

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: “Ephesians 6:17 “...And the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God....”

Quote: “So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.” Romans 10:17

Does belief in the Bible as God’s inspired Word depend upon “blind faith?” Not at all! The Bible is a *one-of-a-kind collection* of 66 books written by 40 authors over a span of 1,600 years on three continents using three languages with *one central theme from the first book to the last—God’s restoration of a people for His glory through the death and resurrection of His Son!* Details of Christ’s virgin birth, foretold hundreds of years before His incarnation, came to past.¹ Jeremiah records that one of David’s offspring would be a King and a Judge whose name would be “THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS”.² Isaiah wrote that this child would be called Immanuel which means, “God with us”.³ He spoke of Him as “Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”⁴ Micah tagged Bethlehem as the place where the Son of God would be born⁵ and Jeremiah foretold the massacre of infants by Herod upon his learning that the Christ was born there.⁶ Could it all be coincidence? The most ambitious opportunist could not come close to orchestrating the events involved in Christ’s life. He fulfilled the written Word of God because He is the living Word!⁷

Isaiah states that the Messiah would perform healing miracles.⁸ Contemporaries of Jesus—*friends and foes alike*—acknowledged that He did extraordinary things. New Testament writers record that He walked on water, healed the sick, turned water to wine, raised the dead and did exorcisms! In spite of the miraculous works of Christ, Jewish unbelief persisted as was foretold by Isaiah.⁹ The Jewish Talmud defames Jesus as a sorcerer who enticed Israel to apostasy and was executed on the eve of the Passover. This is an historical admission *by hostile witnesses* that He did miracles! In John 10, Jesus challenged those Jews who were offended by His claim that He and His Father are one to look at His works as proof of Who He is. In John 11,

these Jewish leaders acknowledged with great concern Christ’s notable works and influence.

The details of Christ’s death likewise fulfilled specific prophesies. Zechariah predicted that Israel’s King would enter into Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey, a practice of monarchs as a symbol of peace and an emblem of rank and dignity.¹⁰ Isaiah prophesied of Christ’s resolute determination to do His Father’s will in the face of unimaginable stress,¹¹ as well as His silence in the presence of His enemies.¹² Christ’s betrayal by a friend was foretold by David,¹³ and Zechariah recorded the details of the bounty paid and the potter’s field that it would purchase.¹⁴ Isaiah and David described the graphic details of Christ’s torture long before crucifixion

“The Sword of the Spirit”, Part I

was used by the Romans to execute criminals and slaves.¹⁵ Although the legs of the two thieves crucified with Him were broken to accelerate suffocation, Christ’s legs were unbroken and He was speared, both of which were prophesied.¹⁶ Christ was numbered with the transgressors, but, with the help of two believing members of the hostile Jewish Sanhedrin, He was buried with the rich.¹⁷ If only a fraction of the Bible prophesy fulfilled by Christ was presented in a court of law, it would confirm the Bible as God’s Word and Jesus as the Messiah as well. As we shall see, the resurrection of Jesus offers even more compelling evidence that the Sword of the Spirit is the divinely inspired Word of the living God. In spite of this, the natural man looks upon the remarkable and compelling evidence and dubs it as “foolishness.”¹⁸ The fact that anyone has an interest in and a love for the Word of God should make him grateful for God’s amazing grace that has made him a new creation in Christ!

1 Gen. 3:15; Luke 1:34-35; I Jn.3:8; 2 Jer.23:5, 6; Matt.1:1; Jn.7:42a; I Cor.1:30; II Cor.5:21; Gal.4:4-7; 3 Isa.7:14; Matt.1:18, 22, 23 4 Isa.9:6-7; Luke 1:32-33; John 12:45; 14:9; Heb.1:3 5 Micah 5:2; Matt.2:1, 2; Jn. 7:42b 6 Jer. 31:15; Matt.2:16-18 7 John 17:5; Phil. 2:6; Col.1:17; 1 Jn.1:1-2; 5:7; Rev.19:13 8 Isa.35:5,6; 42:1-7; Matt.4:12-16 9 Isa.53:1; John 12:37-41 with Isa.6:9, 10 10 Zech. 9:9; Matt.21:1-5; John 12:12-16 11 Isa. 50:7; 53:3-4; Luke 9:51; 22:42; John 5:30; 17:4 12 Isa.42:1-3; 53:7; Matt.12:14-21; 27:12-14 John 1:29; I Peter 2:21-25 13 Psalm 41:9; John 13:18-31; Acts 1:16-26 14 Zech.11:12, 13; Matt.27:3-10 15 Isa.50:6; 53:5; Psa.22; Matt. 26:67 with 27:26-31; John 19:1-3 16 Psa. 34:20; Zechariah 12:10; John 19:31-33, 34-37 17 Isa.53:12, 9; Luke 22:37; Mark 15:43; John 19:38, 39 18 Rom.1:17-32; I Cor.1:18; 2:9-16