



I once read twelve verses from the Bible to a Jewish man and asked him whom they were talking about. Without hesitation, he answered, “Jesus.”

He was shocked when I showed him they were from the Hebrew Scriptures. The whole time he thought I was reading from the New Testament.

These verses were written 2700 years ago and rabbis in ancient times taught this portion of scripture was a prophecy of the Messiah.

*Please read it and ask yourself,
“Of Whom Does the Prophet Speak?”*

Isaiah 53

¹Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?

²For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him.

³He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.

⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

⁷He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.

⁸He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

⁹And they made His grave with the wicked, but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand.

¹¹He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.

¹²Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Anyone even vaguely familiar with the facts concerning the life of Jesus would recognize Him in these verses.

This prophecy foretells of One who would suffer to pay for sins (verses 5 and 6); would be rejected by His own people (verses 3 and 4); would be treated like a criminal and yet not defend himself (verses 7 and 8); would die for sin and come back from the dead (verses 8 through 10).

Amazingly, the resurrection of Jesus can be proven to be an historical fact.

Consider this! One of the reasons Harvard Law School is so famous is because of a Jewish man named Simon Greenleaf, who held the Royal Professorship of Law. His book, "A Treatise on the Law of Evidence" (1842) is still considered the greatest single authority on evidence in the entire literature of legal procedure.

After he had written this book and while still Professor of Law at Harvard, he was challenged by his students to apply his laws of legal evidence to the accounts of the resurrection given by the four evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This challenge came about because Simon Greenleaf was a skeptic and had often mocked the Christians in his classes. After much persuasion he took the challenge and in the process of his research and investigation came to the conclusion that the resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth is the best attested fact of ancient history.

In 1846 he wrote a book entitled "An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice."

Listed are just a few quotes from this work.

"If any ancient document concerning our public rights were lost, copies which had been as universally received and acted upon as the Four Gospels have been, would have been received in evidence in any of our courts of justice, without the slightest hesitation.¹

"And it is worthy of remark, that of all the investigations and discoveries of travelers and men of letters, since the overthrow of the Roman

empire, not a vestige of antiquity has been found, impeaching, in the slightest degree, the credibility of the sacred writers; but, on the contrary, every result has tended to confirm it.²

“Either the men of Galilee were men of superlative wisdom, and extensive knowledge and experience, and of deeper still in the arts of deception, than any and all other, before or after them, or they have truly stated the astonishing things which they saw and heard.”³

“It was therefore impossible that they could have persisted in affirming the truths they have narrated, had not Jesus actually risen from the dead, and had they not known this fact as certainly as they knew any other fact.”⁴

“All that Christianity asks of men on this subject is that they would be consistent with themselves; that they would treat its evidences as they treat the evidence of other things; and that they would try and judge its actors and witnesses, as they deal with their fellow men, when testifying to human affairs and actions, in human tribunals. Let the witnesses be compared with themselves, with each other, and with surrounding facts and circumstances; and let their testimony be sifted, as if it were given in a court of justice, on the side of the adverse party, the witness being subjected to a rigorous cross-examination. The result, it is confidently believed, will be an undoubting conviction of their integrity, ability and truth.”⁵

Jesus said, “Search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life; and they are they which testify of Me” (John 5:39).

“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.” (John 5:24)

¹ Simon Greenleaf, *An Examination of the Testimony of the Four Evangelists by the Rules of Evidence Administered in the Courts of Justice* (Baker Book House, 1965, reprinted from the 1847 edition), pp.9,10.

² Ibid., p.47

³ Ibid., p.53

⁴ Ibid., p.29

⁵ Ibid., p.46