



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 (See page 6) 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 (See page 13) When Philip said, *“Lord, show us the Father;”* Jesus answered,

THE SON SHOWS EXACTLY WHAT GOD IS LIKE.

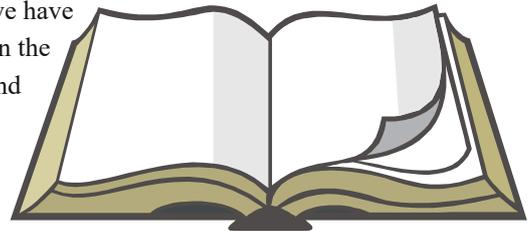
“Anyone who _____

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.

Who were the authors?

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

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 (See page 6)



Eye witnesses



_____ account



_____ studied



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 See page 7) 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.

_____ Read page 8-9 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? _____

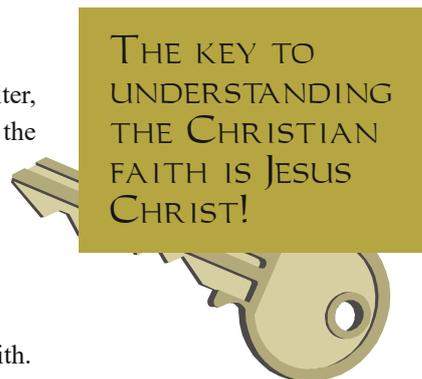
However, the best-known Messianic prophecy is the one given in Isaiah 7:14.

“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 page 8 and 9 in 'Rainbow Bible Readings' 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.