

What was the inscription on the cross?

John: 19:16-22

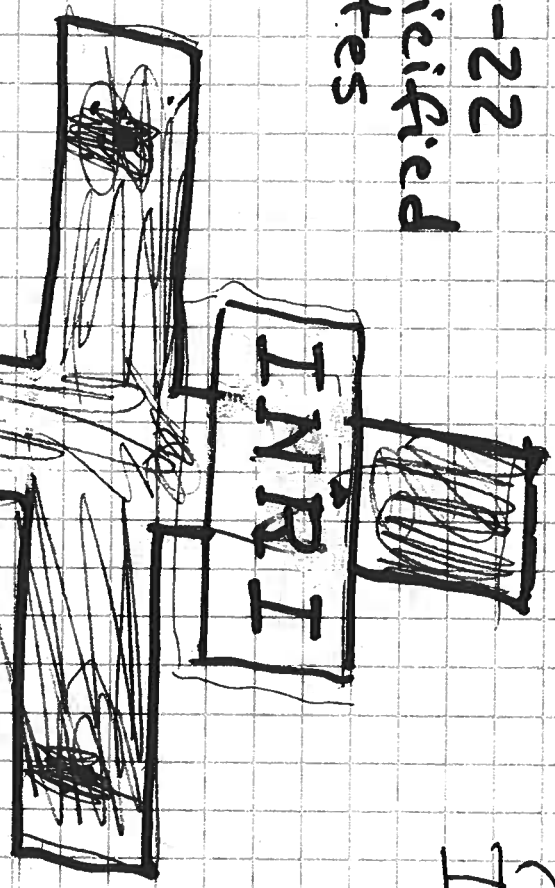
Jesus is crucified & Pilate writes inscription.

Mt 27:37
Lk 23:38
Jn 19:19
Mk 15:26

different but accurate & true.

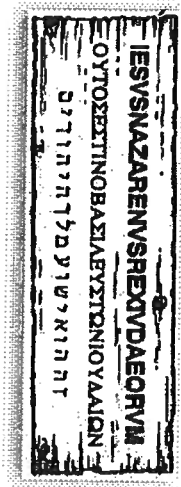
Gen. 2:7... the LORD God formed man.

EX. 20:2 I AM the LORD your God. God reveals His name



Jesus, King
INRI
Nazareth } Jesus.

Latin: Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews



Greek
Hebrew

YWHY
YAHWEY

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth..."

Genesis 1:1

The Bible gives us this account of where we come from, the first cause, God created.

Hebrews 1:2 ... In these last days God speaks to us by His Son who is heir of all things and who made the universe.

In addition God (the Father) placed all things under His feet, and appointed him head of the church, which is the body of Christ. Ephesians 1:22

Jesus has big feet.

We're told that upon His resurrection and ascension, God "put all things in subjection under His feet" (1 Cor. 15:27). That's a strange phrase: feet are not the most sanitary of things. So why does God put everything under a pair of them? What does this phrase even mean?

KING OF CREATION

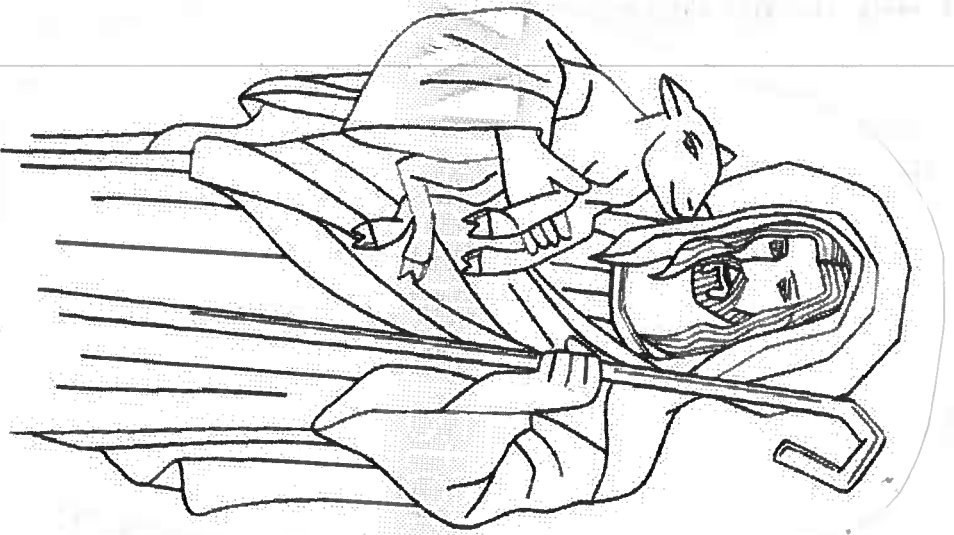
"Under his feet" has two meanings in the Old Testament. First, it means "authority over creation." Marveling in Psalm 8, for example, that God has responsibility to care for His world, David sings, "What is man that You take thought of him, and the son of man that You care for him?... You make him to rule over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet" (Ps. 8:4; Ps. 8:6).

Psalm 110:2-3

Heb. 2:8-9

Psalm 8:6

Jesus claims to be the
door and the Good Shepherd



God Himself will be the Good Shepherd
Ezek. 34:11-16

Gospel of John 10:

7 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.

8 All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.

9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

11 I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

12 But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep.

13 The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall

Mat 11:28 Come unto me
all you who are heavy burdened
and I will give you rest....

the Shepherds of Israel

the Good

Ezekiel 43:11-16, 23-24
 in the Lord God says
 I will be their shepherd!

Zechariah 11:7-14

two broken staves
 Favor & Unity

broken covenant

Able, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob,
 Moses, Isaiah, Amos, David,

John 10:9-14 Jesus says
 I am the good shepherd...

the Bad

Ezekiel 43:1-6 & 17-19



the sheep traders
 the false shepherds
 of Israel, sold Jesus
 for 30 pieces of
 silver.

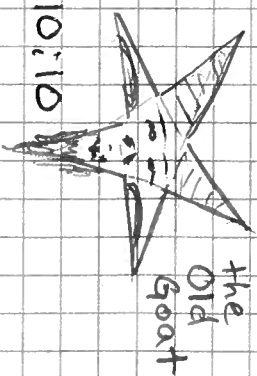
Jeremiah 23:1-2 Woe!

Satan, the thief comes
 only to steal, kill & destroy

the Ugly

Zechariah 11:16-17
 behold, another
 shepherd who deserts
 the flock. Woe to
 the worthless shepherd!

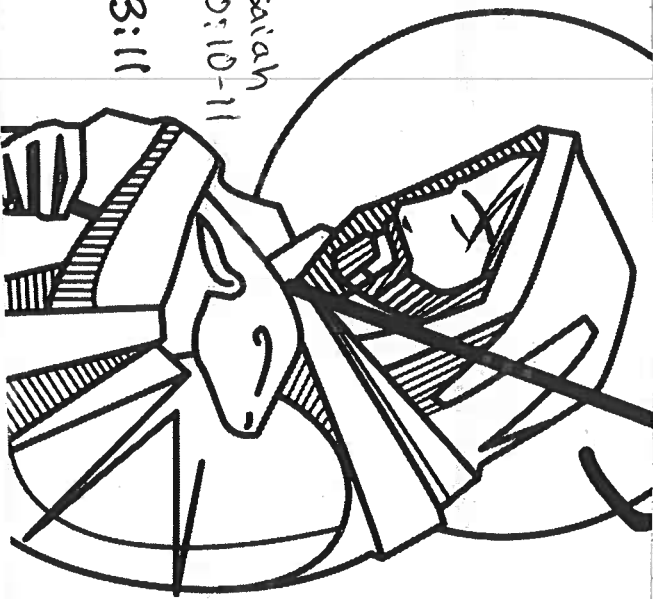
the Anti Christ



In 10:10

Revelation 12:17 & 17
 the dragon was
 furious and went to
 make war...

John 8:44
 children of
 the devil.



Isaiah
 40:10-11

63:11

John 10:27 Jesus says
 My sheep hear my voice
 I know them & they follow
 me. He gives us eternal
 life & He holds us in
 His hand.

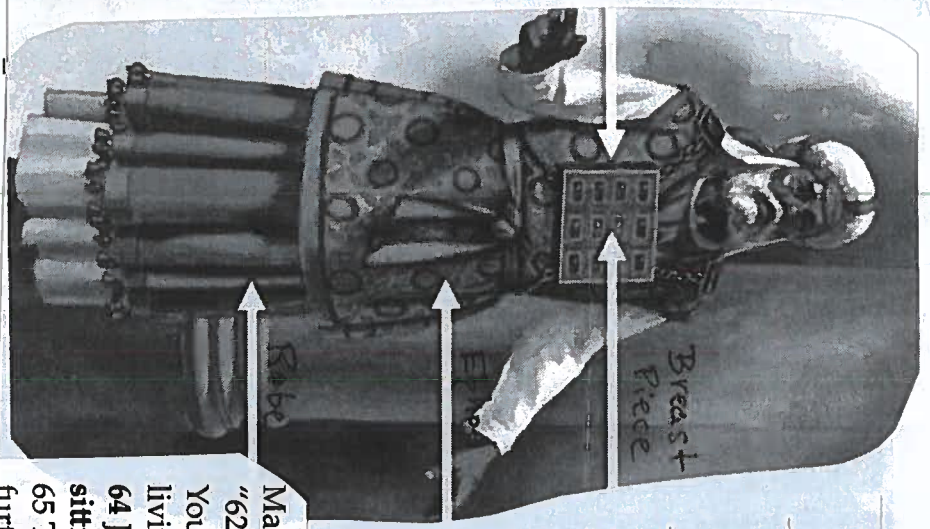
Psalms 23 the Lord is my shepherd
 Mt 25:31-33 separate the sheep from
 the goats.

ND 8/22/23

... one has died for all, therefore all have died" II Cor 5:14
Read II Cor. 5:14-18 What does it regard according to the flesh mean?

Compare the 1st Adam with the last Adam. I Cor 15:45-52
Were you baptized into Christ's life or death? Rom 6:3-8

In Israel the High Priest mediated between God & man.
But in Jesus's day the Priesthood was badly corrupted,
they hated Jesus without cause. (Jn 15:25)
H.P. Caiaphus unknowingly prophesied that Jesus
would die for the nation, even though he had blasphemed
against the Holy Spirit. John 11:47-52, Mt 12:22-32



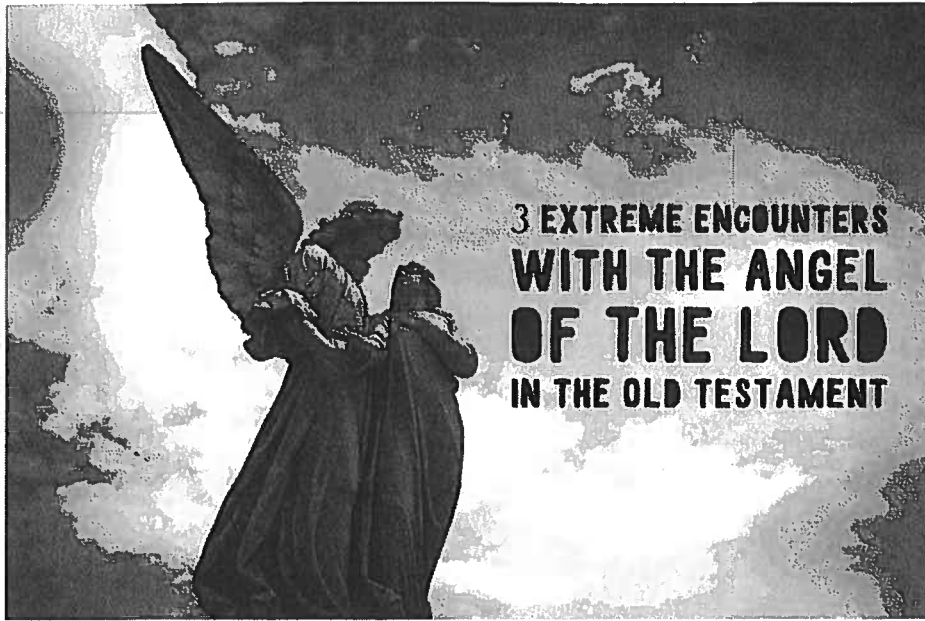
Matthew 26:62-65 Jesus arrested, tried, convicted, H.P. tears robe (Ex. 28:31-32)
"62 And the high priest arose and said to Him, "Do You answer nothing? What is it these men testify against You?" 63 But Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"
64 Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven."
65 THEN THE HIGH PRIEST TORE HIS CLOTHES [uh oh] saying, "He has spoken blasphemy! What further need do we have of witnesses? Look, now you have heard His blasphemy! 66 What do you think?"

Yom Kippur.

In ancient Israel, as you know, the High Priest went into the Holy of Holies once a year and offered a sacrifice for all the people. This day is known as "Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement." If he did everything right and his sacrifice was accepted by God, the whole nation was accepted. They'd have their sins covered for the next twelve months, have bumper crops, healthy babies, and enjoy all the blessings of God for the year ahead.

But...if his sacrifice was not accepted, the whole nation was rejected. Why? Because God works through headships and leaderships. As the high priest goes, so goes the nation. If he is accepted but the nation is bad, they are still accepted. The opposite was also true. If the high priest was bad, but the nation was good, God rejected the whole nation. Their right standing with God was completely reliant on their high priest.

Jesus is our
Great High Priest
Heb. 4:14-16



Who was the Angel of the Lord?

Old Testament appearances of Christ.

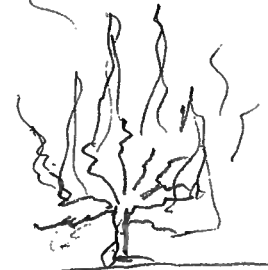
Jesus got close to us so we could get close to God.

Reference is made to "the Angel of the LORD" more than sixty times in the Old Testament, with a few of those as "the Angel of God." What can we know from these passages about "the Angel of the LORD"? Let's take just a few notes.

The first time "the Angel of the LORD" is found in Scripture is in conversation with Hagar in Genesis 6. "The Angel of the LORD said to her, 'I will multiply your descendents exceedingly...' (16:10). Hagar's reaction was to call "the name of the LORD who spoke to her, You-Are-the-God-Who-Sees" (16:13). Was "the Angel of the LORD" really God Himself? Look in the next chapter (Gen. 17) at a conversation between Abraham and God. "The LORD appeared to Abraham and said to him, 'I am Almighty God'" (17:1). "Then God said: 'And as for Ishmael...I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly'" (17:20). The very thing that "the Angel of the LORD" promised to do for Ishmael (16:10) is the very same thing that Jehovah promised to do for Ishmael (17:20). "The Angel of the Lord" is deity.

Note just a few other brief examples. "The Angel of the Lord appeared" to Moses in the burning bush (Ex. 3:2), but for the next two chapters He is called "God" (23 times), "LORD" (23 times) and "I AM" (3:14). (Note that the New Testament teaches that Jesus is "God," "LORD" and "I AM" [Heb. 1:8-10; John 1:1-14; 8:58].) "The Angel of God...went before" and protected Israel by "the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night" (Ex. 14:19-20; 13:21-22), but Exodus 13:21 says it was Jehovah, the LORD who "went before them." (Note that the New Testament teaches that it was Jesus who went with them [1 Cor. 10:1-4].) One final example (of the dozens that could be examined) is in Joshua 5-6. This time, "the Commander of the LORD'S army" stood before Joshua and commanded him to do the exact same thing (i.e., "Take your sandal off your foot, for the place where you stand is holy") that "the Angel of the LORD" commanded Moses to do (Josh. 5:15; cf. Ex. 3:2-5), but two verses later the text says it was "the LORD" speaking to Joshua (6:2). "Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped" Him (5:14), and his worship was proper and accepted, unlike the worship of angels (cf. Col. 2:18; Rev. 22:8-9). (Note that the New Testament teaches that Jesus is the "Commander" [Matt. 17:5] and He is to be worshiped [Matt. 4:10; 14:33; Phil. 2:10-11; Rev. 5:12-13]).

The extensive evidence lends credible and substantial support to the conclusion that "the Angel of the Lord" (or "the Angel of God" or "the Angel of His Presence") was, in fact, deity and even pre-incarnate appearances and interactions of the Christ to man. Interestingly, Manoah asked "the Angel of the Lord" for His name, and "the Angel of the Lord" said, "Why do you ask My name, seeing it is wonderful" (Judg. 13:17-18). Do you know anyone else whose name is "Wonderful" (cf. Isa. 9:6-7)? What a thrilling study!



Moses @ the Burning Bush

Israel led by a pillar of cloud & fire!

NB 5/9/2023

excerpts from a sermon by Dr. S. M. Lockridge
"My King"

The Bible says my King is a seven-way King:
He's the King of Israel - that's a national King.

He's the King of Righteousness.
He's the King of the Ages.
He's the King of Heaven.
He's the King of Glory.
He's the King of kings and He's the Lord of lords.
That's my King.
Well, I wonder do you know Him.

He's the King of the Jews - that's a racial King.



He is the key, He's the key to knowledge.
He's the wellspring of wisdom.
He's the doorway of deliverance.
He's the pathway of peace.
He's the roadway of righteousness.
He's the highway of holiness.
He's the gateway of glory.
Do you know Him?

He's enduringly strong.
He's entirely sincere.
He's eternally steadfast.
He's immortally graceful.
He's imperially powerful.
He's impartially merciful.
Do you know Him?

Well, His office is manifold.
His promise is sure.
His life is matchless.
His goodness is limitless.
His mercy is everlasting.
His love never changes.
His Word is enough.
His grace is sufficient.
His reign is righteous and
His yoke is easy and
His burden is light.

He delivers the captive.
He defends the feeble.
He blesses the young.
He serves the unfortunate.
He regards the aged.
He rewards the diligent.
And He beautifies the meek.
I wonder if you know Him?

He's God's Son.
He's the sinner's Saviour.
He's the centrepiece of civilisation.
He stands in the solitude of himself.
He's august and He's unique.
He's unparalleled, He's unprecedented.
He is the loftiest idea in literature.
He's the highest personality in philosophy.
He is the supreme problem in higher criticism.
He's the fundamental doctrine of true theology.
He is the core and the necessity for spiritual religion.
He's the miracle of the age, He's... yes He is.

He's the only one qualified to be an all-sufficient Saviour.
I wonder if you know him today?
He supplies strength for the weak.
He's available for the tempted and the tried.
He sympathises and He saves.
He strengthens and sustains.
He guards and He guides.
He heals the sick.
He cleansed the lepers.
He forgives sinners.
He discharges debtors.

Herod couldn't kill Him.
Death couldn't handle Him and
the grave couldn't hold Him. Yeah !
THAT'S MY KING !
THAT'S MY KING ! YEAH !

Amen !
GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY ! AMEN ! AMEN !
Dr. S. M. Lockridge, from Southern California
sermon 1976

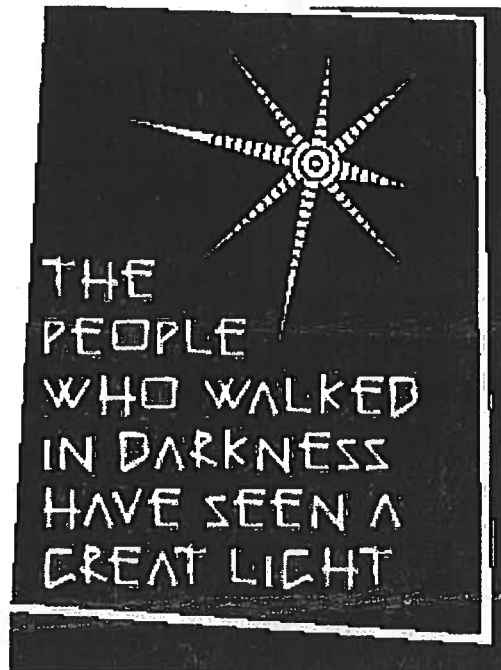
Have you seen Jesus?

John 9: Jesus heals a man born blind. He shares testimony.

I once was blind but now I see! Jn 9:25
The former blind man's testimony about Jesus develops: 1) the man Jesus 9:11 2) prophet 9:17
3) Healer 9:30 4) Worshiper of God 9:31 5) Man from God 9:32
6) Jesus is Lord 9:38

Isaiah 9:2
& Mt 4:16
tell of a great
light that
shines in the
darkness

Jesus is the
light that shines
in the darkness
He is the true light
who give light to all.
Jn 1:4-9



Jesus claims
to be the light
of the world, Jn 9:5

Mt 5:14-16
& Lk 11:33-36
We can be
children of light
& Christ's light
will shine through
us.

Moses saw the Light
Hebrews 11:27

You can be a child of God if you receive
Him & believe in His name Jn 1:12-13

JESUS FAMILY TREE

Matthew Chapter 1:
traces Joseph's line
• legal, adopted father

Luke Chapter 3:
traces Mary's line,
Heli was closest male
relative to Jesus

Rev. 5:5... the Lion
of Judah has overcome...

Galatians 4:4 - When the
fullness of time was come
God sent His Son, born of a
woman

Isaiah 7:14... a virgin will bear
a son, called Immanuel (God w/ us)

Genealogies
were kept in the
Jewish Temple
records until
~70 AD when Gen. *
Titus burn't the
Temple & destroyed
everything.

Gen 49:10
the scepter will not
depart from Judah
not a lawgiver till
Shiloh come. (He who's
it is)

He shall baptise you w/
the Holy Ghost & fire!
Mat 3:11

N. Skeletons in Jesus's Closet?



Why these women

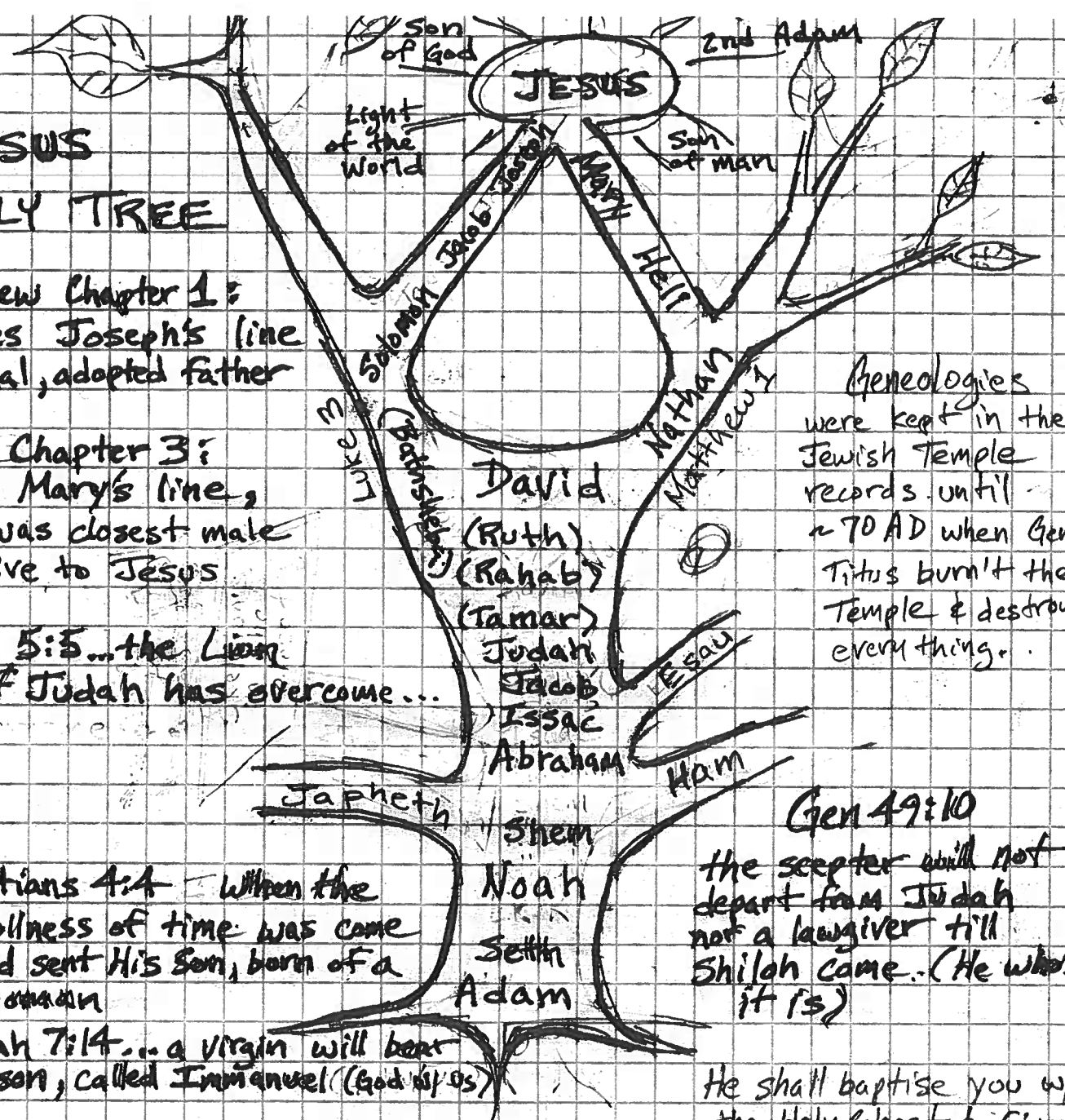
Tamar: pretended to be prostitute, seduced father in law Judah
birthed Perez.

Rahab: prostitute of Jericho, married Salmon, mother
of Boaz

Ruth: Moabite (ancient enemy of Israel) married Boaz
Grandmother of King David

Bathsheba: committed adultery w/ David, mother of
Solomon.

A worthy saying "Christ Jesus came into the
world to save sinners ..." Timothy 1:15



Summary of Old Testament Prophecy Fulfilled by Jesus

Speaking of puzzle pieces, let's conclude this blog post with a list of Old Testament prophecy that you can read for yourself. This exercise will be so worth the investment of your time, if you truly want to confirm what Scripture says. To have a Bible that you never open completely defeats the purpose of God giving His Word to us, right? Treat the Bible as your study guide, not a relic so sacred that it can't be opened — or marked up! *God is surely okay with your highlighting any passages that speak to you, in whatever hue of highlighter you choose!*

His Nativity and Early Years

of 9 A seed; Gen 3:15, A virgin birth, Isa 7:14,

12/6/2022, 12:10 PM

The place: Numbers 24:17, 19; Micah 5:2

Adoration by Magi: Psalm 72:10, 15; Isaiah 60: 3, 6

His Mission and Office

Mission: Genesis 12:3; 49:10; Numbers 24:19; Deuteronomy 18:18-19; Psalm 21:1; Isaiah 59:20; Jeremiah 33:16

Prophet like Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15

Conversion of Gentiles: Isaiah 11:10; Deuteronomy 32:43; Psalms 18:49; 19:4; 117:1; Isaiah 42:1; 45:23; 49:6; Hosea 1:10; 2:23; Joel 2:32

Ministry in Galilee: Isaiah 9:1-2

Preaching: Psalms 2:7; 78:2; Isaiah 2:3; 61:1; Micah 4:2

His Passion

Rejection by Jews and Gentiles: Psalms 2:1; 22:12; 41:5; 56:5; 69:8; 118:22-23; Isaiah 6:9-10; 8:14; 29:13; 53:1; 65:2

Persecution: Psalms 22:6; 35:7, 12; 56:5; 71:10; 109:2; Isaiah 49:7; 53:3

Triumphal entry: Psalms 8:2; 118:25-26; Zechariah 9:9

Betrayal by friend: Psalms 41:9; 55:13; Zechariah 13:6

False accusation: Psalms 2:1-2; 27:12; 35:11; 109:2

Silence under accusation: Psalm 38:13; Isaiah 53:7

Mocking: Psalms 22:7-8, 16; 109:25

His Resurrection

Psalms 2:7; 16:8-10; 30:3; 41:10; 118:17

His Ascension

Psalms 16:11; 24:7; 68:18; 110:1; 118:19

His Second Advent

Psalm 50:3-6; Isaiah 9:6-7; 66:18; Daniel 7:13-14; Zechariah 12:10; 14:4-8

His Universal, Everlasting Dominion

1 Chronicles 17:11-14; Psalms 2:6-8; 8:6; 45:6; 7; 72:8; 110:1-3; Isaiah 9:7; Daniel 7:14

the Resurrection of Jesus Christ

a perfect life lived, a perfect sacrifice given,
God's perfect plan from the beginning.

1 Peter 1:19 & Rev. 13:8.

Psalm 16:10 God's Holy One...



The resurrection confirmed what Jesus said was true; truly the Son of God, who conquered death, and reigns as Lord of all at the right hand of the Father. Romans 1:4, 4:25, Rev. 1:5, 17-18

Why is it so important? 1 Cor 15

Without it \Rightarrow death, defeat, disillusion
: Luke 24:21

With it \Rightarrow hope, life, & purpose
II Cor. 5:14-21

Jesus said "I will destroy this temple & rebuild it in 3 days." John 2:19-21

Our hope
of glory

Phil 3:20-21 transformed

1 Jn 3:2 we will be like Him!

1 Cor 15:49 ... our new bodies, like the man from heaven

BEYOND ALL QUESTION

The Mystery of Godliness is GREAT

1 Timothy 3:16

1. God was manifest in the flesh
2. He was justified in the Spirit
3. He was seen of angels
4. He was preached unto the Gentiles
5. He was believed on in the world
6. He was received up into glory

Knowing-Jesus.com

God in the flesh

1) John 1:1-5, 14.

1 John 1:1-4, Phil 2:5-6

Immanuel God w/ us

Isa 7:14, 9:6

Mt 1:22-23

→ 2) Justified

• baptism Mt 3:16, Jn 1:32

• cast out demons Mt 12:28

• signs & wonders Jn 15:26

16:13-14, Heb 2:4

• resurrection Rom 1:3-4

3) Angels saw Him & ministered to Him Luke 3:13, Mt 4:11

4) Non Jews heard about Him. Mt 28:19, Mk 16:15

5) The whole world believed in Him. Acts 2:41-42, 4:4, 13:43-49

6) Jesus was raised in glory. Dan 7:13-14, Acts 1:9-11, Mk 16:19

Those who believe in Christ will be with him in glory

Do this: 2 Phil 2:14-16

1/24/25/23

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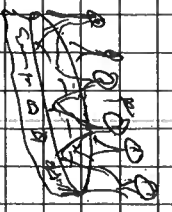
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Who is this King of Glory?

Psalms 24:8 or we can ask "Who is God?"

Psalms 22, 23 & 24 is a trilogy (a series of three writings that are closely connected and develop a single theme).

Past Psalm 22 the Good Shepherd gives His life for the sheep. 22:31 He has done it!
John 11:29 behold the L.O.S. Rom 12:11 they overcome by the blood of the Lamb.
Present Psalm 23 the good shepherd watches over us, guides and protects us.

Future Psalm 24 the righteous King sets up His Kingdom and invites us in.
verse 1 & 2: Who owns it all? Who created it?

verse 3: What is the bill of the Lamb? & the Holy place?

verse 4: Who can go up? it answered here. Rom 3:10, Rom 14:1-3, 5:1-3

verse 5 & 6: What is the reward for those who seek the Lord?

verse 7-10 The great city of God is ready to receive the King of Glory.

God's glory is clear for all to see. Habakkuk 2:14 the earth is full...

Psalm 19:1 even the heavens declare the glory of God.

We have been redeemed through the blood... Colossians 1:12-19

Who is God?

M.D. Feb 28, 2023

~~19:00~~
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M.D. Feb 28, 2023

A newborn King

Prophecies about a Messiah
From Bethlehem
Micah 4:7-8, 5:2

A descendant
of ~~King~~ David
Shepherd, Prophet
Priest, & King

Psm 1:2

119:97, 63:6



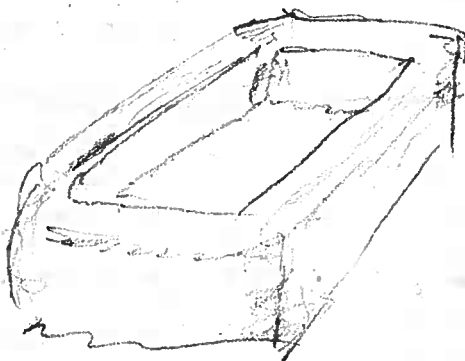
A forerunner
Luke 1:76

Mary told
she would birth
Son of God
Luke 1:30-35

Luke 2:11-12

A sign for
shepherds?

Swaddling clothes
lying in a manger
(a stone trough)



Mat 2:
Herod clues.

#166399387

1 Pet. 1:18
Rev. 5:6

Behold the Redeemer



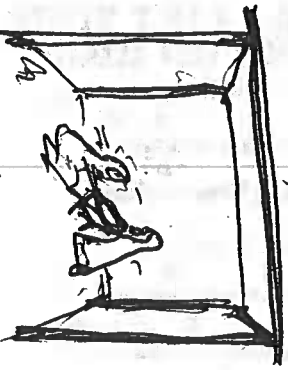


Prophecies about the Birth of Jesus Christ the Messiah

Numbers 24:17

A star out of Jacob & a scepter...

Deuteronomy 18:18 God will raise up a prophet like Moses, & will put His words into His mouth.



Bethlehem (House of Bread)

Micah 5:2

Isaiah 7:14
... The Lord will give you a sign a virgin shall bear a son, Emmanuel

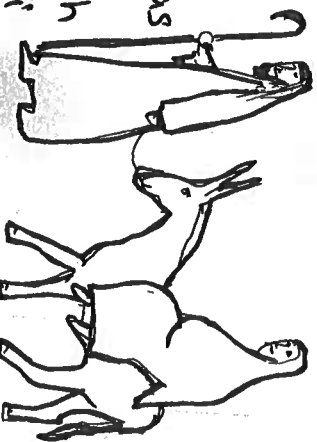
Isa 9:1 ... darkness & despair will not go on forever, yet in Galilee will be filled with glory.

Isa 9:2 The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light...

Isa 9:6 For unto us a child is born, and the government will be upon his shoulder, & His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace



Luke 2: the Christmas story. Caesar makes decree. Joseph & Mary make 75 mi trek to Bethlehem from Nazareth.



Genesis 3:15
... enmity between thy seed & her seed.
— Eve
(Satan)

Jesus came to

- crush the serpents head
 - break the curse of sin
 - set the captive free
- Luke 4:18

What do we know of

NESUS BIRTH?

Luke 2:7, 12 & 16 He was laid in a manger
Not a crib, a feeding trough, corn crib,

Symbolism: the shepherds would not be
welcome to a palace, a new barn's home
but a manger, yes they could see that.
There was no room at the Inn.

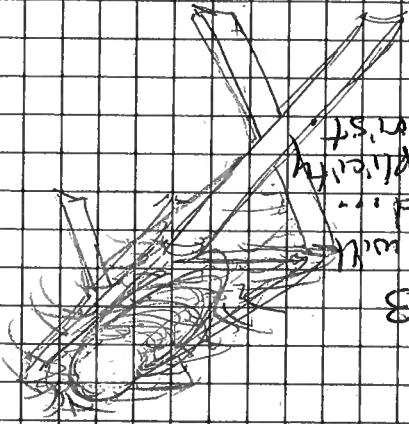
Mt 8:20 the foxes have holes & the birds nests...
but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.

II Cor 1:27-30 God has chosen the foolish things of
the world to confound the wise...

Psalms 40:6-8 Sacrifice & offerings you
did not desire...

Born in Bethlehem, City of David, House of bread
A savior Luke 2:11

II Cor 11:3 I fear you will be deceived...
from the simplicity that is Christ.
Isaiah 57: thus says the high and lofty one...
I dwell in a high and holy place, but also with the humble and contrite.



On the road to Emmaus after Jesus
was resurrected, he explains it all
Luke 24:26-34



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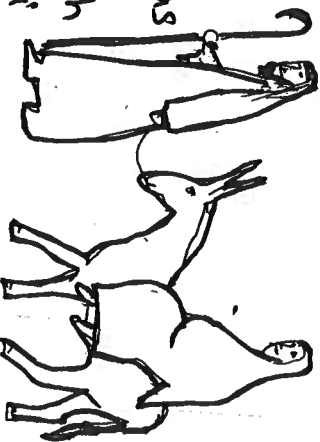
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Luke 2: the Christmas
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from Nazareth.

Hosea 11:1



Genesis 3:15
... enmity between thy seed
& her seed.
Satan
Eve

Mt 2:23 He shall be called
a Nazarene

Arabic letter N



Geneology of Jesus

The gospel of Matthew Chapter 1 traces Jesus's lineage through his legal (adopted) father Joseph, all the way to Adam the first man. Joseph's father was Jacob.

The gospel of Luke Chapter 3 follows Jesus line through Abraham all the way to Joseph the husband of Mary. Mary's father was Heli, who is the closest male relative to Jesus.

Ancient Israel was a patriarchal society where men held the power and authority along with social privilege and control of property.

- Galatians 4:4... When the fullness of the time was come, God sent his Son, made of a woman
- Isaiah 7:14 Behold the virgin will bear a son & call him Immanuel
- Gen 49:10 the scepter shall not depart from Judah nor a law giver... till Shiloh (He whose it is) come.

Skeleton's appear in the closet when we examine Matthews geneology and find some women that you might not expect.

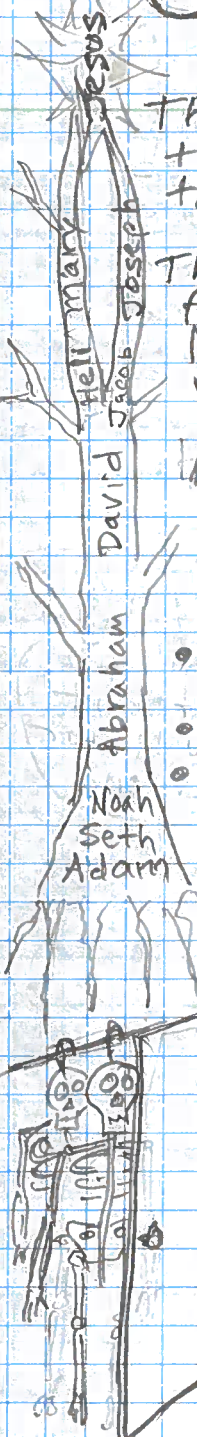
- Tamar, tricks father in law into having sex & births twins
- Rahab, a prostitute of Jericho who marries an Israelite
- Ruth a Moabite woman who is King David's great Grandmother
- Bathsheba commits adultery with King David & he has her husband killed in battle.

Why would Matthew include these woman in this geneology?

Could it be to show we are all sinners in need of God's grace and forgiveness? That we all belong to the Adams family?

In fact the men in Jesus's lineage were all flawed just like us.

Jesus fixed it though by taking our sins to the cross we just need to believe he did it for



The Christmas Prophecies

If we turn the pages of our Bibles to Micah 5:2, we'll see that out of the insignificant village of Bethlehem would come one who would rule over Israel. We also read that kings from distant shores would present Him with gifts (Ps. 72:10). You can start singing, "We three kings of Orient are ..." right about now. Besides the Magi, Jesus was, of course, recognized as the Messiah by the shepherds and even by the evil king Herod, who tried to have Him killed while He was still an infant.

As if that weren't enough, we see predictions that the Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham (Gen. 22:18) and of Jacob (Num. 24:17), from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), and a descendant of Jesse (Isa. 11:1) and David (Jer. 23:5). See the genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew for confirmation that all these predictions were fulfilled.

The ancient Scriptures say that He would be a prophet (Deut. 18:18), a priest (Ps. 110:4), and a king (Ps. 2:6). All these titles are attributed to Jesus in the pages of the New Testament. The prophets predicted that He would be preceded by a messenger (Mal. 3:1). John the Baptist showed that he clearly understood his own prophetic role when he said that he was not fit even to carry the sandals of the One who would come after him (Matt. 3:11). The Messiah would minister in Galilee (Isa. 9:1) and perform miracles (Isa. 35:5-6). He would be pierced (Zech. 12:10), and His accusers would divide His garments among themselves (Ps. 22:18). It's easy to see the fulfillment of these prophecies in the life and crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

These as well as other predictions about the Messiah were recorded many centuries before Jesus' first advent. It should be as obvious to anyone as it was to the shepherds that this baby lying in the manger was and is the chosen One of God. Many throughout history, from the original disciples to modern-day martyrs, have suffered and died because they truly believed that Jesus fulfilled these ancient prophecies.

All those with open minds should examine these predictions and decide whether it is reasonable to conclude that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the prophesied Messiah of Israel—the One who would take on Himself the sins that you and I have committed so that we might one day share the glory of heaven with Him.

God in the flesh has already "come down here" and He is due for a second visit any time. "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"

The Legend of the Candy Cane

JOHN 1:14 (KJV)

And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

The simple peppermint candy cane has come to be one of many symbols of Christmas here in America. The story is told about an old candy maker who lived years ago who loved the Christmas season as much as he loved candy and children.

One particular December as he prepared a variety of tasty treats for the children of his community, the old man wondered just what he could make that would remind them of the Lord Jesus and the true meaning of the holiday. Suddenly an idea came to mind! He worked diligently to make a stick of pure white hard candy.

"This," he thought, "will remind them that Jesus is our solid Rock."

At first he made the candy stick pure white to remind everyone that Jesus cleanses our sins and makes us white as snow, but the more he thought about it, the more of the story he decided to weave together. He added oil of peppermint to flavor the treat because it is similar to hyssop that was used in Bible times by people when they made their sacrifices to God. Then he added coloring and wove a wide red strip and three thin red stripes through the stick of hard candy to represent the blood that Jesus shed on the cross, and the fact that He was part of the Holy Trinity.

The old man was pleased with his creation, but not quite satisfied. So he formed the stick into a "J" for the first letter in the name of Jesus.

"Now this is good," he said to himself, but when he picked the candy letter up and inverted it, he discovered it was the shape of a shepherd's crook. A smile crossed his face as he said, "Yes, truly Jesus is our good Shepherd."

On Christmas morning, he hurried to church to celebrate the birth of Christ—and to share his special treat with the children. They giggled with delight as they savored their candy and heard the story the old man told.

So from that day till this, when the Christmas season comes around, you'll find candy makers busy weaving together a simple little candy that tells a big, big story. If only all lessons could be so enjoyable!

Look at the Candy Cane—

What do you see?

Stripes that are red like the blood shed for me.

White is for my Savior who's sinless and pure!

"J" is for Jesus, my Lord, that's for sure.

Turn it around and a staff you will see—

Jesus, my Shepherd, was born for me!

—Author Unknown

John 10:11

I Am the Good Shepherd

... I give my life
for the sheep.

