

BIBLE BREAKTHROUGH

PROGRAM 4 THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN HISTORY

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THE MOST IMPORTANT MAN IN HISTORY

Sharing

1. Who is the most important man in your life? _____
 - Explain his importance: _____
2. Can you name an invention that changed the world? _____
 - If that inventor had never been born would it have made a difference to our world?
Explain: _____
3. Who was the most important man in the history of your country? _____
 - Explain: _____
4. Have you ever examined the prophecies surrounding the birth of Jesus? ____ Yes ____ No
5. Have you met people who do not believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah? ____ Yes ____ No

Studying

6. History tells us that Jesus Christ was a real person who lived on this earth 2,000 years ago. Christianity tells us that He was the Son of God. Christianity bases this belief on over 125 prophecies in the Bible predicting the coming of the Messiah. Here are some prophecies about Jesus:
 - He would be born in Bethlehem and come from the tribe of Judah. Micah 5:2 "But thou _____ . . . though thou be little among the thousands of _____, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be _____ in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."
 - He would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a _____ shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."
 - He would be taken to Egypt and return. Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of _____."
 - He would work in Galilee of the Gentiles. Isaiah 9:1,2 " . . . but in the future he will _____ Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (The light of the gospel would be given the Gentiles.)
 - Speaking every specifically, Zechariah says that Jesus would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt. Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the _____ of a donkey."
 - Jesus would be betrayed by a friend. Psalm 41:9 "Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who _____ my _____, has turned against me."
 - The exact amount of money exchanged for Jesus' betrayal. Zechariah 11:12 "I told them, "If you think it _____, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me _____ pieces of silver."

- The Bible predicted how Jesus would be treated. Isaiah 50:6 “I offered my back to those who _____ me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from _____ and _____.”
 - Jesus answered not a word as he was abused. Isaiah 53:7 “He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not _____ his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his _____.”
 - Men would gather around Jesus and make fun of Him. Psalm 22:7,8 “All those who see Me _____ Me.”
 - Jesus would hang on a tree and be buried the same day. “Deuteronomy 21:23 “. . .He is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, His Body shall not remain _____ on the tree, but you shall surely bury Him that day . . . “
 - The climax of Christ’s suffering was His crucifixion. “Isaiah 53:7 “. . . He was led as a _____ lamb to the slaughter. . . “
 - A thousand years before Christ, before crucifixion was a method of punishment of criminals, it was prophesied that His hands and feet would be pierced. Psalm 22:16 “For dogs have surrounded Me, The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They _____ My hands and My _____.”
 - During crucifixion, the Romans usually broke the legs of the victims so that they would more quickly die, but Psalm 22:7,18 indicated that Jesus would die before they broke His bones. This text also says that they would gamble for His garments. “I can count all My _____ . . . They look and stare at Me. They divide my _____ among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”
 - His side would be pierced. Zechariah 12:10 “Then they will look on Me whom they _____.”
 - Jesus’ body would not decay (because He would rise again). Psalm 16:10 “For You will not leave my body in the grave, Nor will You allow You _____ One to see corruption.”
 - Jesus would be buried in a rich man’s tomb. “Isaiah 53:9 “And they made His grave with the wicked, but with the _____ at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.”
7. There is no doubt that Jesus was who He claimed to be. Prophecy after prophecy in the Bible confirms it. Some doubt that Jesus was the Messiah. They say that he studied the scriptures and then tried to fulfill them to support his claim. However, many prophecies were totally beyond human control. He could not have arranged His birth, manner of birth, His betrayal or all the events surrounding His death.
8. Furthermore, through the power of the Holy Spirit, many recognized Him as the Messiah. One such person was Andrew, a fisherman of Galilee. He immediately went to his brother Peter and said, “We have found the _____.” Messiah means: the anointed One of God. 569 times in the New Testament Christ, as the Messiah, is mentioned as the anointed One of God.
9. Jesus asked His disciples a question that each of us also must answer. Matthew 16:15,16 “He said to them, “But who do you say that I am”” Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the _____, the Son of the living God.”
10. A Samaritan woman recognized Jesus as the Messiah! Read the story in John 4:6-29. Did the Samaritan woman believe that Jesus was the Messiah? ____ Yes ____ No. Explain your answer: _____

11. One of the most exciting prophecies in the Bible is the one that predicted when Jesus Christ would be anointed and when He would die. This marvelous revelation was given to the prophet Daniel in response to his prayer: Read Daniel's prayer: Daniel 9:19.
 - As Daniel was praying, God sent the angel Gabriel to explain the length of time Daniel's people would be captive in Babylon, when they would return to Jerusalem, when the Messiah would be anointed, when He would die and when the gospel would go to the Gentiles.
12. This prophecy in Daniel 9:24 is often called the "70-week prophecy," or the "490-year prophecy."
 - The 70 weeks mentioned are prophetic time, which equals 490 years of literal time. The key to understanding prophetic versus literal time is found in Ezekiel 4:6; Numbers 14:34: "I have appointed thee each day for a year."
 - So, if a prophetic 'day' is interpreted as a literal year, then 70 weeks—with 7 days in each week—would be 7 times 70 or 490 literal years!
13. Daniel 9:24 explains what God had ordained to happen in the 70 weeks (490 literal years) of this prophecy.
 - Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks (490 years) are _____ (which means 'cut off') for your people the Jews) and for your holy city (Jerusalem); to finish the transgression for iniquity (the Jews had refused to observe every 7th year as a 'sabbath rest year' so, therefore, they were to be punished for each year they disobeyed—70 years), to bring in everlasting righteousness (Messianic promise); to seal up vision and prophecy (Jesus would cry 'It is finished,' on the cross and become our sacrifice); and to _____ (this is synonymous with baptism) the Most Holy (Jesus Christ)."
14. When did the 490 years begin? If there was a beginning date, then Daniel could understand when his people, the Jews, would be able to return to their beloved Jerusalem.
 - Daniel 9:25 "Know ye therefore and understand that from the going forth of the _____ to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks (a total of 69 weeks or 483 literal years). The street shall be build again the wall, even in troublesome times." Note that this tells the exact time of Jesus' baptism that initiated His ministry to the world.
15. The decree of King Artaxerxes to rebuild Jerusalem was issued in the year 457 B.C. Adding 483 years from the time of the decree would bring us to the year 27 A.D. when the Messiah would be anointed (baptized).
 - Was Jesus baptized exactly when prophecy foretold? Luke 3:1, 21, 22 indicates that Jesus was baptized in the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. History shows that this would have been in 27 A.D.
 - At Jesus' baptism, God confirmed the accuracy of this prophecy by having the Holy Ghost descend in the bodily shape of a dove and a voice from heaven saying "Thou art my beloved Son; in Thee I am well pleased." Luke 3, 21, 22. Acts 10:38.
16. The last part of the prophecy stated that the Messiah would die (be 'cut off') in the middle of the 70th week.
 - Daniel 9:26 "And after the sixty-two weeks _____ shall be cut off, but not for Himself; So, in 31 A.D. right in the middle of the 70th week of the prophecy, Christ was offered up as a sacrifice when He died on the cross.
 - Daniel 9:27 "Then He shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; but in the middle of the week He shall bring and end to sacrifice and offering. This is a direct reference to the sacrificial system that ended when Jesus died.

17. Read Mark 15:38 to see that the temple veil that separated the Holy Place from the Most Holy Place was ripped from top to bottom when Jesus cried 'It is finished,' on the cross. This indicated that earthly sacrifices were no longer necessary as Jesus had become our forever, eternal sacrifice.
18. At Jesus' death on the cross, there were three and a half years left of the 70th week (490 years) of the prophecy. What happened at the close of this prophecy?
 - Read Acts 5:8 to 8:4 to learn that Stephen, a miracle-working evangelist in Jerusalem, was arrested by the Sanhedrin (the supreme court of the Jews), tried and stoned to death. This event ended the 490-year probationary period of time allotted for the Jews.
 - The result was the scattering of the church to all parts of the earth and the gospel going to the Gentiles—meaning that the gospel is for every individual on earth. Nobody is excluded.

Applying this lesson

19. There is no possible way that any man could have fulfilled over 125 detailed prophecies about the Messiah unless He was, Himself, the genuine Messiah, God's Son.
 - Through this study I believe that it is undeniable that Jesus Christ was who He said He was: the Messiah, Son of God.
 - A check mark at left indicates that I believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah, the Son of God.
20. As the Son of God, Jesus was divinity clothed in humanity, who loved us so much that He came to this earth to die for our sins so that everyone who accepts Him can be saved.
 - I believe that Jesus Christ came to this earth to die for my sins so that I might be eternally saved.
 - A check mark at left indicates that I accept Jesus' death as my substitute. I accept that He loved me enough to die for me so that I might live forever with Him.
21. Many people are willing to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior but they do not want to submit to Him as their Lord. Ultimately, our decision to accept Jesus Christ as both Savior and Lord is based on our conviction of who Jesus Christ truly was when He lived on earth.
 - This study proves from Scripture that Jesus Christ was sent by God to save mankind. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I believe that I must submit to Him as Lord of my life and live in obedience to His will.
 - A check mark at left indicates that I freely accept Jesus Christ as my Savior and I will submit to Him as my Lord. I will take my stand as one of His chosen people.