

JESUS, THE SON OF GOD

John 3:16-17

Introduction: Jesus had trouble getting people to believe that He was sent from God, that He was special, that He and God, the Father, were "One." He stayed in constant trouble because of His identification of being God's Son and ultimately was crucified because of His declarations of being the Son of God. The Jews didn't believe Him then and they don't believe that Jesus is/was the Son of God today. There are millions of people in the world, including our own country who do not believe that Jesus is the Son of God or that the Bible is the Word of God. Taking away the divine inspiration and limiting the Bible to its historic recordings, as to any other book of history, it still reveals that Jesus is/was the Son of God.

I. THERE IS PROOF IN THE PROPHECIES/PREDICTIONS

1. There is the promise of His coming.
 - *"...And I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed, it shall bruise thy head and thou shalt bruise His heel..." (Genesis 3:15)*
 - The promised one was to be of the woman's seed, born of a woman, apart from the normal help of a man - thus a virgin birth.
2. There is the prediction of the Star and the Scepter.
 - *"...I shall see him, but not now. I shall behold him, but not nigh. There shall come a Star out of Jacob and a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and shall smite the corners of Moab and destroy all the children of Sheth..." (Numbers 24:17)*
 - Balaam, the "prophet" spoke of the coming of the Savior, giving reference to His first coming as the Star out of Jacob and also the Scepter that would rise out of Israel.
 - 1700 years before Jesus was born, Jacob made the statement, *"...The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come, and unto him shall the gathering of the people be..." (Genesis 49:10)*
 - Jacob was not a king. Judah was not a prince. The Jews were not yet a nation. Why would Jacob make such a prophecy? Had God opened his dying eyes to see the coming of the Lord Jesus?
3. Moses pronounced a promise some 1400 years before Jesus' birth.
 - *"...The Lord thy God will raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me, unto Him ye shall hearken..."*
 - Did God grant Moses a distant view? Did he foresee the time and the person of the One God would send? How would Moses know such things?
4. Some 700 years before Jesus came, the prophet Micah gave a prophecy.
 - *"...But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting..."*
 - From little Bethlehem, not royal Jerusalem would come this ruler of Israel and He would not be like anyone else, common, ordinary.

5. Isaiah, the chief among the writing prophets also gave a prophecy.
 - ***"...Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name, Immanuel..."***
 - He was not believed and people thought he had lost his mind but Isaiah stayed with his prophecy. His 53rd chapter clearly describes the passion of Jesus Christ, the blood, sweat, nails of the cross, the tomb, the garden and the victory of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. How did he know all this?

6. Hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus there were writings, prophecies, predictions of His coming by Moses, Isaiah, Micah were being read and reread in the Jewish synagogues.
 - Jesus quoted from Deuteronomy and Isaiah.
 - Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Micah, hundreds of years apart, in different localities, under different circumstances, all wrote and spoke about the coming of Jesus Christ.

II. THERE IS THE TESTIMONY/PROOF OF JESUS' LIFE

1. The very life of Jesus testifies that He is the Son of God.
 - He was born of a virgin, in a manger in Bethlehem.
 - His mother, although a descendent of David was among the lowest of all the people.
 - His earthly "step" father was a Galilean carpenter.
 - He was reared in the little town of Nazareth.
 - For 30 years other than when He was 12 He made no public appearances.
 - When full grown, about 30 years of age, He was baptized by John the Baptist and began His public ministry.
 - For three short years He traveled up and down the land of Palestine, preaching, teaching, healing performing miracles and His companions were of the least and lowliest of all.

2. The teachings of Jesus gives proof that He was/is the Son of God.
 - Jesus could read and write, but He attended no great schools for education.
 - Where did Jesus get all His mighty sayings, His understanding of the truths of God's Word?
 - Surely Jesus didn't learn all He knew about God from the carpenter shop.
 - Jesus' teachings were far above those of Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Moses and Isaiah and they were all highly educated men.
 - The teachings of Jesus still stand today as strong as ever, like a rock.
 - If it was not education or origin, family background, inherited traits, then what Jesus knew and taught had to be from God.

3. Jesus' death gives proof that He was/is the Son of God.
 - Jesus did not have to die. He was not compelled to die. At any moment after His arrest, He could have turned His back on all His teachings, ministry, claims and would have been lightly punished and set free. His death was voluntary, sacrificial, and deliberate..
 - The high priest said to Jesus, ***"...I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God..."*** A plain question and what did Jesus answer? ***"...Thou has said. Nevertheless I say unto you, hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sit on the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven..."***

- Pilate, the governor, asked Jesus, "*Art thou the King of the Jews?...*" Jesus could have avoided the cross yet He replied, "*...Thou sayest...*"
 - Either Jesus was totally insane, a madman, irresponsible for His actions and words, or else He was indeed the Son of God.
4. The resurrection of Jesus from the grave gives proof that Jesus was/is the Son of God.
- If the resurrection of Jesus is true, then everything else is true.
 - If the resurrection of Jesus never happened, and it is false, then Jesus is not the Son of God.
 - When Jesus was arrested, all His disciples ran away. When Jesus was buried, His disciples hid in fear of also being arrested. A few days later those very same disciples who had deserted Jesus who had hidden themselves in fear began to openly proclaim that they had seen and talked with Jesus, their fear was gone. What had happened?
 - The disciples began to preach and teach that Jesus was alive and they were beaten, imprisoned, and even put to death along with their families.
 - Through the centuries believers in Jesus have been persecuted, having to hide, found and put to death, yet they persisted in their testimony that Jesus is the Son of God and that He has indeed risen from the tomb/grave.

CONCLUSION:

1. People prophesied through the centuries that God's Son was coming.
2. Prophecies of where God's Son would be born were given.
3. Prophecies of God's Son being born of a virgin woman were given.
4. Prophecies of God's Son's life of teaching and healing were given.
5. Prophecies of God's Son's death on a cross were given.
6. Prophecies of God's Son being resurrected from the grave were given.
7. The life of this man of Galilee, Jesus, is proof that He is indeed the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
8. The sacrifices believers in Jesus have made through the centuries prove that their belief that Jesus is the Son of God.
9. So, what do you think about Jesus? Is He the Son of God or not?