



RAINBOW DISCOVERY
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JESUS - THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING?

Study 1

Discovering the Christian Faith

Lake Matheson, hidden like a diamond in the west coast of the South Island, (NZ) mirrors a near perfect reflection of the towering Southern Alps. Turn the picture upside down. Can you see a difference?



Now consider Jesus: *“In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets many times and in many different ways. But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son ... The Son reflects the glory of God and ...*

Fill in the missing words from Hebrews 1:1-3 (shown on the answers page) This quotation and other similar passages

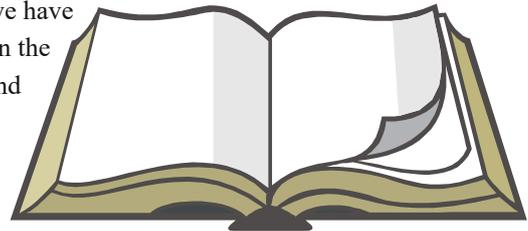
make us realize that the key to understanding God and the Christian faith is Jesus Christ! Look up John 14:8-9. When Philip said, *“Lord, show us the Father;”* Jesus answered,

THE SON SHOWS EXACTLY WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

“Anyone who _____

Actually there are no less than four separate authors who wrote down the information of who Jesus Christ was and what he did and said. These were not legends but accurate historical records.

Most of the reliable information we have about Jesus Christ is to be found in the Bible. So to learn about his life and teachings this is where we turn.



Luke tells us why he wrote his historical account in the very beginning of his book. Fill in the missing words from Luke 1:1-4. (answers page)

Who were the authors?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____



Eye witnesses



_____ account



The _____ truth

THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

John also explains why he wrote his good news about Jesus Christ. (John 20:30-31) Why have we been given such a detailed written record of what Jesus did and said? Finish off writing verse 31 here:

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that ...

One of the things that makes Christianity unique is it's based on the life of the one who the prophets said would come. They called him 'Messiah' and predicted his coming hundreds of years before it happened. Then he came.

_____ Keep reading the answer page, then write the name of the prophet who identified the town where Messiah would be born.

Kings ride white horses, so the chance of Messiah riding a donkey is unlikely. Even so, that is what Zechariah said would happen. How many years before it came to pass? _____

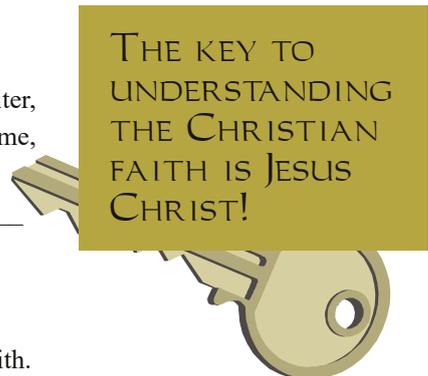
However, the best-known Messianic prophecy is the one given in Isaiah 7:14.

“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.”

It concerned the extraordinary birth of Jesus as quoted by the New Testament writer, Matthew. Study further and answer: What was the meaning of his unusual name, 'Immanuel'?

The fulfilment of Old Testament prophecy is another reason why people say,

_____ is the key to understanding the Christian faith.



THE TRUE STORY BEHIND BEN HUR.

Two men once sat in a train discussing the life of Christ. They were high-ranking military officers and both were well-known atheists.

One of them said, "I think an interesting fictional novel could be written about him." The other replied, "and you are just the man to write it. Why don't you tear down the prevailing sentiment about his so-called divinity, and paint him as a man - simply a man among men."

The suggestion was acted upon and a romantic novel written. The man who made the suggestion was Colonel Ingersoll; the writer was General Lew Wallace and the book became the best selling classic, 'Ben Hur.'

In the process of constructing the life of Christ General Wallace found himself facing the greatest life ever lived on earth. The more he studied, the more he became convinced Christ was no ordinary man. His book turned out very differently to what was originally intended and Wallace discovered the real Jesus. He had accidentally found the key.

**Find the answers on this page to
JESUS - THE KEY TO UNDERSTANDING**



THE SON SHOWS EXACTLY WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

Read Hebrews 1:1-3 from the diagram, and John 14:8-9 from your Bible.

**They said he would come
(John 1:43-45 NIV)**

Many years ago they said he would come. The seers and sacred writings spoke of **'the One.'** His ancient prophets never dreamed up their visions or voiced personal opinions. Over and over they are on record as saying, "The word of the Lord ..."
Their word was His Word. They were only his messenger until 'the One.' Then he came.

In his letter to a senior leader concerning the astonishing events of that time, a man named Luke reported, "*Dear Theophilus: Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message. And so, Your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you. I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.*"
(Luke 1:1-4 GNT)

Many others also recorded these events. So the historical record is reliable and no credible historian today doubts the existence of Jesus Christ. But it is one thing to say that Jesus of Nazareth existed, and quite another thing to say that he was **'the One.'**

THE LIFE AND TEACHING OF JESUS IS FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

Who were the prophets talking about? John 1:1-45 (NIV)
Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote - Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

Jonah (KJV)
Now the word of the LORD came unto Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it; for their wickedness is come up before me. But Jonah rose up to flee unto Tarshish, and hid himself under a gourd.

Zachariah (NASB)
In the eighth month of the second year of Darius, the word of the LORD came to Zachariah the priest, the son of Berechiah, the son of Iddai. Thus he was very angry with the LORD.

Jeremiah (KJV)
The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: To whom the word of the LORD came in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah the son of Amon king of Judah.

2 Peter 1:20-21 (NLT)
Above all, you must realize that no prophecy in Scripture ever came from the prophet's own understanding, or from human initiative. No, those prophets were moved by the Holy Spirit, and they spoke from God.

Hebrews 1: 1-3 (NCV)
In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets many times and in many different ways. But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. God has chosen his Son to own all things, and through him he made the world. The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like.

John 1:14 (NIV)
The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

People sat bolt upright when Jesus said, "the time is fulfilled!"
"The Time?"
But what happened after that created a sensation. When he spoke, angry divisions broke out.

Why John wrote his book. John 20:30-31 (NRSV)
Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

They said he would come

Micah 5:2 (GNT)

The Lord says, “Bethlehem Ephrathah, you are one of the smallest towns in Judah, but out of you I will bring a ruler for Israel, whose family line goes back to ancient times.”

(Predicted BC 600 approx)

Fulfilled BC 6 Matthew 2:1-2 (ESV)

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

Isaiah 7:14 (KJV)

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.



Fulfilled BC 6 Matthew 1:22-23 (CEV)

So the Lord's promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

PREDICTED
BC 735

JESUS IDENTIFIED AS
IMMANUEL ABOUT **BC 6**
730 YEARS LATER.

Zechariah 9:9 (GNT)

Rejoice, rejoice, people of Zion! Shout for joy, you people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you! He comes triumphant and victorious, but humble and riding on a donkey - on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

(Predicted BC 480 approx)

Fulfilled AD 30 John 12:12-16 (NCV)

The next day a great crowd who had come to Jerusalem for the Passover Feast heard that Jesus was coming there. So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Jesus, shouting, “Praise God! God bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! God bless the King of Israel!” Jesus found a colt and sat on it. This was as the Scripture says, “Don’t be afraid, people of Jerusalem! Your king is coming, sitting on the colt of a donkey.”

More studies (and answers) here:
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