<u>Week Four:</u> Jesus Christ's life fulfilled over 60 Old Testament prophecies concerning the <u>"coming Messiah"</u>. The Jewish people understood that fulfillment of Messianic prophecy was a confirmation of the true Messiah. In fact, in the Old Testament Hebrew society, the uncompromising standard for any Biblical prophecy was that it must be 100% accurate. So a significant question for substantiating the "diety of Christ" is: "Did Christ's life actually fulfill the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah, or was He nothing more than a hoax"?

- I.The life of Christ fulfilled over 60 major Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming
Messiah (Savior). Let's look at a just few of these prophecies & their fulfillment:
 - a. THE PROPHECY: Gen. 3: 15 predicted the coming Messiah would be "born of the seed of a woman", and would "bruise the head" (this phrase indicates a fatal wound) of the serpent (the devil)". THE FULFILLMENT: Gal. 4: 4 says, "But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law". And In Eph. 2: 1 2; 4 6 Paul explains that although we were "dead in our sins, in which we walked according to the ... the prince of the power of the air (the devil)", but "God being rich in mercy, ... made us alive together with Christ." Christ's came into the world "to give His life as a ransom for many (Mk. 10:45); "Therefore, is now no comdemnation for those in Christ Jesus.
 - b. THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 9:7 predicts the Messiah would heir to the throne of King David. THE FULFILLMENT: Speaking of Jesus, Luke 1: 32-33 says "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father (from David's lineage) David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever...".
 - c. THE PROPHECY: Micah 5: 2 predicts the birth place of the Messiah, would be the town of Bethlehem. THE FULFILLMENT: Luke 2: 4,5, 7 shows that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
 - d. THE PROPHECY: Isaiah 7: 14 predicts the Messiah would be born of a virgin. THE FULFILLMENT: Luke 1: 26, 27, 30, 31 records that Christ would be born of a virgin.
 - e. THE PROPHECY: The time of the Messiah's birth predicted Daniel 9:25, FULFILLED in Luke 2:1.
 - f. THE PROPHECY: Hosea 11: 1 predicts the Messiah would come "out of Egypt". THE FULFILLMENT: Matt. 2: 14-15 relates how after the wise men / magi had seen the baby Jesus and departed, Joseph was led by God to take his family to Egypt. For God had warned Joseph to escape King Herod's impending murder of all the male children (ages 2 yrs. old and younger) in Bethlehem and the surrounding area. Joseph brought his family back to Israel after Herod died.
 - g. THE PROPHECY: The Messiah would be rejected by His own people (the Jews), as noted in Isaiah 53: 3. THE FULFILLMENT: John 1: 11; Luke 23: 18
 - h. THE PROPHECY: The Messiah would be betrayed by a close friend (Psalm 41: 9). THE FULFILLMENT: Luke 22: 47 48 shows how Judas betrayed Jesus.
 - i. THE PROPHECY: The Messiah would be executed with criminals. THE FULFILLMENT: Mark 15: 27 28 relates how Christ was crucified with two robbers.
 - j. THE PROPHECY: The Messiah would be "pierced" during His execution. THE FULFILLMENT: John 19: 34 relates how Christ's side was pierced while on the Cross, (ass a confirmation by the Roman guards that He had actually died.).

- THE PROPHECY: That the Messiah would conquer death (Psalm 16: 10; Ps. 49: 15). THE FULFILLMENT: Christ rose from the grave (Matt. 28: 1 10; Mark 16: 6 -7; Luke 24: 1 12.)
- I. THE PROPHECY: The purpose of the Messiah's time on earth would be to suffer and die as the atonement for our sin; predicted in Isaiah 53:2-7,11,12 and FULFILLED in Matt. 26-27; Mark 15:1-47; Luke 23; John18-19.
- II. These are just a few of sixty-one O.T. specific prophecies pertaining to the birth, life, betrayal, trial, torture, death, and resurrection of the Messiah, all of which were fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please note that all of these Old Testament prophecies concerning the life of the Messiah were written hundreds of years before the birth of Christ. These prophecies declared with certainty that the Messiah would be born of a virgin; born in Bethlehem of Judea; that He would be born at the time of the Roman census under the Emperor Caesar Augustus; and that He would be God Almighty Himself, coming to save the world from its sins. God did not have to predict the specific details of His Son's entrance into the world, how He would die, or His resurrection. However, God gave mankind these supernatural predictions so the world would recognize who Jesus was. And only an all-powerful and sovereign God could have arranged the events of human history in a manner that proved who His Son really was.
- III. Based on principles of sound mathematical probability, the fact that Christ fulfilled sixtyone O.T. prophecies (predictions) is solid evidence that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh.
 - a. Let's look at a mathematical analysis of the probabilities: According to Dr. Peter Stoner (Professor Emeritus of Mathematics & Astronomy at Westmont College in Santa Barbara, CA), the possibility of one man fulfilling just 8 of the O.T. prophecies concerning the Messiah would be "<u>one in one hundred quadrillion</u>"! The fact that Jesus Christ fulfilled over 60 O.T. prophecies during His life on earth makes the mathematical odds virtually impossible, by any standard of mathematical probability. It shows conclusively that Jesus was truly God in the flesh whose life supernaturally fulfilled the predictions of the coming Messiah. It also proves that the Bible itself is a book of "supernatural origin".
- IV. <u>Conclusion</u>: We are often challenged in our society on our Christian faith, being told we live by a blind faith, without any intellectual foundation. However, it is the skeptics who too often base their belief systems on what is convenient for them, rather than intellectually honest at the facts. When the "skeptics" say that the fulfillment of Biblical prophecy in the life of Christ was merely accidental, it only shows that they do not know what they are talking about. Or, perhaps they are avoiding facts because they don't want to be challenged with the reality of God Himself, due to their own pride, or a "moral issue" in their life. Whenever a person acknowledges that we have been created by a true, supernatural, holy God, we must also acknowledge that we are accountable to Him.
- V. APPLICATION: Ultimately, as Christians we can be fully confident in the intellectual foundation for our Christian "faith". Of course, we should educate ourselves concerning the historical facts in Scripture, so that we are "always be ready to give an account for the hope that is within us". (I Peter 3: 15).
- VI. MEMORY VERSE: 1 Peter 3: 15