

# 12 Points That Show...

- If God exists, **MIRACLES ARE POSSIBLE.**
- Miracles performed in connection with a truth claim confirm the truth of God through a messenger from God.
- The New Testament is **Historically Reliable.**



# What We've Learned

- Written within the EYEWITNESSES' LIFETIME.
- Documents have been WELL COPIED.
- The writers were RELIABLE.
- Repeatedly CONFIRMED BY OUTSIDE SOURCES.
- Far more SOLID EVIDENCE for the NEW TESTAMENT than ANY other ancient document.

# 12 Points That Show...

- *Jesus Claimed To Be God*
- *Jesus Proved To Be God*

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

1. Jesus Claimed to Be the Great "I AM" of Exodus 3:14

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

Moses said to God, "Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is His name?' Then what shall I tell them?"

God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Exodus 3:13-14 (NIV)

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

1. Jesus Claimed to Be the Great “**I AM**” of Exodus 3:14
  - A. Told the Jews “**I AM**”

## John 8:56-58 (NIV)

Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My day; he saw it and was glad." "You are not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to Him, "and You have *seen* Abraham!"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "before Abraham was born, **I AM!**"

## John 8:59 (NIV)

At this, they picked up stones to stone Him, but Jesus hid himself, slipping away from the temple grounds.

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

1. Jesus Claimed to Be the Great "I AM" of Exodus 3:14
  - A. Told the Jews "I AM"
  - B. Told Jewish officials, soldiers, chief priests "I AM"

Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to Him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?" **John 18:4**  
**(NIV)**

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth." Jesus said to them, "**I AM** (He)."

Judas, who betrayed Him, was standing with them.

**John 18:5 (ESV)**

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

1. Jesus Claimed to Be the Great "I AM" of Exodus 3:14

When Jesus said, "**I AM** (He)," they drew back and fell to the ground.

**John 18:6 (NIV)**

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

1. Jesus Claimed to Be the Great "I AM" of Exodus 3:14.

Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." "I told you that **I AM** (He)," Jesus answered. "If you are looking for me, then let these men go." **John 18:7-8 (NIV)**

## John 10:31-33 (NIV)

Again the Jews picked up stones to stone him, but Jesus said to them, "I have shown you many great miracles from the Father. For which of these do you stone me?" "We are not stoning you for any of these," replied the Jews, "but for blasphemy, because you, a mere man, claim to be God."

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## 2. Jesus Claimed and Used the TITLES OF GOD.

God is Called...	Jesus Claimed to Be...
<b>Lord:</b> Psalm 110:1	<b>Lord:</b> Mark 2:28
<b>King:</b> Psalm 5:2; 29:10	<b>King:</b> John 18:36–37
<b>Shepherd:</b> Genesis 49:24	<b>Shepherd:</b> Matthew 2:6; John 10:11
<b>Light:</b> Psalm 27:1	<b>Light:</b> John 1:1–5; 8:12; 9:5
<b>Living Water:</b> Jeremiah 2:13	<b>Living Water:</b> John 4:11–14; 7:38

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

3. Jesus ACCEPTED THE WORSHIP and Honour  
Due to God Alone.

# Who Worshipped Jesus?

- Men and women healed of leprosy, of demon-possession, and of blindness (Matthew 8:2; Mark 5:6; John 9:38)
- His disciples (Matthew 14:33; 28:17; John 20:28)
- Jewish and non-Jewish women (Matthew 15:25; 20:20; 28:9)
- In accepting worship, Jesus was clearly claiming to be God.

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

4. Jesus Commanded His Disciples to PRAY IN HIS NAME.

“for anything in My Name, and I will do it” (John 14:14).

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## 5. Jesus Claimed to (and Did) Live a SINLESS LIFE

We have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet He did not sin.  
(Hebrews 4:15)

He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in His mouth. (1 Peter 2:22)

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

[He] is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners.  
(Hebrews 7:26)

**Judas:** “I have sinned . . . for I have betrayed innocent blood” (Matthew 27:4).

**Pilate:** “I find no basis for a charge against this man” (Luke 23:4).

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

**Pilate's wife:** "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man" (Matthew 27:19).

**Centurion:** "Surely this was a righteous man" (Luke 23:47).

"Surely he was the Son of God!" (Matthew 27:54).

**Thief on the cross:** "This man has done nothing wrong" (Luke 23:41).

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

6. Jesus CLAIMED TO DO What Only God Can Do

Only God has power and authority to

– FORGIVE SINS

"Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming!  
Who can forgive sins but God alone?" **Mark 2:7 (NIV)**

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## 6. Jesus CLAIMED TO DO What Only God Can Do

Only God has power and authority to

- Forgive Sins, **Mark 2:7**
- Act as ULTIMATE JUDGE , **Matthew 25:31-34**

## Matthew 25:32-34 (NIV)

All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.

"Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

6. Jesus **CLAIMED TO DO** What Only God Can Do

Only God has power and authority to

- **Forgive Sins, Mark 2:7**
- **Act as Ultimate Judge, Matthew 25:31**
- **Determine each Person's FINAL DESTINY. John 5:24**

**John 5:24 (NIV)**

"I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes Him who sent Me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## 7. Jesus Claimed (and PROVED) to Have Power Only God Has

Only God has Power...	Jesus ...
To do miraculous healings	Healed a wide variety of diseases. He healed the blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf, and the dumb. (Luke 7:20–22)
To accurately predict the future (Isaiah 37:26; 48:3)	Accurately predicted the future (Matthew 24:1–2)
Over nature	Walked on water, calmed storms. The wind obeyed him; he turned water into wine; he multiplied bread
Over demons and Satan	Cast out demons; rebuked Satan (Mark 1:39; Matthew 4:10)
Over death	Raised the dead. (Matthew 9:18–26; John 11:43–44)

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## 8. Jesus Claimed Other Titles That the Jews Applied Only to God

- SON OF GOD

**John 10:36 (NIV)**

...Why then do you accuse me of blasphemy because I said, 'I am God's Son'?

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

The Jews insisted, "We have a law, and according to that law He must die, because He claimed to be the Son of God." John 19:7 (NIV)

For this reason the Jews tried all the harder to kill Him; not only was He breaking the Sabbath, but He was even calling God His own Father, making Himself equal with God. John 5:18 (NIV)

# Evidence That Jesus Claimed to Be God

## SON OF MAN

[High Priest ask Jesus]..."Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I AM," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." **Mark 14:61-62 (NIV)**

# 3 Choices

- Jesus was a Lunatic
- Jesus was a Liar
- Jesus is Lord (God)

# If God Came to Earth what would we expect?

We Would Expect Him to...	What Happened in Jesus' Life:
have a different entrance into life	He was virgin -born; angels appeared; there were signs in the sky.
tell people that He was God	Jesus clearly told men He was God
live a perfect life	Jesus was without sin
provide evidence He was God	Jesus performed miracles, had power over nature, cast out demons
have power over disease and death.	Jesus healed men and women, raised the dead.
speak the greatest words ever spoken	Jesus taught the greatest moral commands of any man. Men said, "No one ever spoke the way this man does" (John 7: 46)
provide a means by which men could come to know Him (Why would God come and not have us know him and why he came?)	Jesus provided a way for us to know Him; He said He was the way to God.
have a lasting and universal influence.	Jesus has influenced the lives of more men and women than any other man in history
have a message that would speak to all men and women, at all times, in all places	The gospel of Jesus Christ has reached men and women in every place, in every generation..

# If God Came to Earth what would we expect?

We Would Expect Him to...	What Happened in Jesus' Life:
relate to men and women in the various parts of society and culture	Jesus related to the rich, poor, young, old, Jews, and Gentiles
change the lives of those who met him and knew him.	Jesus changed the lives of those he met, and the lives of those he knew.
satisfy the spiritual hunger of men and women	Jesus has satisfied the spiritual needs of men and women; he is the Bread of Life; the Living Water.
show sympathy for our problems, sickness, and pain	Jesus showed great empathy for the physical and spiritual needs of men
provide some kind of solution to sin, pain, and suffering	Jesus died for our sins, and comforts us when we suffer, have pain, and face problems
leave some kind of permanent record that he was here. (Why would God come and not leave a record for others to know him and that he was here?)	Jesus promised the New Testament
leave earth in a different manner	Jesus ascended bodily into heaven in full view of the disciples

# Proof #5: The NT Records Prophecy That Proves Jesus to Be God

- Biblical prophecy is 100 % accurate
- 1<sup>st</sup> coming Jesus fulfilled close to 100 (See Barton Payne, *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecies*)

# A Few Examples

Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus	
Prophecy	Fulfilment by Jesus
Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2	Luke 2:4–7
Messiah would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23; Luke 2:5–11
Messiah would have a herald. Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1	Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:2–3
Messiah would perform miracles and teach in parables. Isaiah 35:5–6; Psalm 78:2	John 10:32; 14:11; Matthew 13:10–13, 34–35
Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey, on a certain day. Zechariah 9:9; Daniel 9:25	Matthew 21:1–5
Messiah would be forsaken by his disciples. Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:50
Messiah would be silent before his accusers. Isaiah 53:7	Mark 15:3–5
Messiah would be wounded, sneered at, spit upon, and mocked. Isaiah 53:5–6; Psalm 22:7–8	Mark 15:19–20

# A Few More Examples

Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus	
Prophecy	Fulfilment by Jesus
Messiah would die AD 33. Daniel 9:26	Luke 3:1 (AD 29, the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, was when Jesus began his 3½-year ministry.)
Messiah would be crucified with rebels. Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27
Messiah would suffer and die for our sins. Isaiah 53:5–6	Matthew 26:28
Messiah's side would be pierced. Zechariah 12:10.	John 19:34–37
Messiah would have his garments parted and lots cast for them. Psalm 22:18	John 19:23–24
Messiah would be buried in a rich man's tomb. Isaiah 53:9	Mark 15:42–43
Messiah would rise from the dead. Psalm 16:10	Matthew 28:5–6; Acts 2:19–32

# JESUS SAID HE WAS THE FULFILLMENT OF THESE PROPHECIES

**Luke 24:27 (NIV)**

And beginning with **Moses** and all the **Prophets**, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.

**Luke 24:44 (NIV)**

He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about Me in the Law of **Moses**, the **Prophets** and the Psalms."

**John 5:39 (NIV)**

You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about Me,

# Messianic Prophecies filling in the life of Jesus

## (See Appendix 5)

J. Barton Payne in his *Encyclopedia of Biblical Prophecies* (P. 665-670) lists about 100 prophecies that were literally fulfilled in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ:

1. **Place of birth (Mic. 5:2)**
2. Time of birth (Dan. 9:25)
3. **Manner of birth (Is. 7:14)**
4. Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12)
5. **Manner of death (Ps. 22:16)**
6. People's reactions (mocking, spitting, staring, etc.) (Ps. 22:7,8, 17)
7. **His side pierced (Zech. 12:10)**
8. Burial in a rich man's tomb (Is 53:9)

## Human Race

Woman, Gen 3:15

## Ethnic Group

Abraham,  
Gen 12:1

## Tribe

Judah,  
Gen 49:10

## Dynasty

David,  
2 Sam 7:12

## How

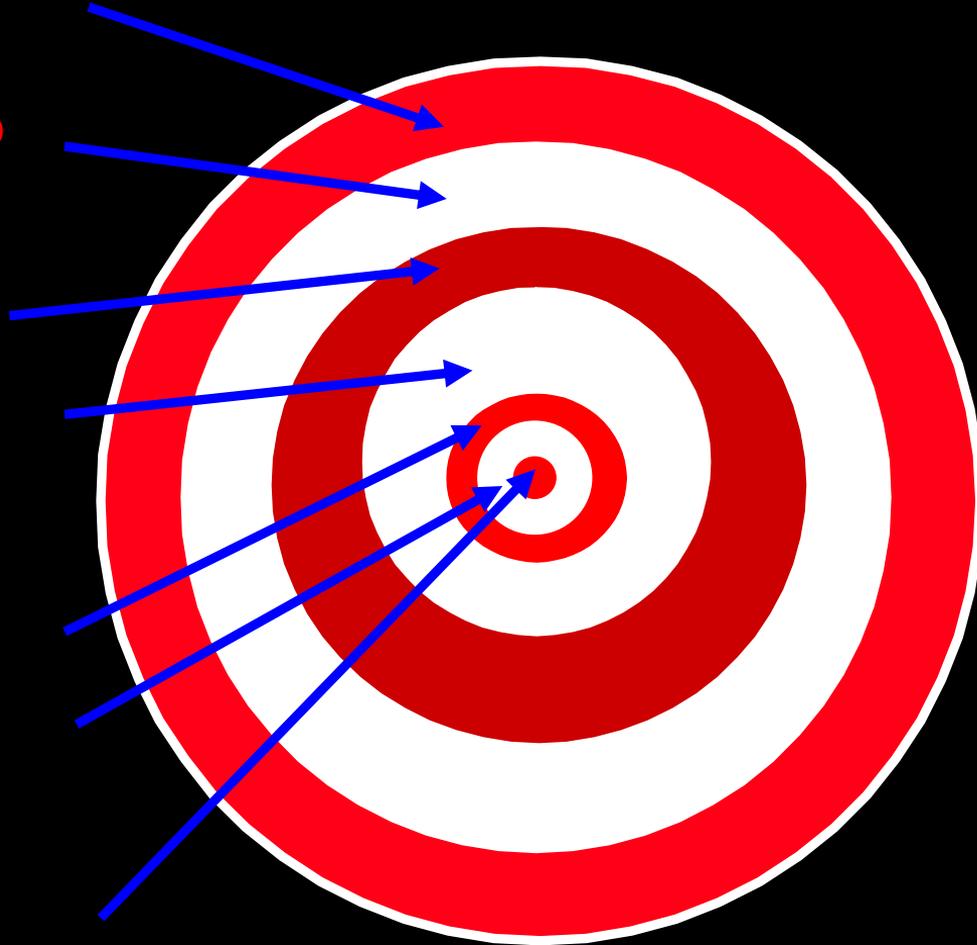
Virgin,  
Isa 7:14

## Where

Bethlehem,  
Mic 5:2

## When

31 A.D.,  
Dan 9:25-26



## “AN AMAZING PROPHECY”

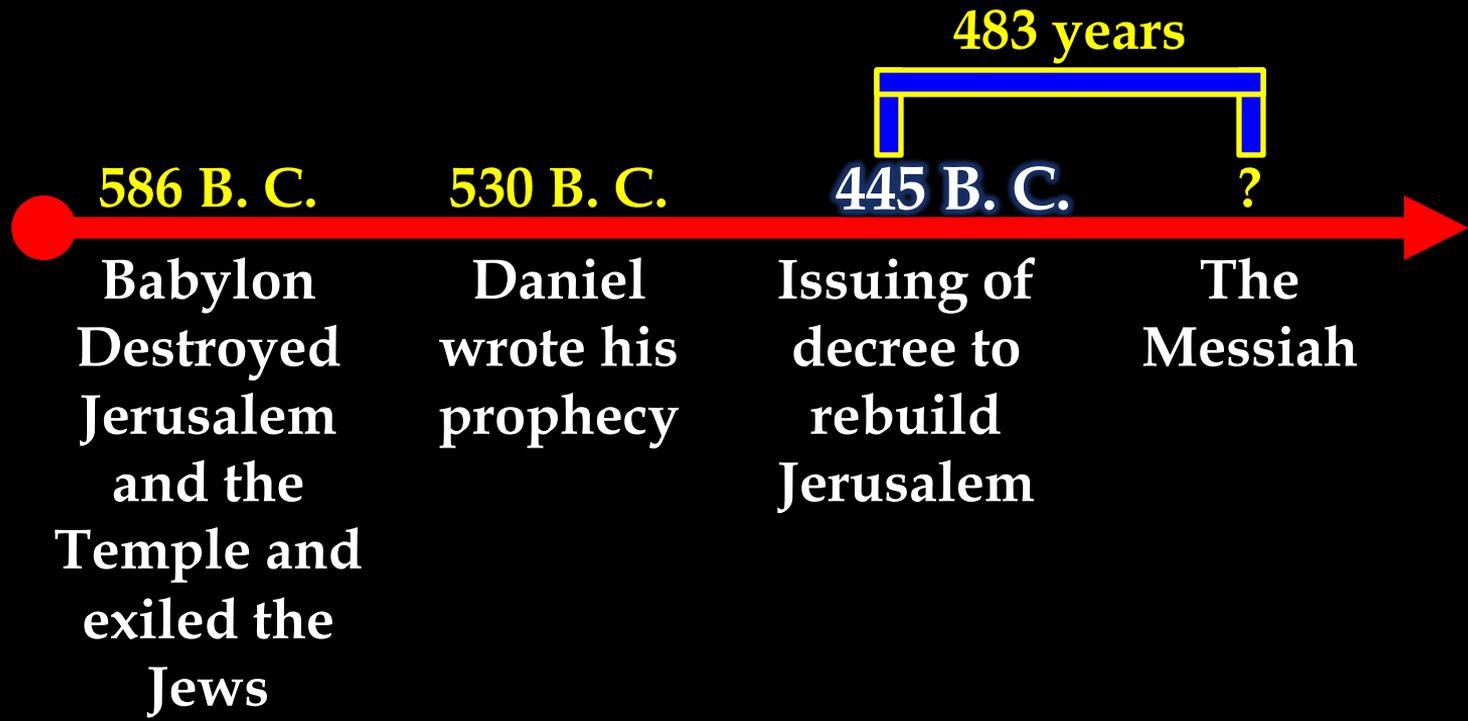
Daniel 9:25-26 (NIV)

"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' ...After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary...

# “THE MOST AMAZING PROPHECY”

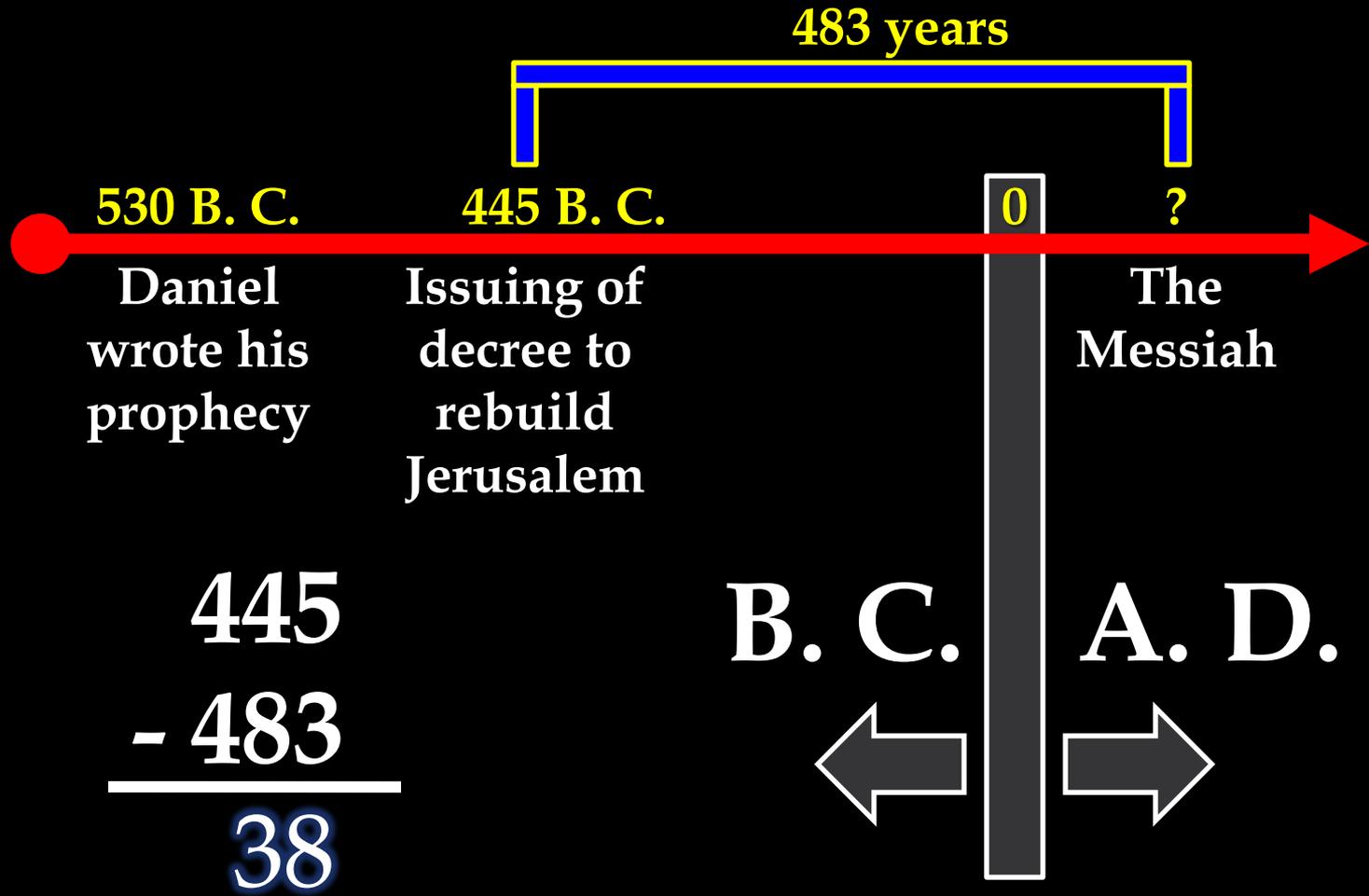
Groups	Years	Total
7	7	49
62	7	434
		<b>483</b>

- 483 years Began from Artaxerxes decree - March 5, 445 BC
- Ends 31 AD with the Messiah riding on a donkey into Jerusalem and Jesus atoning death.



$(7 \times 7) + (62 \times 7) = 483 \text{ years}$

“From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Messiah . . . there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’” (Dan. 9:25)



# The Jews Used the Lunar Calendar

Lunar Calendar = 360 days in a year

Solar Calendar = 365 days in a year

(71 Solar Years = 72 Lunar Years)



(25,915 days)



(25,920 days)



# How Many Days Are in 483 Lunar Years?



$$483 \times 360 = 173,880 \text{ days}$$

↑  
(number of days in lunar calendar)

**173,880 days**



$$483 \times 360 = 173,880 \text{ days}$$

# How Many Solar Years are in 173,880 Days?



$$\frac{173,880}{365} = 476 \text{ Solar Years}$$

(number of days in solar calendar)

# How Many Solar Years are in 173,880 Days?

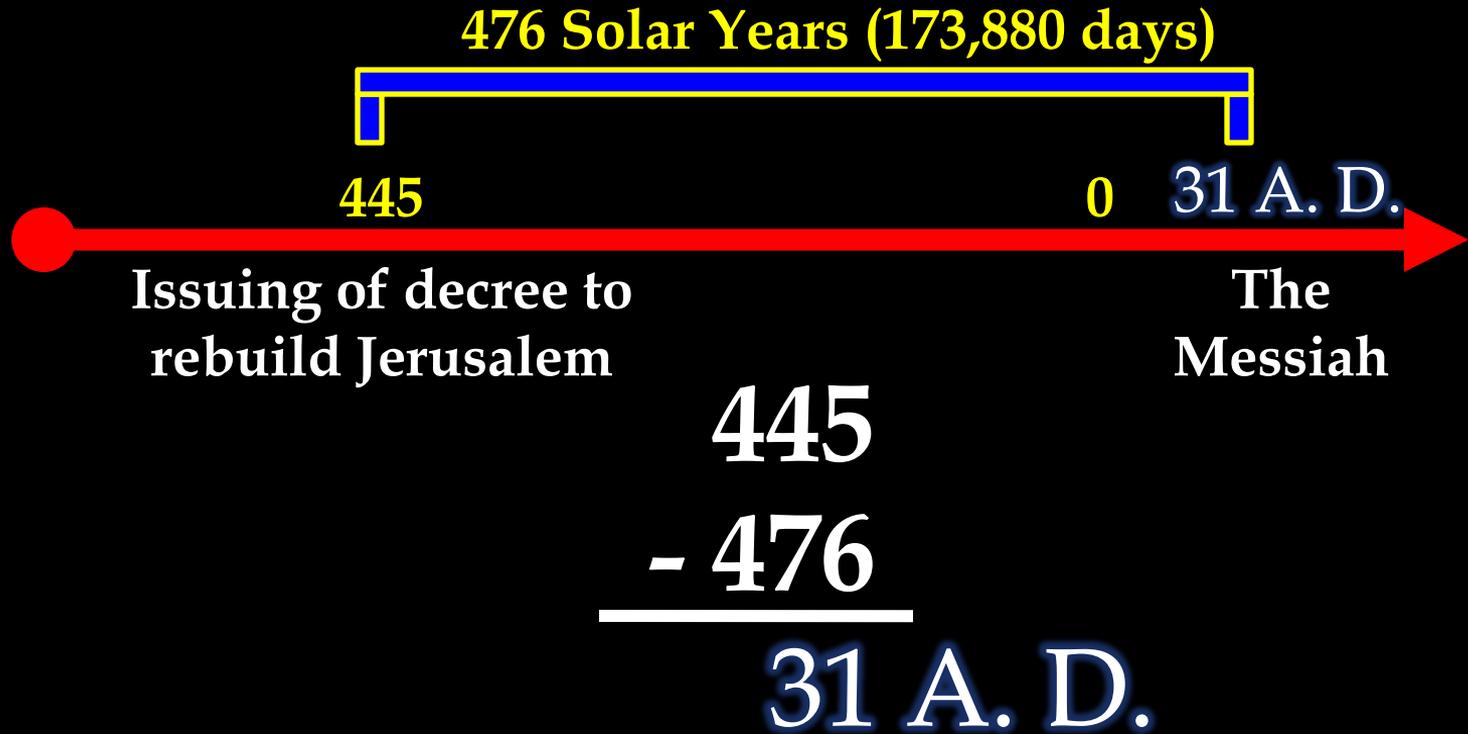


**483 Lunar Years = 476 Solar Years**

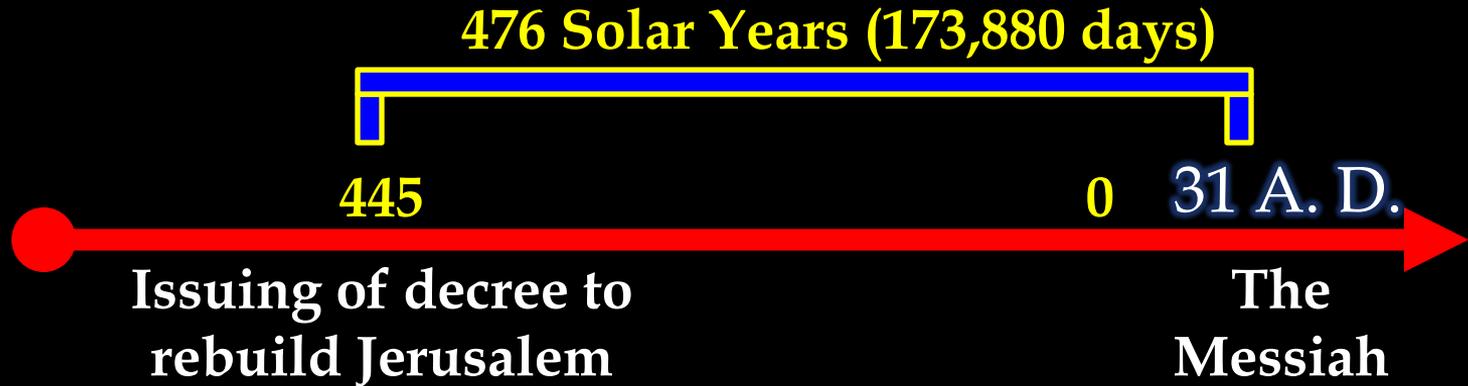
↑  
(173,880 days)

↑  
(173,880 days)

# When Is the Solar Date for the Messiah's Coming?



# When Is the Solar Date for the Messiah's Coming?



$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Lunar} \\ \text{Years} \end{array} \frac{360}{\text{Solar}} \times 483 = 476$$
$$\begin{array}{r} \text{Solar} \\ \text{Years} \end{array} \frac{365}{\text{Solar}} - 445 = 31 \text{ A. D.}$$

# Scholars Agree that Jesus Was Crucified:

Between A. D. 30 and 33

# IMPROBABILITY OF FULFILLED PROPHECY ABOUT JESUS

1. Be born in Bethlehem
2. Have a “forerunner” like John the Baptist
3. Enter Jerusalem on a donkey
4. Be betrayed by a friend
5. Be betrayed for thirty pieces of silver
6. Have the silver be used to buy “the potter’s field”
7. Refuse to defend himself
8. Be crucified

# Statistical Probability

8 prophecies all being fulfilled in the life of Christ:

$1 \times 10$  to the 17 power

Taken from **Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks***

# Statistical Probability

48 Prophecies:

$1 \times 10$  to the 157 power

(more atoms than there are in the  
Universe)

Taken from Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*

## What we've learned

*Fulfilled prophecy is powerful proof that Jesus is indeed who He claimed to be: the Son of God.*

Seen evidence that Jesus not only

- DIRECTLY CLAIMED to be God
- PROVED Himself to be God

# So Far...

Challenge	Response
Real truth does not exist	<b>Truth Exists and We Can Know it!</b>
God does not exist	<b>God exists</b>
If God exists he isn't necessarily the God of the Bible	<b>He is the God of the Bible</b>
Miracles don't happen	<b>Miracles Are Possible</b>
NT has many errors and is unreliable	<b>The NT is Reliable</b>
Jesus didn't Claim or Prove to Be God	<b>Jesus Claimed and Proved to be God</b>
Jesus did not rise from the dead	...

# Potential Problem.

- If Jesus did not rise from the dead...
  - He is a *false* prophet and we cannot trust Him
  - we cannot trust the NT either

# The Greatest Miracle Claim: A Man Rose From the Dead

- Jesus **PREDICTED** his **DEATH** and **RESURRECTION**

The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life. **Matthew 17:22-23 (NIV)**

For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. **Matthew 12:40 (NIV)**

# What Do We Mean by Resurrection?

- someone who's died returns as the same **PERSON** in the same **BODY**.
- their resurrected body will be one that will never die again.
- It has been changed.

# Five Explanations

1. SOMEONE ELSE Died in Jesus' Place.

**Why is this view Wrong?** – Consider:

- Jesus' mother, closest friends watching
- Anyone else would protest *“You've got the wrong guy!”*

# Five Explanations

1. **SOMEONE ELSE** Died in Jesus' Place.
  - Roman penalty for wrongful execution.
  - Enemies were convinced.

# Five Explanations

1. Someone Else Died in Jesus' Place
2. Jesus Only **FAINTED** on the Cross

**Why is this view Wrong? - Consider**

# Five Explanations

1. Someone Else Died in Jesus' Place
2. Jesus Only **FAINTED** on the Cross

**Why is this view Wrong?** – Consider:

WHAT HAPPENED TO JESUS

- **BEFORE** He was nailed to the cross
- **ON THE CROSS**

“Anyone who believes Jesus did not die on the cross is at odds with modern medical knowledge”

**William D. Edwards** - Cardiovascular pathologist (Mayo Clinic )

# What *if* Jesus had survived?

- How did He unwrap himself from the grave clothes?
- How did He move away the huge stone?
- How did He manage to elude the Roman guards?
- How did He find his disciples?
- How could He convince his disciples he had risen from the dead? He would have been barely alive, and his body would have been a bloody mess.
- How would a man who was in such a condition inspire the disciples?
- Why did the disciples die—almost all suffering dreadful deaths—still claiming Jesus rose from the dead?

# Five Explanations

1. Someone Else Died in Jesus' Place
2. Jesus Only Fainted on the Cross
3. The Disciples Had a **MASS HALLUCINATION**

**Why is this view Wrong?** – Consider:

# Five Explanations

1. Someone Else Died in Jesus' Place
2. Jesus Only Fainted on the Cross
3. The Disciples Had a Mass Hallucination
4. Somebody **MOVED** or **STOLE** the Body

**Why is this view Wrong?** – Consider:

- The Obstacles!
- Pilate / Roman Guards / Seal / Stone
- Jewish Leaders
- quivering disciples

# Five Explanations

1. Someone Else Died in Jesus' Place
2. Jesus Only Fainted on the Cross
3. The Disciples Had a Mass Hallucination
4. Somebody Moved or Stole the Body
5. Resurrection **CONSPIRACY** Plot

**Why is this view Wrong?** – Consider:

- OT Prophecies – tribe / town born in

# What We've Shown So Far

- It really **WAS JESUS** on the cross.
- Jesus **REALLY DIED** on the cross.
- Jesus' **DEAD BODY** was put in a sealed tomb.

# Facts that Support Jesus' Resurrection

## 1. Tomb Was **EMPTY**

– Jewish leaders said: - the disciples stole the body

## Matthew 28:11-15 (NIV)

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and reported to the chief priests everything that had happened. When the **chief priests had met with the elders and devised a plan**, they gave the soldiers a large sum of **MONEY**, telling them, "**YOU ARE TO SAY, 'His DISCIPLES CAME DURING THE NIGHT AND STOLE HIM** away while we were asleep.' If this report gets to the governor, we will satisfy him and keep you out of trouble." So the soldiers took the money and did as they were instructed. And this story has been widely circulated among the Jews to this very day.

# Facts that Support Jesus' Resurrection

## 1. Tomb Was **EMPTY**

- Jewish leaders said: - the disciples stole the body
- Disciples said: - Jesus was resurrected

## Questions:

- Why just **days** after the crucifixion:
  - the sudden change of the disciples' heart
  - Boldly proclaiming the resurrection – easily disproven
  - Large number of Jewish Priest became believers

## Acts 6:7 (NIV)

“So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a **large number of priests** became obedient to the faith.”

Best Explanation: **JESUS HAD BEEN RAISED.**

# Facts that Support Jesus' Resurrection

## 2. MULTIPLE EYEWITNESSES

- Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- 12 separate occasions
- 500 people over 40 days indoors and outdoors
- Did miracles

After His suffering, He showed Himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that He was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. Acts 1:3 (NIV)

# Facts that Support Jesus' Resurrection

## 3. Early Converts Were **JEWS** in Jerusalem

But many who heard the message believed, and the number of men grew to about five thousand. Acts 4:4 (NIV)

So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Acts 6:7 (NIV)

# Facts that Support Jesus' Resurrection

4. The **DISCIPLES DIED** for Their Belief in the Resurrection.

# What We've Learned

- Jesus was **crucified** and **died** on a Roman cross.
- His body was **embalmed** in linen and spices.
- He was buried in a **tomb** that was **sealed** and **guarded**.
- Days later that tomb was found **empty**.
- The disciples saw the **living Jesus** many different times.
- Their lives were **completely, permanently** changed by their **conviction** that He rose from the dead.
- They preached this in **Jerusalem** right away.
- Many **Jews** became believers.
- Not one of the disciples ever **recanted** his belief that Jesus was raised.
- Most of them died as **martyrs** for their faith.

# Considering the 3 Theistic Religions

Issue	Christianity	Judaism	Islam
N T documents	Are reliable	Does not accept NT Accounts	Not reliable
Did Jesus claim to be God?	Yes	Agree He claimed to be God but they don't accept it	Jesus didn't claim to be God - a man who was a great prophet of Allah
Did Jesus prove to be God?	Yes	No	No
Did Jesus rise from the dead?	Yes	No	Someone took his place - Allah took him to heaven - he will return one day and die

# 12 Points That Show...

- *Jesus Claimed To Be God*
- *Jesus Proved To Be God*