

The Commission/Mission from Jesus Christ to the Church: Matt. 28:18-20 - Luke 24:44-48 - Mark 16:15

In our Core Message, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we should explain the following:

1. **God**, His Word, His Nature, His Creation, His Holiness, His Love
2. The Person and Work of **Jesus Christ** ... His Earthly Ministry, His Uniqueness, His Sinless Life, His Miracles, His Crucifixion, Death, Burial, Resurrection and Ascension
3. The FACT that we are **Created** By God as unique creations, created in His Image and Likeness, unique and valuable to God, Loved by God.
4. **We are Fallen, Sinful**, and already condemned and under God's Wrath since Genesis 3 (ref.: John 3:18-20,36; Ephesians 2:1-3; Romans 5:12) ... we are natural born sinners.
It is good to help folks agree that they are sinners, using ourselves as examples, and help them see it for themselves, personally, gently, lovingly, respectfully.
Example: "so, Joe, have you ever stolen anything?... Yes, but only once. So, Joe, what does that make you? Andy, I am sure that doesn't make me a thief? Well, Joe, how many times do we have to steal things before we are called a thief? 3 times and bell rings, then we know we are a thief? Andy, I see what you mean... ok, I'm a thief."
This is part of the process of Repentance that the Holy Spirit can use you in that process for that sinner, maybe, in some way, just like Jesus did with the Woman at the Well in John 4.
5. **Our Only Rescue** from God's Just and Holy Wrath and Coming Judgment because of our Sin is ONLY Found in Jesus Christ **and** His Finished Work of Redemption (His Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection) ... God punished Jesus Christ for our sins and paid for all of our sins (past, present and future) and offers us Everlasting LIFE and FOREVER Forgiveness, and a Forever Relationship with God... did I mention forever?
This is **CONDITIONAL**. In order to Receive His Salvation/Rescue and Eternal LIFE we **MUST** Trust Him, have Faith in Him, Believe in Him, Believe/Trust/Faith in Jesus Christ, alone for our Salvation. We must understand we cannot Earn our Salvation, we must simply Receive – we must first **REPENT** (change our mind about God, Creation, Sin, Humans, etc... and align our thinking with what God says in His Word – or at least begin to change our mind... this is a **volitional decision of humility**) **and** **TRUST** in Jesus Christ as one's own personal LORD, KING, GOD, MASTER and SAVIOR ... forever. **REPENT and BELIEVE the GOSPEL of JESUS CHRIST.**
Reference: Ephesians 1:13-14; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4; John 1:12-13; John 3:16; John 5:24; 1 John 5:10-13; Hebrews 7:27; 9:12; 10:10; 1 Peter 3:18
6. **APOLOGETICS** → Reasons, Fact, Proofs, Evidence... Defending the WORD of GOD (Jude 1:3; 1 Peter 3:15; Acts 4:33; 17:2-4; 26:18). Giving Reasons to help sinners God has allowed you to "work with" to have their spiritual eyes opened (Acts 26:18), and their minds open to the Authenticity, Validity, Veracity, Accuracy, and Authority of the Bible as being the True and Only Written Word of God on Planet Earth. Of course, this is a miraculous work of God. Yet, it is **NOT** just God doing something **without** using Born Again Disciples of Jesus Christ. God has given us guidelines in His Word on how we can be His faithful servants, being usable vessels and instruments in His hands to articulate valid, reasonable Reasons for why we **TRUST** the Holy Bible (Genesis thru Revelation) as God Holy Word.
 - a. **Fulfilled Prophecy** is the **BEST** Evidence that the Bible is TRUE & is Truly God's Holy Word Fulfilled Prophecy of the Messiah (Jesus Christ), regarding Israel, other nations, etc. These are all verifiable can be used to help "the blind to see". (see the back for more on this)
 - b. **Biblical Archaeology**: archaeologists can simply take the Bible, go the Israel & the Middle-East start digging and they find everything that the Bible says is there even after 1000's of years. Tons of discoveries every month for the last 400 years, etc.
 - c. **The Message of the Bible, Itself** – why is it so consistent from Genesis thru Revelation? One Message: God is the Creator, Sustainer of the Universe (it is His) & the Rescue of Sinners
 - d. **Changed Lives** - your own life as a witness or testimony of God's Transformational Love

Fulfilled Prophecy of the Messiah... conceptually taken from "*More Than a Carpenter*" by Josh McDowell

There are around 300 or so Prophecies in the Old Testament that relate, in some way, to the Messiah's first coming (born of a virgin, born in Bethlehem, raised in Nazareth in northern Israel, Crucifixion, Death, Burial and Resurrection, etc.), and to His Second Coming, etc.

If we take 8 of those Prophecies from the Old Testament that relate to the Messiah's first coming ...

→ Predicted and then Fulfilled in the actual person and life of Jesus of Nazareth.

1. Descendant of Abraham – Genesis 12:3
2. Descendant of Isaac – Genesis 21:12; 22:18
3. Descendant of Jacob – Genesis 28:14
4. Descendant of Judah – Genesis 49:10
5. Virgin Birth & Descendant of David – Isaiah 7:14 (also compare with Isaiah 9:6-7)
6. Born in Bethlehem – the home town of King David – Micah 5:2
7. Would Grow up in the Area around Galilee, Nazareth area – Isaiah 9:1-2
8. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Judas did this) – Zechariah 11:11-13; Psalm 41:9; Matt. 27:3-10;

The ODDS of One Person in all of History would be able to be the fulfillment of these 8 prophecies – would be ONE chance in 10^{17} ... or **1 in 100,000,000,000,000**

A way to illustrate this, would be to place **10^{17}** Silver Dollar Coins over the face of the whole state of Texas. This would cover the whole state of Texas 2 feet deep in Silver Dollars. We need to paint only ONE of them RED and throw it in the mix. Then Mix them all up thoroughly ... and the blindfold a person and let that person go anywhere within the State of Texas and choose any coin her or she wants to. The Chance that person has of finding that ONE RED COIN in the First Try ... is the same chance that ONE Person in all of History would be able to fulfill just these 8 Prophecies regarding the Messiah: A descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, born in Bethlehem, Virgin Born, raised in the Galilee/Nazareth region, and be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, etc. That would be the astronomically miraculous chance that one person could fulfill just these 8. Of course all of those are beyond someone's personal ability to cause that to happen to make it happen for oneself. None of can choose who our parents would have been, who we are descended from (genetically), where we are born, where we are raised, and who would betray us, and how we are betrayed. But this happened in the life of Jesus of Nazareth and this proves beyond a shadow of a doubt that He is the Messiah of Israel.

But, there are still many more prophecies regarding the coming of the Messiah of Israel, the Savior of the world, up to 48, very clear prophecies, and over 300 that are not so clear, but either hint at or relate somehow to the Messiah's coming and ministry, etc. The Old Testament is filled with predictions that relate to Jesus Christ, the coming Messiah.

Prophecy regarding Jesus Christ is amazing and is what the Apostles of Jesus Christ **used** in the Preaching of the Gospel as recorded throughout the book of Acts. They are examples for us to follow, in the sense of their thrust of Ministry and what they used in their proclamation of the Word of God to help sinners come to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Therefore, it is very valid and needful to use Prophecy in our sharing of the Gospel with others.

In the Four Gospels, Jesus Christ mentions: the Law of Moses (or "in Moses"), the **Prophets**, and the Psalms. This is the equivalent to what we call today, **the Old Testament** (the 39 books of the Old Testament) He is explaining that the Old Testament, from Genesis through Malachi contain many Prophecies about Him and He wants us to know them so well, that we can help lost sinners be rescued from their sin and from the coming Wrath of God (1 Thessalonians 1:9-10; 5:9-11)

Here is a link to many prophecies of the coming of Jesus Christ:

<http://www.truthaccordingtoscripture.com/documents/apologetics/fulfilled-prophecy.php>