THE PREPOSTEROUS CLAIMS OF JESUS OF NAZARETH: Part 1
WHAT KIND OF CRAZIES WOULD BELIEVE IN CHRIST???
(CNC Faith Defenders—3/16/2014)

--THE CLAIMS OF JESUS:
--I AM the I AM: John 8:24, 28, 51-53, 57-59
--I AM the Messiah: John 18:33, 36-37
--Luke 1:1-4
    --KEY CONCEPT #1: Fulfilled prophecy is the mandate for any would-be Messiah.
    --KEY CONCEPT #2: Fulfilled prophecy is the hallmark of sovereignty because it proves that He is not constrained by time.
    --KEY CONCEPT #3: Any and all apparent inconsistencies between Jesus' life and the Messianic prophecies MUST be resolved or the entire foundation of Christianity crumbles.
--Luke 24:44: Jesus is either a LIAR, a LUNATIC, or He is LORD!!
    --"He Walked Among Us." (Amazon.com  USED books)

--THE FULFILLMENT OF PROPHECY BY JESUS OF NAZARETH:
1. Dan 9:24-25a: Prediction of the EXACT date of the Triumphal Entry.
   --Decree to rebuild Jerusalem: Nisan 1, 445 BC.
   --Triumphal Entry: Nisan 10, 32 AD. [Details of that prediction available online (crnaz.org) April 7, 2013]
2. Dan 9:26a: Messiah had to be “cut off” before the destruction of the sanctuary in AD 70.
3. Exod 12:1-3: The Passover Lamb was taken out of the flock on Nisan 10 to be observed.
4. Exod 12:5-6: The Lamb was slain by Israel on Nisan 14. (Thurs crucifixion: 3/3-4/7/13)
5. Gen 49:10: The Prince of Peace had to be born BEFORE the scepter was taken away from Israel.
   --The Messiah had to be born before AD 7.
6. Micah 5:2, 4-5a: Messiah had to be born in Bethlehem →
   --Luke 2:1-6:
7. Psa 22:18: Lots would be cast for His garments →
   --Luke 23:33-34:
   --Messianic disqualification: Give Judas 31 pieces of silver.
10. Psa. 22:16: Messiah would be cut off by being CRUCIFIED.
    --Crucifixion Prophesies:
        --Moses: 1450 BC.
        --David: 1000 BC.
        --Zechariah: 600 BC.
        --Historical fact: Crucifixion was first used for execution: ~150 BC.

--ATTACK ON SCRIPTURE: The only way to deny the implications of the supernatural foreknowledge of these types of prophecies is to maintain that the text was RE-written and manipulated to fit the life of Jesus AFTER he lived.
   --"Higher Criticism":
    1. The details of the life of Jesus are so well documented that there is no way to meaningfully deny the facts.
    2. The match between what is contained in the OT Prophets and the life of Jesus is truly astonishing.
3. If the Prophets were written before He lived…they prove God’s control of the future and that Jesus is the True Messiah.

4. The only way to discredit the Prophets and Jesus’ claims is to maintain that the OT “prophecies” were written after the events happened.

---Take home message from the Dead Sea Scrolls: Any event that occurs after 300 BC that matches what is found in the OT Prophets is True prophecy and cannot be challenged as authentic foretelling.

--APPLICATION: Faith…based upon verifiable Truth…is the rational response of people who are truly open-minded.

---The irony of modern skepticism.

--The classical skeptics' theme: “Unless you can show me convincing evidence supporting your case for faith…I won’t believe what you claim.”

--The modern skeptic’s theme: I already know that what you believe about God can’t be true…no matter what the evidence shows.

---The likelihood of fulfilling just 10 of the Messianic prophecies is approximately one in 9,300,000,000,000,000.

---The likelihood that Jesus could have fulfilled just ten of the prophecies is as likely as winning a state lottery three times in a row…without losing in between!!!

---II Pet 1:16; Luke 1:1-4