

Evidence That Jesus Was God's Perfect Sacrifice

April 14, 2013

I, the Lord your God, am holy.

Leviticus 19:2

The only thing that will cancel out our sin and satisfy the justice scales of a holy God is a pure and holy sacrifice. In the OT the sacrificial offerings had to be pure and without defects, offered to God by holy priests. When these conditions were met, God would accept the offering as a substitute for sin.

[Jesus] is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin...He does not need to offer sacrifices every day like the other high priests...Jesus did this once for all when he sacrificed himself on the cross...[God's] Son has been made perfect forever. Hebrews 7:26-28

Signs:

How might we recognize the Messiah, the holy Lamb of God--God's acceptable sacrifice for sin?

A. John the Baptist

Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!...Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is God's Chosen One.

John 1:29-34

B. Fulfilled Messianic Prophecy

Prophecy	Propheied In	Fulfilled
1. An Israelite, a descendant of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Galatians 3:16
2. A descendant of Isaac, not Ishmael	Genesis 21:12	Luke 3:23-34
3. A descendant of Jacob, not Esau	Numbers 24:17	Luke 3:23-34
4. From the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:23-33
5. Family line of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:23-32
6. House and lineage of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23-31
7. Born in Bethlehem of Judah	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
8. Preceded by a messenger who will prepare the way	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:1-2
9. Begin his ministry in Galilee	Isaiah 9:1	Matthew 4:12-17
10. Teach in parables	Psalms 78:2	Matthew 13:34-35
11. Perform many miracles	Isaiah 35:5-6	Matthew 9:35
12. Ride into Jerusalem on a donkey	Zechariah 9:9	Luke 19:35-37
13. Appear suddenly at the temple and "clean house"	Ps. 69:9; Malachi 3:1	John 2:15-16

In one day God fulfilled no fewer than 29 specific prophecies spoken at least 500 years earlier.

1. Will be betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	Matthew 26:49
2. Price of his betrayal will be 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15
3. Betrayal money will be cast to the floor of the temple	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
4. Betrayal money will be used to buy the potter's field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:7
5. Forsaken and deserted by his disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50
6. Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:59-60
7. Silent before his accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12

8. Wounded and bruised	Isaiah 53:5	Matthew 27:26
9. Hated without a cause	Psalms 69:4	John 15:25
10. Struck and spit on	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
11. Mocked, ridiculed, and rejected	Isaiah 53:3	Matthew 27:27-31
12. Collapse from weakness	Psalms 109:24-25	Luke 23:26
13. Taunted with specific words	Psalms 22:6-8	Matthew 27:39-43
14. People will shake their heads at him	Psalms 109:25	Matthew 27:39
15. People will stare at him	Psalms 22:17	Luke 23:35
16. Executed among sinners	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
17. Hands and feet will be pierced	Psalms 22:16	Luke 23:33
18. Will pray for his persecutors	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:24
19. Friends and family will stand afar off and watch	Psalms 38:11	Luke 23:49
20. Garments will be divided up by casting lots	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24
21. Will thirst	Psalms 69:21	John 19:28
22. Will be given gall and vinegar	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
23. Will commit himself to God	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46
24. Bones will be left unbroken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:33
25. Heart will rupture	Psalms 22:14	John 19:34
26. Side will be pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
27. Darkness will cover the land at midday	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
28. Will be buried in a rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
29. Will die 483 years after declaration to rebuild temple	Daniel 9:24	Historical evidence

A final testimony that Jesus was God's Perfect Sacrifice

1. On the third day he will be raised from the dead	Psalms 16:10	Acts 2:31
2. Will ascend to heaven	Psalms 68:18	Acts 1:9
3. Will be seated at the right hand of God	Psalms 110:1	Hebrews 1:3

What extraordinary lengths God went to in order to help us identify and recognize his only begotten Son! Jesus fulfilled 60 major Old Testament prophecies (with about 270 additional ramifications), all of which were made at least 400 years or more before his birth. This makes a compelling case for Jesus being the one and only person to "take away the sin of the world."

C. The Probability Factor

The probability of just *eight* of these prophecies being fulfilled in one person is 1 in 10¹⁷ (that's 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000). (From the science of statistics and probability by Professor Peter W. Stoner, in an analysis that was reviewed and pronounced sound by the American Scientific Affiliation.)

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. John 1:14

God gave us these prophecies so we could be confident in the truth that Jesus truly is God's perfect atonement for our sins. Because of Christ's death on the cross we can be set free--forgiven--of the wages of death, and have eternal life with God. That truth causes us to join with a million angels as they sing in a loud voice,

Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! *Revelation 5:12*