

## Suspects for the Savior

### Introduction:

- The Old Testament contains clues of the identity of the Savior.
  1. Some think there are m\_\_\_\_\_ Savors.
  2. But the O.T. only points to o\_\_\_\_\_ Savior.
  3. The clues narrow the field as to who the suspects are.
- We are going to look at key prophecies that narrow the number of suspects to one.

### He must publicly speak as THE P\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 18:15,18)

- Tests of a true prophet
  1. All predictions must come t\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 18:22)
  2. All messages must be perfectly consistent with God's w\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 13:1-3)
- Jesus claimed to be the prophet that Moses wrote about (Jn 5:46) and passes the test of a prophet.
  1. He **only** spoke God's w\_\_\_\_\_ (Jn 12:49,50). That is why He is called the Word (Jn 1:1).
  2. All His predictions came true
    - a. Matt 24:9 – the apostles would be persecuted and k\_\_\_\_\_ (all but Judas and John were persecuted to death).
    - b. Matt 24:2 – the t\_\_\_\_\_ in Jerusalem would be completely destroyed (fulfilled in 70 A.D.)
    - c. Matt 20:18,19 – He accurately predicted His own arrest, crucifixion, and r\_\_\_\_\_.
    - d. Matt 16:18 – Jesus would build the church and the gates of h\_\_\_\_\_ would not prevail against it (the church has been growing abundantly throughout the world in spite of efforts to stamp it out).
    - e. Matt 24:14 – the gospel will be preached to all the \_\_\_\_\_ before the end comes (getting closer every year).
- Only one suspect fulfills the role of The Prophet - Jesus of Nazareth.

### He must publicly appear as THE C\_\_\_\_\_ around 26 A.D. (Daniel 9:24-27)

- The context of this prophecy (Dan 9:1-23)

1. Daniel had been reading Jeremiah's prophecy of the 70 year p\_\_\_\_\_ of Jerusalem and had calculated that the 70 years were almost complete (v. 2)
  2. Daniel prayed with fasting that God would fulfill His word and fully restore His p\_\_\_\_\_ and His city, Jerusalem when the 70 year period was complete (vv. 3-19)
  3. God sends the angel Gabriel to tell Daniel that 70 sevens have been decreed for his people and his holy city – since Daniel was thinking in terms of years, 70 sevens = \_\_\_ years.
- When the 490 year period begins (Dan 9:25) – when a d\_\_\_\_\_ is issued to restore and rebuild Jerusalem. Scholars have argued three possibilities.
    1. 1<sup>st</sup> year of Cyrus (536 B.C.) – Ezra 1:1-4 records Cyrus decree to let the people return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple.
    2. 7<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes (457/458 B.C.) – Ezra 7:13-26, especially verse 18 gives – a d\_\_\_\_\_ is issued to the people of Israel to accompany Ezra to rebuild Jerusalem.
    3. 20<sup>th</sup> year of Artaxerxes (444/445 B.C.) – Neh 2:5-9 – only l\_\_\_\_\_ are given Nehemiah to give him peaceful passage to Jerusalem.
    4. Only #2 fulfills the conditions of restoring and rebuilding Jerusalem.
  - When the Messiah will appear (Dan 9:25)
    1. Seven 7's + Sixty-two 7's = Sixty-nine 7's or \_\_\_\_\_ years.
    2. 458 B.C. + 483 years = 26 A.D. which is the time of Jesus's b\_\_\_\_\_ when He was declared by God to be the Messiah (Matt 3:17 - *This is my beloved Son* refers to the prophesied Christ in Ps 2:7 who would rule the nations with a rod of iron).
  - What would be accomplished in this 490 year period? (Dan 9:24)
    1. Finish the transgression, make an end to sin, and make atonement for iniquity – Did not Jesus do this when He d\_\_\_\_\_ for our sins? (see Heb 9:26)
    2. Bring in everlasting righteousness – only in Jesus can we be declared r\_\_\_\_\_ (see 2 Cor 5:21)
    3. Vision and prophecy will be sealed up, which means f\_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus came to fulfill the Law and the Prophets (Matt 5:17).

4. The Most Holy will be anointed
  - a. This may refer to a person (the Messiah) or a place (the temple). C\_\_\_\_\_ determines the meaning.
  - b. Since the next verse (v. 25) uses the term Messiah (literally, anointed one), we must understand the Most Holy to refer to a person, the Messiah.
  - c. Jesus was anointed by God as the Christ when He was b\_\_\_\_\_ (Matt 3:17)
5. Sometime after the 483 year period (26 A.D.), The Messiah would be c\_\_\_\_\_ off and Jerusalem along with the temple would be completely destroyed (v. 26).
  - a. Jesus died in 30 A.D.
  - b. Jerusalem and the temple was completely destroyed on Aug 5, 70 A.D. (Eusebius, *History*, 3:7,8 – states the temple was destroyed 40 full years after Jesus’s death).

● Only one suspect fulfills the role of The Messiah – Jesus of Nazareth

**He must publicly die as THE SUFFERING S\_\_\_\_\_ (Is 53)**

- There are a few clues that speak of salvation coming to us through the suffering of the savior.
1. Gen 3:15 – he will be b\_\_\_\_\_ on the heel.
  2. Dan 9:26 – the Messiah will be c\_\_\_\_\_ off (NIV – killed).
  3. Isaiah 53
- Jesus fulfilled this 800 year-old prophecy in Isaiah 53 without an ounce of doubt.

| <b>Isaiah 53 reference</b>                                   | <b>Fulfillment</b>       | <b>Explanation</b>   |
|--|--------------------------|--|
| v. 3 – He was despised and forsaken                          | Matt 26:56<br>Matt 27:20 | All His disciples left Him and fled<br>The crowd insisted on His crucifixion |
| v. 8 - By oppression and judgment He was taken away          | Matt 26:57-59            | They came with clubs to arrest Him and led Him away for trial                |
| v. 7 – He did not open His mouth (in defense or retaliation) | Matt 27:12               | While being accused, He answered nothing                                     |
| v. 5 – He was scourged (beaten)                              | Matt 27:26-30            | He was scourged with a whip, spit upon, and given several blows to the head  |
| v. 5 – He was pierced (fatally                               | Luke                     | He was known to be   |

|   |                           |  |
|---|---------------------------|--|
| wounded) for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities, chastened for our well being       | 23:14,15,41<br>John 11:50 | innocent by Herod and by Pilate, yet still was crucified   |
| v. 6 – The Lord caused our sin to fall upon Him   | Matt 27:46;<br>2 Cor 5:21 | He was abandoned by the Father because He became sin in our place                                      |
| v. 9 - His grave was assigned with wicked men<br>v. 12 – He was numbered with the transgressors | Matt 27:38                | He was crucified between two thieves   |
| v. 9 – He was with a rich man in His death  | Matt 27:57-60             | Joseph of Arimathea, a wealthy man, placed Jesus in his brand new tomb.                                |
| v. 10 – The Lord was pleased to crush Him, if He would render Himself as a guilt offering       | Matt 20:28                | Jesus came to give His life as a ransom payment for many   |
| v. 11 – My Servant will justify the many as He will bear their iniquities                       | Matt 26:28                | Jesus said, “This is My blood of the covenant which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins |

- Only one suspect fulfills the role of The Suffering Servant – Jesus of Nazareth.

**Conclusion:**

- The birth of Jesus was God’s f\_\_\_\_\_ gift to us that came with an awful price to Jesus.
- This demonstrates how much He loves us and that life is only meaningful when we make every area of our lives about HIM, the only Savior.