

# The Bible Says It, You Can Believe It

The Bible is the best-selling book in history, yet it is amazing how ignorant the world seems to be of its contents. Even those who claim to believe that the Bible is the standard for Christian faith and practice are often unfamiliar with those aspects of the Bible that prove those claims.

From the writings of Moses in the 15<sup>th</sup> century B.C. to the chapters of Malachi in the 5<sup>th</sup> century B.C., the coming of Jesus was described, with 320 details being given. It is important to note that it is undisputed among Bible scholars that the entire Old Testament was completed hundreds of years before Jesus was born.

Of the 320 details the Old Testament reveals about Christ, and as we approach the celebration of His birth, here is a sampling:

- Christ would be conceived of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- Christ would be born in the town of Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- Christ would arrive exactly 483 years after the decree was issued to allow the Jewish people to rebuild the walls of their besieged city (Daniel 9:25).
- Christ would heal the blind and the deaf (Isaiah 29:17-19).
- Christ would present Himself as Messiah by humbly riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).
- Christ would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13).
- Christ would be unfairly judged and condemned to die (Isaiah 53:8-9).
- Christ would be abandoned by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7-9).
- Christ would be rejected by His own people (Isaiah 53:3).
- Christ would be crucified (Psalm 22:11-16) as an offering for our sins (Isaiah 53:4-6).
- Christ would rise from the dead (Isaiah 53:10-12).
- Christ, although a Jew, would become a light to the Gentiles and bring salvation to the whole world (Isaiah 49:5-6).

How do these fulfilled prophecies offer us a greater assurance that heaven is real? It's simple. Because the Bible has so accurately revealed detailed events that would happen here on earth, we have every reason to believe that the many details it forecasts about heaven will likewise come to pass.

So don't let your heart be bothered by doubts. Instead, allow the loving promises of God to be your confidence, bringing you hope and encouragement in a fallen and troubled world.

We should, indeed, be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ!

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life (1 John 5:13 NIV).*

– Beecher Hunter