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Meeker Christian Church October 2, 2022 Romans Series #2

We established last week from the first verse of the epistle to the Romans that the gospel is the good news about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for the salvation of all mankind who hear the gospel, believe the message, repent of their sin, and follow through with baptism. That was all a part of Romans 1:1 *Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God-*

Meanwhile the significant theme of today's second verse is that God had long ago started instructing the leaders of the nation of Israel as to the promise and inevitability of a Savior coming to earth. That Savior would be the only possible entity of creation that could take on the sins of mankind before, during and as long as there are believers on this corrupted planet earth. That Savior is none other than the very essence of God Himself coming through the immaculate, miraculous, virgin birth and remaining fully God, while being fully man, our Savior Jesus Christ. That leads to Paul's next comment in Romans 1:2 *the gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in Holy scriptures 3a regarding His son,..*

1:2 the gospel he (God) promised beforehand through His prophets Over 300 prophetic promises in the Old Testament are about the good news of the coming of the Messiah Jesus Christ. And the fulfillment of those prophetic promises in the incarnation, life, death, resurrection of Jesus who is now personified, serving with God on the throne of heaven.

Here is just a small sample of those prophetic promises:

1. Prophecy: Jesus will come from the line of Abraham. Keep in mind that Abraham lived some 2,000 years before Jesus came to earth.

Prophecy Genesis 12:3 where God was speaking directly to Abraham: *I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.*

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Fulfilled: Matthew 1:1 *A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ the son of David, the son of Abraham.* The term “the son of” means in the lineage of, or an ancestor of.

2. Prophecy: Jesus’ mother will be a virgin, Isaiah lived 750 years before the birth of Jesus.

Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14 *Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.*

Fulfilled: Matthew 1:18–23. **18** *This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit.* **19** *Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.* **20** *But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. **21** She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”* **22** *All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: **23** “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”).*

3. Prophecy: Jesus will enter the temple. This is important because the temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and was never rebuilt. Malachi wrote 450 years before the fulfillment.

Prophecy: Malachi 3:1 *“I will send my Messenger, who will prepare the way before Me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to His temple; the Messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.*

Fulfilled: Luke 2:25–27. *Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him. **26** It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die*

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before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

4. Prophecy: Jesus will live a perfect life, die by crucifixion, resurrect from death, ascend into heaven, and sit at the right hand of God.

Prophecy: Psalm 22:16 *Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet;* Isaiah 53:10–11 *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. 11 After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

Fulfilled: 1 Peter 2:22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." Luke 23:33; *When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him there, along with the criminals—one on his right, the other on his left.*

Acts 1:9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. Hebrews 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Other prophecies you would readily recognize have to do with Jesus being

- Born in town of Bethlehem
- Jesus will be called out of Egypt.
- Jesus will be a member of the tribe of Judah.
- Jesus will be from the lineage of King David.
- Jesus' birth will be accompanied with great suffering and sorrow. (2 years old and younger ordered killed by King Herod)
- Jesus will give mankind a chance to be saved from their sins

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And there are hundreds more similar prophetic promises recorded in the Old Testament and their fulfillment documented in the New Testament.

Lee Stroble was born January 25, 1952 and became a renowned atheist. Eventually he was challenged and accepted the challenge to study the prophecies of the Old Testament regarding the coming of Jesus and investigate and record their fulfillment. What he discovered was that without exception every prophecy he could find or that was shown to him from the Old Testament could be documented as fulfilled. The result was he became a Christian and has been one of the really effective proclaimers of the gospel for many years and continues to do so today.

Josh McDowell's book released in 1999 Evidence That Demands a Verdict and its followup later Evidence That Demands A Verdict II are excellent resources for persons honestly seeking answers based on evidence from all sorts of sources to the validity and veracity of the truth revealed through Holy Bible.

Serious study of God's word brings doubters to faith. Those who love science and are curious about religion love the book "Science Speaks." In their book, Peter Stoner and Robert Newman discuss the statistical improbability of one man, whether accidentally or deliberately, fulfilling just eight of those 300 plus prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Stoner presents a scenario that illustrates the magnitude of such odds they said are to be 10 to the 17th power. Or to illustrate what that means, suppose that we take 10 to 17 power silver dollars and lay them over the state of Texas. They would cover all of the state two feet deep in silver dollars. Now mark just one of those silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up only one silver dollar and it would be the marked one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing just eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man. That is the probability that just 8 of the Old testament prophecies could

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have resulted if the Old Testament writers had wrote using their own wisdom without God's inspiration.

The mathematical improbability of just eight fulfilled prophesies much less 300 stands as evidence to Jesus as the is Messiah, fully man and fully God at the same time! But somehow satan has manipulated science and logic to ignore truth documented by mathematics, science, and every detail of creation around us. We believers can attest to the validity of those fulfilled Prophetic promises by the experiences of Jesus' love and mercy in our lives.

Back to our verse: Romans 1:2 *the gospel he promised beforehand through His prophets in Holy scriptures 3a regarding His son,*

That reference to Holy scriptures was the message of the July 24th sermon about the Bible. That Bible in your hands contains the Old and New Testament scriptures. The prophecies we spoke of a few minutes ago were inspired by God to earthly writers and then recorded in the Old Testament. Their fulfillment is recorded in the New Testament as well as a host of other documents and through scientific and archaeological evidences and testimonies of believers throughout the ages.

Most of the New Testament including all of the Apostle Paul's writings are testimonies of first century eye witness accounts and validate these Holy Scriptures. The writer of Romans, the apostle Paul, had access to the Old Testament record, but may have had very limited access to the writings of the earlier New Testament writers: 2 Timothy 4:13 *When you come, **bring** the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*

Paul was inspired to call the record of scriptures Holy which interpreted means dedicated or consecrated to God. The Bible is consecrated by and dedicated to God. The synonyms for the word "Holy" help to embed in our minds the meaning and significance of the term "Holy scriptures" as being sacred, consecrated, hallowed,

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sanctified, venerated, revered, revered, divine, religious, blessed, dedicated.

Note just how serious Paul considered the “Holy scriptures” and the practical reality of their teaching: 1 Timothy 3:16 New King James Version **16** *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.*

The evil spirit inspired and directed Bible haters around the world are at work killing believers because of the believes faith in God as revealed to them by the Holy Bible:

Rev 6:9 *When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.* NIV

The Bible Haters fear the Bible above everything because it is our source of victory in this life and eternity as seen in these two Bible verses:

Heb 4:12-13 *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. 13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.* NIV

Rom 10:9-10 *That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* NIV

No, it is not the paper and ink that is to be revered, nor an expensive binding, or other additions, but the person that is revealed through it is to be revered!

Acts 13:46 *46 Then Paul and Barnabas answered them boldly: "We had to speak the **word of God** to you first. Since you reject it and do not consider yourselves worthy of eternal life, we now turn to the Gentiles.* NIV

1 Thess 4:8 *Therefore, he who rejects **this instruction** does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.* NIV

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There are 58 references in the KJV of “thy word.” Perhaps the most well-known is from the pen of the Psalmist: Ps 119:105 *Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.* KJV

I heard a quote this week that makes a perfect invitation: “Are you living on the earth on the way to dying, or are you dying on earth on the way to living? Think about that as we sing our invitation hymn. If you find yourself living on earth on the way to dying, then you need to come talk with me and become a believer dying on earth on the way to living... our invitation hymn There is Power in the Blood page 330