"Prove It!"

(Using the OT Prophecies to Show Jesus is the Son of God)
Part 5 of 5

I. Recap and Overview of this Series

a. Lesson 1 – The Christian faith can be proven based on evidence of the prophecies, written hundreds of years (even over 1000 years) before the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem. This was how the faith was spread in the beginning, as seen throughout the Book of Acts.

b. Lesson 2 – Jesus fulfilled prophecies about the promised Christ: the son of David, Son of God, and king over God's eternal kingdom.

c. Lesson 3 – Jesus fulfilled prophecies that the Christ would suffer and be killed on a cross.

d. Lesson 4 – Jesus fulfilled prophecies that the Christ would be buried and then rise from the dead on the third day.

e. Lesson 5 (final lesson in this series) – In addition to being the greatest king (lesson 2), the Messiah also would be the greatest priest and prophet. He would embody all three roles.

II. Three Offices in the Old Testament

a. King: Rules over the people, on behalf of God. (from lesson 2)

b. Priest: Offers sacrifices and prayers to God on behalf of the people. (tonight's lesson)

c. Prophet: Speaks the words of God to the people, "thus says the Lord…" (tonight's lesson)

d. Note that no Israelite could properly fulfill all three roles.

   i. Priests were from tribe of Levi, descendants of Aaron.

   ii. Promised line of kings was from tribe of Judah, descended from David.

   iii. Prophets came from various tribes in Israel.

   iv. However, some held two roles:

      1. Saul and David: king + prophet;

      2. Aaron and Samuel: priest + prophet.

III. Jesus, the Greatest Priest (Psalm 110)

a. **Psalm 110:1-4**

i. David calls him "my Lord". He is even the Lord of David.

1. Jesus said this prophecy referred to the Messiah (**Matthew 22:41-45**). The Pharisees did not dispute that.

ii. He is called to sit at the right hand of God

1. Peter applies this to Jesus in **Acts 2:33-36**.

2. The same reference is made in **Hebrews 1:13**.

iii. The one who will sit at the right hand of God also will be an eternal priest, similar to Melchizedek.

1. Melchizedek was the priest who offered the bread and wine on behalf of Abraham, in **Genesis 14:18-20**.

2. Extended explanation of the priesthood of Jesus, and similarities to that of Melchizedek, is in **Hebrew 4:14** through **Hebrews chapter 10**.

a. Similarities to Melchizedek:

i. He is both king and priest.

ii. He is from more ancient and greater priesthood than Aaron and the Levites.

iii. His priesthood was not based on genealogy, but on the power of his own life (**Hebrews 7:16**).

iv. 'King of Salem = 'King of Peace'; 'Melchizedek' = 'King of Righteousness' (**Hebrews 7:2**).

b. The greater priesthood of Jesus (**Hebrews 8:6**):

i. A new priesthood to usher in a new covenant (**Hebrews 8:6-13**).

ii. He offered his own blood, as opposed to the blood of bulls and goats (**Hebrews 9:12-14**).

iii. Jesus entered heaven itself on our behalf; other high priests entered the Most Holy Place of the tabernacle, only a model of the heavenly things (**Hebrews 9:24**).

iv. He offered the perfect sacrifice once for all time; therefore does not need to keep repeating it year after year (**Hebrews 9:25-28**).

b. **Zechariah 3:1-9**

i. Joshua (Hebrew) = Jesus (Greek).

1. If you are reading in the Greek LXX that the Jesus and the apostles quote from in the New Testament, it reads 'Jesus' here and regarding Moses' successor, 'Joshua' son of Nun.

2. Where both 'Joshua' the son of Nun and 'Jesus' the Son of God are mentioned in same chapter (**Hebrews 4:8-14**), both are referred to as 'Jesus' in the Greek. Check this out for yourself with an interlinear Bible.

a. Note that in the story of the exodus, Moses could only take them so far. Only the one appointed to succeed Moses (**Numbers 27:12-23**) whose name had been changed from 'Hoshea' to 'Jesus' (**Numbers 13:16**) could lead them into the Promised Land!

ii. He is directly opposed to the adversary, Satan.

iii. The high priest Joshua/Jesus is <u>symbolic of things to come</u>.

iv. The <u>sin</u> of the land will be <u>removed in a single day</u>.

c. Lactantius (Roman Christian and teacher, c. 250-325; in *The Diving Institutes*, Ante-Nicene Fathers v. 7, p.113-114) comments:

i. "The Christ, the prophesied son of David, would build the everlasting temple (**2 Samuel 7**). Therefore, he also would have an everlasting priesthood in it. "David in the **110th psalm** says the same, saying: '…the Lord has sworn and will not repent. You are a priest forever according to Melchizedek'. Also (in **1 Samuel 2:35**): 'And I will raise up a faithful priest who shall do all the things that are in my heart; and I will build him a sure house; and he shall walk in my sight all his days.'"

ii. "But who this was about to be, Zechariah most plainly teaches, <u>even mentioning His name</u>: 'And the Lord God showed me Jesus the great Priest standing before the face of the angel of the Lord, and the adversary was standing at His right hand to resist him… (continues to quote from the rest of **Zechariah chapter 3**)'"

iii. "…..He (Zechariah, about 500 years before the crucifixion) spoke therefore, of <u>Jesus</u> the Son of God."

1. Filthy clothes = first advent, coming in the flesh.
2. Scorched in the fire = suffered tortures from men, then extinguished.
3. He stands in the presence of God.
4. After he has done the will of God, will receive dominion and become judge over the house of God.

IV. Jesus, the Ultimate Prophet (Deuteronomy 18)

a. **John 1:19-21**

i. John the Baptist is questioned: Are you <u>the Christ</u>? (As was promised in **Psalm 2**, **2 Samuel 7**, **Daniel 9**, etc.)

ii. Are you <u>Elijah</u>? (As was promised in **Malachi 4:5**.)

iii. Are you <u>the Prophet</u>? (As was promised in **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**.)

b. **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

i. Moses tells the Israelites, "The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites (*your brethren, NKJV*). You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die.'"

ii. "The Lord said to me: 'What they say is good. I will raise up for them <u>a prophet like you</u> from among your fellow Israelites (*brethren*) and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name.'"

1. When Moses says, "this is what you asked… at Horeb" (referring to **Deuteronomy 5:23-29**, **Exodus 20:18-21**). The Israelites were terrified when they heard the voice of God at Mt. Sinai (**Dt. 4:36**, **Exodus 19**). They asked that God use a man as an intermediary rather than speak directly, to reveal what God wanted them to do.
2. The expression that God would "call to account" anyone who disregarded the words of the prophet, Peter interprets as, "will be completely cut off from their people" (or "utterly destroyed from among the people", NKJV), in **Acts 3:23**.

iii. Note that "the Prophet" promised in the future <u>had to be a Jew</u>. Notice that Moses uses similar language as in **Deuteronomy 17:15**,

regarding the king. (He must be one of their brothers; cannot be a foreigner.) Also there were similar to restrictions on the Jewish people, to not marry foreigners, in **Deuteronomy 7**.

c. Parallel between Moses and Jesus highlighted in the gospel of John

i. **John 1:1**. Opening words of Moses (Genesis) and John: "In the beginning".

ii. **John 1:17**. "For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ."

iii. **John 1:45**. Philip tells Nathanael, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law…"

iv. **John 2:1-11**. First miracle of Jesus: turning water into wine. Moses turned water to blood, as first of the 10 Plagues in Egypt. (**Exodus 4:9**, **7:14-24**)

v. **John 3:14-15**. "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up." (**Numbers 21:4-9**)

vi. **John 4:1-16**. Jesus offers the Samaritan woman living water, a spring of water welling up to eternal life. Moses brought water from the rock (**Exodus 17:1-7**, **1 Corinthians 10:1-4**)

vii. **John 5:46**. Jesus challenges, "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me." (**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**)

viii. **John 6:1-14**. After Jesus feeds the multitude with bread, reminiscent of Moses feeding the multitude with manna (**Exodus 16**), the people say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world".

d. "A prophet like me": <u>Even more parallels</u> between Moses and Jesus

i. Story begins with birth and infancy (**Exodus 1-2**, **Matthew 1-2**, **Luke 1-2**).

ii. Evil king tried to have him put to death as an infant. He escapes that fate, but other innocent children are killed (**Exodus 1:15-2:9**, **Matthew 2:1-18**).

iii. In Egypt as a child (**Exodus 2:1-10**, **Matthew 2:13-20**).

iv. Fellow Jews were opposed to him becoming their judge or ruler (**Exodus 2:11-14**, **Psalm 2**, **Luke 19:11-27**).

v. Gave up royal position and privilege to save his people (**Exodus 2:10-15**, **Hebrews 11:24-27**, **Acts 7:20-37**, **Philippians 2:3-8**).

vi. Zealous for God's holiness. (Moses smashed the stone tablets in **Exodus 32:19-20**; Jesus cleared the temple in **John 2:13-17**.)

vii. Brought in a new covenant agreement with God (**Deuteronomy 4:10-14**, **Luke 22:20**, **Hebrews 8**).

viii. Met with God on the mountain (**Exodus 19**, **Matthew 17:1-9**).

ix. Had a radiant face after meeting with God (**Exodus 34:29-35**, **Matthew 17:2**).

x. The good shepherd, who led his people (**Exodus 3:1, Numbers 27:12-17, John 10:11-18**, **1 Peter 5:4**).

xi. Both saved their people from death via the blood of the unblemished male lamb sacrificed at the Passover (**Exodus 12**, **Isaiah 53:7**, **John 19:14**, **1 Corinthians 5:7-8**).

xii. Both instituted a meal to commemorate that event, which their followers would observe faithfully for generations (**Exodus 12**; **Luke 22:17-20**).

xiii. Both led their followers out of enslavement, then through the water on the way to the Promised Land (**Exodus 12-14**, **1 Corinthians 10:1-13**, **John 3:1-5**, **John 8:31-36**, **Acts 2:37-41**).

xiv. Both had to hold up their hands all day long, on the wood, to bring about victory through the cross (**Exodus 17:8-13**, **Isaiah 65:1-2**, **Mark 15**, **Luke 23**).

xv. Both stood out as the most humble men on the face of the earth (**Numbers 12:3**, **Matthew 11:28-29**, **Philippians 2:3-8**).

xvi. You can find even more parallels by reading **Exodus**, **Numbers** and **Deuteronomy**.

e. When Moses said "a prophet like me…" was he referring to Jesus, or to Mohammad?

i. Look at all the evidence!

ii. Peter said it was Jesus in **Acts 3:22-23**; so did Stephen in **Acts 7:37**.

V. Stephen's Speech in Acts 7

a. Stephen levels 3 criticisms against his own people, the nation of Israel:

i. <u>Complaint No. 1</u>: Our forefathers rejected Joseph out of jealousy, but God raised him up to become ruler and savior.

1. **Acts 7:9-10**. Patriarchs were jealous of Joseph. They sold him into slavery, but God raised him up to become ruler of Egypt. Yet he saved his family and provided them food.

ii. Complaint No. 2: Our forefathers rejected Moses; they did not want him to be ruler or judge.

1. **Acts 7:20-43**. God raised up Moses to deliver the Israelites from slavery, but the people rejected him.

2. They did not realize that God was using him.

3. They rejected him with the words, "Who made you ruler and judge?" (**Acts 7:35**, **Exodus 2:14**)

4. They refused to obey him, wanted to go back to Egypt, and even made an idol in the form of a calf.

iii. Complaint No. 3: You are just like your forefathers, who rejected the Holy Spirit and persecuted the prophets. You have rejected and killed the Messiah!

1. This last charge enraged the Sanhedrin; they killed Stephen by stoning (**Acts 7:54-60**).

b. Stephen sees rejection of Joseph and Moses as foreshadowing the rejection of the Messiah. Is there more to the story of Joseph? Why so much text and detail in Genesis related to the story of Joseph? Worth another look at Joseph?

i. Irenaeus (bishop of the church in Lyon, France, c. 180) commented, "By these things, Christ was typified and acknowledged and brought into the world. For he was prefigured in Joseph..." (ANF v.1, p.504)

ii. Tertullian (Christian writer in North Africa, c. 197) wrote, "…Joseph, again, was also made a figure of Christ…for he suffered persecution at the hands of his brothers and was sold into Egypt." (ANF v.3, p.165)

c. Review of the elements of the story of Joseph, from **Genesis 37-50**:

i. Joseph is one of the 12 sons of Jacob/Israel. He is the favorite of his father, who gives him a multi-colored robe. He tells his brothers of dreams in which his brothers, father and mother are all bowing down to him.

ii. His brothers plot to kill him. They strip the robe from him, put animal blood on it, and let their father believe Joseph was killed by a wild animal.

iii. Brothers put Joseph in a dry cistern, then sell him into slavery to spice dealers headed to Egypt.

iv. His older brother comes back to the cistern, but finds it empty (Joseph is gone), and he is puzzled.

v. In Egypt Joseph is tempted, does nothing wrong, but ends up in prison. While in prison he becomes in charge of the prison, interprets dreams of the king's butler and baker, and tells each of them of the fate that awaits them.

vi. Years later the butler remembers Joseph, who is released to interpret a troubling dream of Pharaoh. He is made ruler of Egypt under Pharaoh, in charge of the granary that will feed the world during a famine.

vii. During the famine, 10 of his brothers come to see him, then all 11 come; he reveals himself to them and is willing to forgive them. Then his father and the entire family move to Egypt. Joseph forgives his brothers for what they did to him.

d. Parallels between Joseph and Jesus:

i. Both were hated by envious brothers who plotted to kill them for three reasons:

1. He exposed their sin (**Genesis 37:2**, **Matthew 23**).

2. His father loved him best (**Genesis 37:4**, **Matthew 17:5**).

3. His brothers did not want him to rule over them, as was prophesied (**Genesis 37:5-11**, **Psalm 2**, **Luke 19:11-27**).

ii. Each wore a special multi-colored robe that was stripped from them and bloodied. Joseph's robe was described as "a tunic of many colors" (**Genesis 37:3**, NKJV). Note that the robe worn by Jesus before his crucifixion, mentioned in all 4 gospels, was described as:

1. Bright, or gorgeous (**Luke 23:11**);

2. Purple (**Mark 15:17** & **John 19:2**); and

3. Scarlet (**Matthew 27:28**).

iii. The body of each was deposited in an earthen pit. (Joseph in a cistern in **Genesis 37:19-24**; Jesus in a tomb in **Matthew 27:59-60**.)

iv. Each was sold for coins. (Joseph sold for 20 shekels in **Genesis 37:28**; Jesus for 30 silver coins in **Matthew 26:14-15**.)

v. The first of the 12 (Reuben, Peter) later came back to the pit to find the body gone. He was mystified, and did not know what to do (**Genesis 37:29-30**; **Luke 24:12**).

vi. Each left the pit to go on a journey, accompanied by "myrrh and spices" (**Genesis 37:25-27**; **John 19:38-40**).

vii. Each then ended up 'in prison', despite having done nothing wrong. (Genesis **39-40**; Jesus in Hades, **Acts 2:27**. Note that 'prison' is a euphemism for Hades **1 Peter 3:18-20**.)

viii. After released from prison, each was elevated to second in charge ruling over the whole kingdom (**Genesis 41:39-46**; **Acts 2:33-35**).

ix. During the famine, the nations had to come to him for grain/bread; required to give up everything they had (**Genesis 41:46-57**, **47:12-25**; **John 6:30-59**, **Luke 14:33**).

x. He first appeared to 10, and then revealed himself to all 11 of the 12 (**Genesis 42-43**; **John 20:19-29**).

VI. Conclusion to this Series of Lessons: Did We 'Prove It'?

a. <u>How much evidence would it take</u> to convince you? What if God provided, hundreds of years in advance, the name and address of the Messiah? His DNA / lineage, portrait and full death certificate?

b. Let's see what we have:

i. His name? Revealed to be 'Jesus'.

1. Same as 'Joshua', the one who would lead them to the Promised Land (**Numbers 13:16, Numbers 31:7-8**).

2. Also, same name of the future High Priest opposed to Satan, in **Zechariah 3**.

ii. His address? Do you want them all?

1. Origins in eternity; born in Bethlehem (**Micah 5:2**).

2. Childhood in Egypt (**Deuteronomy 18:15**, **Exodus 2**).

3. Lived in Galilee (**Isaiah 9:1-2**).

4. Died in Jerusalem, "outside the camp" (**Daniel 9:25-26**, **Leviticus 4:1-12**, **Hebrews 13:11-12**).

5. Three days in Hades, then raised from the dead (**Psalm 16:9-10, Jonah 1 & 2**).

6. Seated at the right hand of God (**Psalm 110:1-2**).

iii. DNA / lineage?

1. Descended from Abraham (**Genesis 17:15-21**, **Genesis 22:15-18**).
2. Descended from tribe of Judah (**Genesis 49:8-12**).
3. Son of David (**2 Samuel 7:12-13**, **Psalms 89:33-17**, **Psalm 132:11-12**).
4. Son of God (**2 Samuel 7:14**, **Psalm 2:2-7**).
5. Born of a virgin (**Isaiah 7:14**).

iv. Portrait?

1. Christ, the King over the eternal kingdom (**2 Samuel 7:12-16**, **Isaiah 9:6-7**, **Daniel 2:44-45,** Daniel **7:13-14, 27**).
2. Great High Priest (**Zechariah 3:1-9**, **Psalm 110:4**).
3. Prophet like Moses (**Deuteronomy 18:15-19**).
4. One Shepherd over all God's flock (**Ezekiel 34:23-24, Ezekiel 37:24-25**).
5. Builder of the Temple (**1 Chronicles 17:12-14**).
6. Prince of Peace (**Isaiah 9:6**).
7. Righteous Judge (**Isaiah 11:1-5**).

v. Death certificate?

1. Year of death: Prior to AD 70, when Jerusalem destroyed (**Daniel 9:26**)
2. Date and time of death: twilight at Passover (**Exodus 12:1-6**).
3. Method of death: crucifixion, on a cross (**Numbers 21:8-9**, **Exodus 17:8-11**, **Isaiah 53**, **Psalm 22**).
4. Burial: in the grave of a rich man (**Isaiah 53:9**).

vi. Coroner's report?

1. Hands stretched out all day (**Isaiah 65:1-2**, **Exodus 17:12**).
2. None of his bones were broken (**Exodus 12:46**).

3. His body pierced, hands and feet (**Isaiah 53:5**, **Psalm 22:16**, **Zechariah 12:10**).

VII. Epilogue: What Do We Do with This? (Three Challenges)

a. To the unbelievers, truth-seekers now hearing something new:

   i. Demonstrate the noble character of the Berean seekers in **Acts 17:11**. "They received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true." Go and examine the prophecies for yourself. Then "save yourselves from this corrupt generation" (**Acts 2:40**).

b. To all the Christians:

   i. Show the same intensity as Apollos in **Acts 18:24-28**. Study so that you, too, can "prove from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah". Devote yourself; really know the Old Testament. 'Prove it' to a lost world.

c. To future church teachers, preachers and leaders:

   i. Reject the humanistic, watered-down version of the gospel that so many churches are marketing today, which centers on personal happiness and benefits in this life.

   ii. Build on solid rock. Preach the same kingdom gospel that was spread in the Book of Acts: Jesus is the Christ, king over the eternal kingdom. He died, was buried and rose on the third day, all in fulfillment of the ancient prophecies.