

EXPLORATION: BIBLE

By Chip Thompson

TRUTH CLAIM #7: ONLY THE BIBLE IDENTIFIES THE MESSIAH FROM ANCIENT TIMES

In past Expedition Bible articles, we discussed the awesomeness of Yahweh, the God of the Bible. He is the only true God, the only God who saves!

In Genesis 3:15, God promised that a descendant of Eve, her “Seed,” would one day crush the head of mankind’s mortal enemy, “the Serpent,” who is Satan.

Of the billions of people who have lived on earth, how are we to identify “the Seed” that was promised to Eve? The Bible answers that question in precise detail.

In 2,000 BC God made a promise to Abraham. God said, “In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.” The first clue is that the Messiah, the Savior, would be a descendant of Abraham.

Abraham, however, had two sons, Ishmael and then Isaac. But in Genesis 12:21, God told Abraham, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.”

Isaac also had two sons, Jacob and Esau. Genesis 28:14 continues the promise through Jacob’s lineage. God told Jacob, “...In your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Jacob had 12 sons, and Genesis 49:8-12 makes a distinction between one of them, Judah, and his brothers. Jacob prophesied, “Judah, you are he whom your brothers shall praise... Your father’s children shall bow down before you... The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes.”

Shiloh is a biblical term for the Messiah.

In Numbers 24:17 we find a prophecy made by a pagan prophet named Balaam, who said, “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel.”

This statement is profound in that this future seed of Jacob is described as both a “Star” and “Scepter.” In ancient times stars were viewed as deities/gods and scepters identified kings. Balaam describes this seed of Jacob as a God King.

In 1,000 BC, in Bethlehem, the shepherd boy David, of the tribe of Judah, was anointed to be King of Israel. When David later became king, God told him, “Your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever” (2 Samuel 7:16). One of David’s descendants would be the promised “Seed” that would reign eternally as Israel’s God King.

The prophet Micah tells us where this child would be born, “But you Bethlehem Ephratha, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting” (Micah 5:2).

In the City of David, the village of Bethlehem, the eternal God King would one day be born.

Isaiah says this future “Child” would be born of a “virgin” (Isaiah 7:14). When, Isaiah describes the child, he says, “For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).

Of the billions of people who have lived on earth, “the Seed” would be a descendant of a man named Abraham, through his son Isaac, through his son Jacob, through his

**Bowing low before entering the place where
God humbled himself to become a man.**



The entrance to the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem.

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Two thousand years ago, the promised “Seed,” the God King, Jesus, was born in this shepherd’s cave in Bethlehem.

son Judah, in the lineage of King David, born in the small village of Bethlehem. This narrows the field to one man, who was born 2,000 years ago. The promised “Seed,” the Messiah, is Jesus.