

I Believe

A Long-Awaited King

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her,

“Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

31 You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.”

Luke 1:29-33

Timing is Everything

Therefore Jesus told them,

“The right time for me has not yet come; for you any time is right.

7 The world cannot hate you, but it hates me because I testify that what it does is evil.

8 You go to the Feast. I am not yet going up to this Feast, because for me the right time has not yet come.”

9 Having said this, he stayed in Galilee.

John 7:6-9

2 Big Issues

/ The 'seventy sevens'

2 The destruction of the second temple in 70 AD

“Seventy ‘sevens’ are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

25 “Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One,

[Messiah] the ruler, comes,

there will be seven ‘sevens,’ and sixty-two ‘sevens.’

Daniel 9:24-25a

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, ² saying to them,

“Go to the village ahead of you,

and at once you will find a donkey tied there,

with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me.

³ If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away.”

⁴ This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

⁵ “Say to the Daughter of Zion,

‘See, your king comes to you, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.’”

Matthew 21:1-5

There will be a New and Everlasting Covenant

“The time is coming,” declares the Lord,

“when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt,

because they broke my covenant,

though I was a husband to them,” declares the Lord.

33 “This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the Lord.

“I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts.

I will be their God, and they will be my people.

34 No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest,” declares the Lord.

“For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.”

Jeremiah 31:31-34

This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 26:28

Next Steps

For Further Study:

The Case for Christmas ~ Lee Strobel

The Case for the Real Jesus ~ Lee Strobel

10 Answers for Skeptics ~ Alex McFarland

Orthodoxy ~ G.K. Chesterton

The Reason for God ~ Timothy Keller

What's So Great About Christianity ~ Dinesh D'Souza