He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7).
- By oppression and judgment he was taken away; and as for his generation, who considered that he was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken for the transgression of my people? (Isaiah 53:8).
- Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for sin, (Isaiah 53:10).

These prophetic Scriptures are outstanding, thousands of years before Jesus appeared Old Testament prophets and writer's spoke of Christ's suffering.

The New Testament Gospel of grace states: -

- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Should any brother or sister in Christ ever doubt their faith I would encourage them to do a study of all the prophecies concerning Christ that have been fulfilled, since they are so detailed and stunningly exact they could not possibly come from the mind of man no matter how clairvoyant they might be nor could they originate from men colluding together to deceive since the prophets are not only from different periods of time, but also lived in different countries and nations.

NOTE: in the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus fully aware of the horror that he was about to face prayed in extreme agony: -

- My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will (Matt. 26:39).

Jesus in this prayer is asking his heavenly Father if it is possible to find some other way to save mankind so he would not have to endure the torture and horror of the Roman guards and the crucifixion. Obviously there was no other way so Jesus surrendered to his Father's will and God's eternal plan.

This shows us two things: -

- How much Christ loved us. Jesus knew he could pray and God would send angels to deliver him, but Jesus didn't pray for deliverance, but for God's will to be done even though he knew the horror that was about to come upon him. Jesus understood these things must come to pass so that God's eternal plan of salvation for mankind would come to pass.
- When we pray we may not always get the answer we desired, in these situations we should surrender our will to God's will and be like Jesus and accept the difficulty even if it means death knowing that God is in control and has a higher eternal plan.

May his Camp become Desolate, and let there be No One to Dwell in it.

Acts 1:15-20 ----- ¹⁵In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120) and said, ¹⁶"Brothers, the *Scripture had to be fulfilled* which the Holy Spirit spoke *beforehand* by the mouth of *David concerning Judas*, who became a guide to those who arrested Jesus. ¹⁷For he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry." ¹⁸(Now this man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he *burst open* in the middle and all his *bowels gushed out*. ¹⁹And it became known to all the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the field was called in their own language Akeldama, that is, Field of Blood.) ²⁰"For it is written in the book of Psalms, "*May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it*" and "*Let another take his office*."

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit often speaks beforehand by the mouth of the prophets (especially by David a king and prophet) in the Psalms concerning Christ, future events or men in God's service (Acts 1v16). Often the New Testament Scriptures will give us a verse that link us back to the Old Testament Scriptures which will give us: -

- Further insights into the Lord's anguish and his heart.
- Further insights into events that though they may have happened during the generations of the Old Testament prophets they are yet to appear once more in history on a much grander scale to bring about the perfect fulfilment of the prophets prophetic words.

Added to these the New Testament will often cite a verse from the Old Testament to direct the reader to the entire chapter because it will give greater insight into the event that is in focus or the person being spoken of. Even though the prophet maybe speaking of himself and his own circumstances often the Holy Spirit will have embodied within the prophetic words being spoken by the prophet: -

- Principles and attitudes that apply to everyone in God's Kingdom.
- Future events.
- Things echoing Christ and events concerning his life.

Peter by citing the words, "May his camp become desolate, and let there be no one to dwell in it" and "Let another take his office." (Acts 1:20) directs our minds to the following Psalm in which David in prayer said: -

- God pour out your indignation upon my enemies and let your burning anger overtake them *may their camp be a desolation*; let no one dwell in their tents because they *persecute him* whom you have struck down, and they recount the pain of those you have wounded (Psalm 69:24-26)

David in this prayer is praying about his own troubles and heartfelt distress, but within the language is an echo of Christ's suffering, grief and anguish added to this Peter's words, "Let another take his office" (v20) are cited from Psalm one-hundred and nine in which David wrote: -

- May his days be few; may another take his office! (Psalm 109:8)

NOTE: some sceptics of the Bible use the fact that Matthew states that "Judas throwing the pieces of silver into the temple went and hanged himself (Matt 27:5), but in these verses Peter says "His bowels gushed out" (Acts 1:18), but this is a perfect example of approaching the Scriptures with a particular mindset and reading far more into what people are saying that is actually there since this apparent contradiction (to them at least) can be easily explained as the following will show.

The words, "This man bought a field with the reward of his wickedness, and falling headlong he burst open in the middle and all his bowels gushed out" (v18) obviously this does not refer to Judas because he threw the thirty pieces of silver back into the temple before the chief priests and the elders. It was not lawful for them to put the thirty silver coins into the treasury because it was blood money so they bought the potter's field with the money Judas threw into the treasury (Matt. 27:3-10) (note; these are the only verses that mention this event in the NT) it was the man who purchased the field whose bowels gushed out and not Judas, this is most likely because the religious leaders thought they could profit by purchasing property with the blood money that betrayed Jesus the Son of God.

Christ must Suffer and be First to Rise from the Dead.

Acts 26:22-23 ----- ²²To this day I (Paul) have had the help that comes from God, and so I stand here testifying both to small and great, saying nothing but what the *prophets and Moses said would come to pass* ²³that the *Christ must suffer* and that, by being the *first to rise from the dead* he would proclaim light both to our people and to the Gentiles".

The words, "Moses and the prophets said that Christ must suffer" (v23) are clearly evidenced in (Psalm 22) and (Isaiah 53). Added to these two amazing prophetic chapters are the following prophetic words of Isaiah and Zechariah.

Isaiah prophesied that: -

- A virgin will conceive and bear a son, and call his name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).
- He will grow up before God like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground and have no form or majesty that we should look at him or beauty that we should desire him (Isaiah 53:2).
- The Spirit of the LORD GOD will be upon him because the LORD will anoint him to bring good news to the poor; and to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound (Isaiah 61:1).
- He will give his back to those who strike, and his cheeks to those who pull out the beard; he will not hide his face from disgrace and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).

The Prophet Zechariah wrote: -

- If one asks him, "What are these wounds on your back?" he will say, "The wounds I received in the house of my friends" (Zech. 13:6).
- A man whose name is the Branch will extend out from his place, and build the temple of the LORD (Zech. 6:12).

- Rejoice greatly Israel because your King is coming; righteous and having salvation, he is humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zech. 9:9).
- The LORD will pour out on Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn (Zech. 12:9-10).

These are just a few of the many verses throughout the Old Testament that speak of Christ and show that the New Testament was in the eternal mind of God long before Christ appeared.

NOTE: the words, "Christ must be the first to rise from the dead" (Acts 26:23) obviously does not mean he was the first person ever to be raised from the dead since Elisha raised the son of the Shunammite and a dead man who was put into the sepulchre of the Prophet Elisha, was restored to life as soon as he touched the prophet's bones. Christ himself had raised the widow's son at Nain, Lazarus and several others, but all these were raised to mortal life to die again whereas Christ was raised from the dead to eternal life and can die no more. Thus he was the first to rise again from the dead to return no more into the empire of death.

This means that Christ was the first that rose from the dead to an immortal life and so in this sense is the firstborn to be raised from the dead and the firstfruits of those that are asleep in Christ. The resurrection of Christ to eternal life is proof of the resurrection of the human body to return no more under the empire of death it is in this sense that Jesus is said, "To be the first that rose again from the dead." The term, "Those sleeping in Christ," refers to those who have died while having faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, they are referred to as being asleep in Christ because their death is only temporary as they will be raised again to eternal life and everlasting glory.

NOTICE: the words, "Christ would be the first to rise from the dead (v23) clearly show us that no-one ascended to heaven prior to Christ's death, if they had then these words of Paul would not be true. For further information concerning this, see the title: "Heaven" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Old Testament Prophets Knew of the Resurrection.

The following few verses show the prophets knew of the resurrection: -

The Lord said to Abraham: -

- Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me (Gen. 22:12).

Then in book of Hebrews we read: -

- Abraham considered that God was able even to raise his son from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back (Heb. 11:19).

David said: -

- The LORD will not abandon my soul to sheol (the grave) or let your holy one (the Lord Jesus Christ) see corruption (Psalm 16:10),

These verses shine a brilliant spotlight on the truth that certain Old Testament prophets not only understood that their Messiah and King would be resurrected, but also understood that they themselves would be resurrected to eternal life. Though it is clear that the faithful of the Old Testament had some understanding of the resurrection the primary focus of the majority of the Jewish people was that the promise of God would come through their natural offspring and not the Son of God who would lay down his life to his enemies. Not even the apostles fully understood what Christ meant when he said, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will

rise" (Mark 9:31) until he appeared to them after his resurrection. All Jews recognised Moses as one of the greatest prophets and held him in enormously high esteem so they should have recognised their Messiah the Christ of Israel and Saviour of the world when he came, especially since Moses wrote the following amazing verse that states: -

- God would put enmity between the serpent and the woman, and between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed and that the seed of the serpent would bruise the heel of the woman's seed, but the seed of the woman would bruise the head of the serpent's seed." (Gen. 3:15).

The woman's seed in this verse obviously refers to Christ. For greater detail of this incredible and fantastic prophetic verse see (Genesis 3:15) in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU), added to this Moses also wrote: -

- The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—And I the LORD will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak all that I command him, it is to him you shall listen (Deut. 18:15-19).

The prophet like Moses of course refers to Christ then in the New Testament Philip said to Nathanael, "We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." (John 1:45) and Paul said, "He testifies both to the small and the great, saying nothing but what the prophets and Moses said would come to pass" (Acts 26:22).

The following few verses show that the prophets wrote of Jesus: -

Isaiah prophesied, saying: -

- There will come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge with equity for the meek of the earth (Isaiah 11:1-4) (the shoot that came forth from Jesse refers to Christ).

Jeremiah said: -

- The days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness (Jer. 23:5-6) (the righteous Branch is Christ).

Daniel wrote: -

- I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came One like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his Kingdom one that shall not be destroyed (Dan. 7:13-14) (the one who came like a Son of man refers to Christ).

Hosea prophesied of Christ saying: -

- After two days the LORD will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us press on to know the LORD; his going out is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth. (Hosea 6:1-3). (His going out is echoing Christ's death and as the dawn he will come is echoing his return).

Micah prophesied: -

- Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days (Micah 5:2) (the one to come forth is Christ).

Malachi prophesied: -

- The Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his Temple; behold, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts, but who can endure the day of his coming, he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and refine the sons of Levi like gold (Malachi 3:1-3) (it is Christ who will suddenly come to his temple).

Paul when speaking of Jesus says: -

- The religious rulers of Israel did not recognize him (Christ) nor understand the utterances of the prophets, which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled them by condemning him (Acts 13:27).

Naturally there are many more Old Testament Scriptures concerning the Lord, Jesus himself said: -

- I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (Hebrews 10:7).

The scroll of the book refers to the Old Testament writings and Jesus said of the Jews "They search the Scriptures (Old Testament) because they think that in them they have eternal life; but it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39). It is very clear that the religious rulers of Israel should have recognised their Messiah when he came especially since he was performing supernatural miracles that could only be done by a man who God's power was flowing through in such a powerful majestic and awesome manner.

NOTE: these most celebrated and famous prophecies that the faithful prophets of old spoke thousands of years before Christ appeared stunningly show that the Bible is the inspired word of God for the following three reasons: -

1. Who from their own mind could ever imagine that God's own Son the promised Messiah, the Christ and Saviour of the world would ever have to suffer such a humiliating brutal, bloody and cruel death?
2. Who could imagine from their own mind that a man born of a woman would be raised from the dead to eternal life and everlasting glory? Certainly generations of old believed in life after death, but it was in the form of a conscious spirit being, not a human raised from the grave to immortality and eternal life.
3. Many Old Testament Scriptures give exact details of Christ's birth, his life and his suffering long before he appeared.

Paul tried to Convince Jews about Jesus from Moses Law and the Prophets.

Acts 28:23 -----²³When they had appointed a day for him (Paul) they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, *testifying* to the kingdom of God and trying to *convince* them about *Jesus both* from the *Law of Moses* and from the *prophets*.

The local Jewish leaders in Rome desired to hear Paul's views regarding the sect called Christians because they are spoken against by the Romans and the Jews. Paul holds meetings in his hired home (v30) and people in great numbers come to him. The Jewish authorities had meticulously kept the writings of Moses and the prophets on scrolls and read them every Sabbath in the synagogues so Paul spends his days and his evenings trying to persuade the Jews from the Old Testament writings that Jesus is their Messiah the Christ that Moses and the prophets spoke of. This very clearly shows us the following two things: -

1. The New Testament is the fulfilment of Old Testament Scriptures and prophecy.
 2. The majestic plan God purposed in His eternal mind for mankind's salvation before the foundations of the world are in His sovereign and Almighty control.
-

It is those of Faith who are the Sons of Abraham.

Galatians 3:7-9 ----- ⁷Know then that it is those of *faith* who are the *sons of Abraham*. ⁸And the *Scripture*, *foreseeing* that God would *justify* the *Gentiles* by *faith*, preached the *Gospel beforehand* to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹So then, those who are of *faith* are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

Thousands of years before the New Testament Gospel of faith and grace was proclaimed by Jesus and the apostles the Old Testament Scriptures had already proclaimed it by recording in the scrolls that God told Abraham, "In you shall all nations be blessed, meaning not only Israel, but all Gentile nations shall be saved by faith in the promised seed of Abraham (the Lord Jesus Christ). This is the glory the wonder and beauty of the Bible and the Good News of the Gospel God long before Christ appeared said, "In Abraham all nations will be blessed" meaning God's eternal plan is not limited to the nation of Israel, but embraces people from all nations, languages and races of the world.

NOTICE: Paul's focus is not upon teaching Moses, the prophets or the Old Testament Scriptures, but rather he brilliantly and skilfully uses them to prove to doubtful and unbelieving Jews that: -

- Christ is who he claimed to be and the one the prophets said was to come.
- Christ died and rose again to eternal glory.
- Gentiles are saved by faith in the promised seed of Abraham (the Lord Jesus Christ).

The book of Hebrews with majestic brilliance and royal glory show how Moses tabernacle, the Holy Place, the Most Holy Place and the Sacrifices were all types and shadows of Christ and the New Testament Gospel of faith and grace.

Jesus by His Own Blood Secured an Eternal Redemption.

The author of Hebrews tells us that Jesus entered once for all into the Most Holy Place not by means of the blood of goats and calves, but by means of his own blood, and by his own blood secured an eternal redemption (Heb. 9:12) and by his own blood is the mediator of the new covenant so that those who trust in him may receive the promised eternal inheritance, because a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant (Hebrews 9:12, 15). This is because Christ entered, not into the Most Holy Place made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. Jesus has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself and just as it is appointed for man to die once and after that comes judgment so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time not to deal with sin, but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him (Heb. 9:24-28).

This entire letter of Hebrews is addressed to Hebrews who had been enlightened to Christ, but were still holding fast to the Law of Moses, the Levitical Priesthood and Jewish customs and traditions. It constantly reflects back to the Old Testament Scriptures, but the focus of the author is not on teaching the Old Testament Scriptures, but upon using them to prove to the doubtful Hebrews that Jesus is the Christ that the Old Testament Scriptures speak of. The writer not only brilliantly and with masterful skill uses the Old Testament Scriptures to prove Jesus is the prophet to come that the prophets speak of, but also uses Moses tabernacle, the Holy Place and the Most Holy Place to prove Jesus is the only High Priest anyone needs to be saved to eternal life and that it is by faith in Christ and God's grace and not religious works that God's people are counted righteous.

NOTE: the blessing of the letter to the Hebrews is not limited to the Hebrews since everyone who is seeking God or who is a brother or sister of Christ will be overwhelmingly awed as they read this well-crafted and awe-inspiring letter as it beautifully progresses through the chapters proving Jesus is the Christ.

This is one of the most remarkable and outstanding letters of the New Testament since it clearly shows how Moses tabernacle, the Holy Place, the Most Holy Place and the, scarifies were all shadows and types of Christ and better things to come. To discover the glory and majesty of this letter see: "Hebrews" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The New Testament apostles and Paul's primary focus was not on teaching the Old Testament Scriptures, but rather using them to prove (especially to the unbelieving Jews) that Jesus was the one the Scriptures speak of and the prophets said was to come and that he is the Christ, the promised Saviour and Son of God. Jesus said; "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book (the OT Scriptures) (Heb. 10:7).

The Gospel Preached to Abraham.

Galatians 3:6-9 ----- ⁶just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"? ⁷Know then that it is those of *faith* who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would *justify the Gentiles by faith*, preached the *Gospel* beforehand to Abraham, saying, *in you shall all the nations be blessed*. ⁹So then, those who are of *faith* are blessed along with Abraham, the man of *faith*.

Paul makes a statement that Scripture foreseeing certain events that would come to pass announced them beforehand, in the context of these verses this refers to God's promise to Abraham that "In him and in his seed all nations would be blessed" (Gen. 12:3) (Gen. 18:18) (Gen. 22:18). God in these promises is telling Abraham that his seed (the Messiah, the Christ) will descend from him and that salvation to eternal life and everlasting glory would be through him. The Gospel that was preached to Abraham was that the Messiah the Christ would come from his very own loins and that by him all nations (Jews and Gentiles) would be blessed. Abraham not only rejoiced at this promise but by faith saw Christ's day and was glad (John 8:56) revealing to us two things: -

1. That Abraham's faith rested solely on God's word and the promised seed (the Christ to come).
2. That Abraham's Christ is our Christ and our faith and blessing is the same as Abraham faith and blessing.

The Gospel that was preached to Abraham is the same Gospel (though not with the same fullness of revelation) that we preach today The Gospel message that was proclaimed to Abraham declared the following two central truths: -

1. That all nations (both Jews and Gentiles) will be counted righteous, justified and saved to eternal life in the same way that Abraham was which was by faith and not by the religious legal system or works of the law.
2. That through him all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

(Gen. 12:3) (Gen. 22:17) (Acts 3:25) (Rom. 4:13) (Gal. 3:16).

NOTE: when it is said that "All nations" will be blessed, it does not mean that every individual of all nations will enjoy this happiness, because not all are in Christ, nor do all have his righteousness imputed to them, nor do all have faith in him, there are many that will be condemned with the world. The meaning of the words, "All nations," means "Some of all nations" (i.e., God through Christ will save some Jews and some Gentiles from all nations in contrast to God saving Hebrews and Jews only).

The faith of the early fathers: the following words Jesus spoke to the legalist Jews, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad" (John 8:56) and the following words from the author of Hebrews, "For unto us (in the New Testament) was the Gospel preached, as well as unto them (in the Old Testament): but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it" (Heb. 4:2) reveal to us two things: -

1. During the Old Testament era faith for salvation to eternal life and not trust in the religious legal law (which majority of Israel did) was required by God in the same way as it is today.
2. That, those who were faithful toward God were not looking toward a passing or short-lived promise, but rather lived with the anticipation of the coming of their promised Messiah the Christ. Though they did not have the fullness of revelation of the Gospel that we have today they understood that righteousness was by faith in believing the word and promises of God and in their excited joy and anticipated hope of the arrival of their Messiah the Christ. They understood that like Abraham who was counted and accepted as righteous by God because his faith and his believing was fastened upon the word and promise of God that they also by faith would in the same manner be owned and accepted by God as righteous in the same way.

CONCLUSION: all the above shines a brilliant spotlight on why Peter told his listeners that "We have something more sure, the prophetic word" (2 Peter 1:19). These prophecies that we have looked at (there are many others) prove the reality of the New Testament writings and that they cannot be an invention of the mind of man because everything concerning Christ the Good News of the Gospel and salvation by faith and grace is underpinned by Old Testament prophecies. What makes this even more sure is the stunning truth that these Old Testament prophecies were not only spoken long before Christ appeared, but also spoken by many different prophets from different ages so that there was no way they could plot and plan such a glorious eternal message that has survived all generations and all the persecutions that have come against them to destroy their majestic truth and those who faithfully proclaim them.

End