

- Do we believe that God keeps His Word or can He change it?
- The spiritual and political worlds are mixing, it is hard to see differences between the two.
- Rom. 11:20-22 states that Israel was broken off due to their unbelief. It says, "Do not be haughty, but fear," that if God didn't spare the natural branches, He will not spare the Gentiles who disbelieve as well. This is a warning to us all. In V22-24, Paul says God is kind and can graft the natural branches in again.
- 2 Cor. 4:1-6, Christ brings light as we proclaim Him. It is a ministry of mercy.
- What is the church's role? To hear the truth, proclaim it repeatedly, and carry the truth (1 Tim. 3:15).
- Jesus, aware of the Pharisees plot to kill Him, left them and healed those who followed, Matt. 12:15.
- In Matt. 12:17-21, Jesus applies Isaiah 42:1-4 to Himself, as Isaiah prophesied of the future Messiah.

8 Prophecies of Christ that You Must Believe:

- 1) **Jesus came in perfect humility:** V18, God calls Jesus, "My Servant." In Mark 10:45, Jesus tells His disciples that He came to serve not be served. Jesus came to die for the sins of those who would be saved (John 1:12). In V18, the word "chosen," means "to support" or "sustain." Why is Jesus coming as a servant so important: Because it is the prime quality of His 1st coming. He came the first time to die on the cross (Phil. 2:8) in His 2nd coming He will receive glory (Phil. 2:9-11).
 - a. Christ is His substitutionary death for us, has cancelled the debt of our transgressions, Col. 2:14.
- 2) **Jesus came uniquely qualified:** V18, "Whom I have chosen," Jesus is the One chosen by God to be: 1) a willing sacrifice, 2) faultless and sinless, 3) eternally effective, 4) Man and God, 5) born of a woman (Gen. 3:15), 6) able to fulfill hundreds of prophecies in the OT. Jesus says, "I am the way, truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father, except through Me." John 14:6.
- 3) **Jesus came wrapped in affection:** God is well-pleased by Jesus. V18, God the Father enjoyed eternal fellowship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and was sent by the Father. The Father received the prayers He prayed and the sacrifice He made. God was satisfied by the death of His Son to make atonement for sin (John 17:25-26, Is. 53:10, Matt. 3:17, Isa. 42:1).
- 4) **Jesus came fully empowered:** V18, "I will put My Spirit upon Him," as fully man, He was God. (9) Ways that the Spirit empowered Jesus: 1) Conceived by the Holy Spirit. 2) In holiness, Heb. 9:14. 3) Service, Acts 10:38. 4) Leading, Luke 4:1. 5) Wisdom, Is. 11:2-3. 6) Speech, Jn. 3:34. 7) Commands, Acts 1:2. 8) Miracles, Matt. 12:28. 9) Resurrection, Rom. 8:11.
- 5) **Jesus came with a focused mission:** V18, 20 "He shall proclaim justice to the Gentiles." Is. 42:1, Jesus will bring forth justice to the nations (Gentiles). The coastlands and nations will hope for His Law, Isa. 42:4, Matt. 12:21. Jesus reveals truth to the nations, leads justice to victory, and justice to all the earth, John 4:23-24. What Isaiah prophesied has to come to pass in Jesus, who brings judgement and justice to those who trust in Him.
- 6) **Jesus came in a plain manner:** V19, He didn't come to draw attention. Even after cleansing the temple in John 2:13-15, He met with Nicodemus at night. After His triumphal entry, He cleanses the temple again, but leaves for Bethany to spend the night, Matt. 21:17. Christian life is not a means to a great life, it is a life of trial and obedience, Matt. 16:25, Jn. 16:33. See also Isa. 53:2, "no stately form."
- 7) **Jesus came in tender compassion:** V20, "A battered reed He will not break off, and a smoldering wick He will not put out." After the death of John the Baptist, Jesus and His disciples were followed by the crowds and He had compassion on them. He taught and fed them, Mk. 6:30-45. In V46, He then went on the mountain to pray after teaching and feeding them that day.
- 8) **Jesus came with unwavering resolve:** Isa. 42:4 has a phrase that Matthew omits in 12:20. Matthew is proclaiming Christ's first mission to come and bring truth and salvation through His death, Matt. 16:21-23, Luke 9:51. Gentiles call upon the name of the Lord and desire to obey His law. He will come again a second time to execute righteousness and justice as King. Isaiah's prophecy of Jesus in Is. 42:4, "He will not be faint or crushed," describes His resolve to accomplish all His Father's will, Jn. 17:4.

Further Discussion and Application

Matthew provides numerous OT prophecies that Christ fulfilled. The one in Matt. 12:18-21 speaks clearly of the Servant of God. Col. 1:28 is a warning to those who would change or pervert the person of Christ. Paul warned the church and those in Colosse that Christ was the one who held all things together and created all things, Col. 1:15-20. What must we get right about the reason Christ came? Why must we believe that He was man and God? Why did Jesus not open His mouth when accused? Why did He have compassion on those who would believe in Him?

If Jesus would have come to conquer at His 1st coming, how would man have been saved from their sins? How many more have come to faith in Christ because of His sacrifice and delay? Was Christ thinking of you and me while on the cross? How great is the grace of God that He would reconcile people who were not Israel and bestow upon them eternal life by faith in His Son? Why were the Gentiles grafted into the Branch, who is Jesus?

The qualifications of Christ are of the upmost importance. A mere man would have failed, but Christ as the Living God pleased God in His sacrifice for sin. Jesus' sacrifice was accepted by the Father. How are we accepted by the Father? What makes us acceptable to Him? What righteousness do we have? What should our lives reflect because of the work of Christ in us?

2 Cor. 4:1-6 speaks of the difference between someone who has been born again and an unbeliever. V1, why is the gospel a ministry of mercy? V2, why do many twist the word of God? V2, why did Paul not try to craft a message that would please man? V3, who are those who can't understand God's offer of salvation and His Son whom He sent? V4, who has blinded the eyes of those hearing the message but not believing it? V5, Jesus is Lord, what does that make all His people? V6, why do we need the light of Christ to reveal our place in Him and our state in life without Him? If we don't see our darkness and destruction, would we ever be freed from it?