

How do we know Christ is who He said He is? - Old Testament Prophecy

Isaiah was a prophet who lived around 700 B.C. He wrote of many things that were going to happen in the future and all of them did. He was a man that God chose to reveal some of His plans to. In the book Isaiah, which he wrote, in chapter 9, verses 1-7, he talks about the coming of Christ. Let's read what he wrote in those verses.

Isaiah 9:6-7

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
7 Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

God told Isaiah that a child would be born. That this child would be God's own son. When Isaiah says the government will be on his shoulders the word he used for government was an unusual word meaning dominion or to rule. It had no real relation to the kind of word that was typically used to refer to kingdoms on earth. I think right there is an interesting reminder for us that the kingdom of God, Christ's kingdom, is something very different from what we typically think of as government or kingdom.

Then Isaiah describes what kind of person Christ will be by telling us the names other people will use to describe him. He will be wise and have a plan for the world. He will be a powerful warrior able to overcome his enemies. He will bring peace and wholeness to those who follow him.

Isaiah tells us Christ's reign will grow and become endless. He tells us that Christ will be one of David's descendants and that His kingdom will be based on justice and righteousness. Lastly, Isaiah tells us that this will all happen because God said He would do it Himself.

Another prophet named Micah was alive about the same time as Isaiah. The things God told Micah also

came to pass. In Micah 5:1-5 we learn a little bit more of how Christ's coming was described and how we would know it was him.

Micah 5:1-5

1 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod. 2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be their peace.

So we learn that Christ will be born in Bethlehem (Ephrathah was the region Bethlehem was in). God tells Micah that the child's origins will be from ancient times which means that Christ existed even before he was born to Mary. Micah tells us that Christ will shepherd his flock in the strength and name of the Lord. We need only to look at the amazing miracles he performed and His teachings which have survived over 2000 years to see the truth in that. Finally, God tells Micah that Christ's greatness will reach the ends of the earth and that He will be their (our) peace. Christ is worshiped around the world and I can certainly testify that He is my peace.

Now that we have testimony from two people who were told by God that Christ would come, what about when he did come? Who was told that this particular baby, born in Bethlehem, was the one Isaiah and Micah were talking about? For that, we will have to wait for next Sunday when we will learn more about the things that happened when Christ was born that show he is the son of God who rules today and forever.