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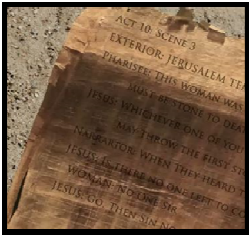
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Did Jesus Live According to a Script?

Hebrews 5:8-9: (NASB) ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience from the things, which he suffered. ⁹And having been made perfect, he became to all those who obey him the source of eternal salvation.



There is so much that comes to mind when you think of the life that Jesus lived here on earth for 33½ years. The Old Testament had an amazing amount to say about his life - much of it written hundreds and thousands of years before he came. This brings up the question - could Jesus have done the things he did and said the things he said simply because he knew the prophecies and wanted to fulfill them, or was it all of his own free will? Stay with us - this is fascinating!

There are two lines of attack on the authenticity of Jesus:

1. Jesus' life was "staged." He did the things that the Old Testament said so he could appear to be fulfilling prophecy.
2. Jesus did not even exist. His life was a fabrication for the purpose of controlling the people.

 **Gospels are fiction, Kenneth Humphreys, caesarsmessiahdoc.com**

- *The Gospels are not analogist to history; they are analogist to historical fiction. In other words, a drama has been inserted into a historical setting. The emphasis is totally different. It's an unreal drama. If you think about the Gospels, they are almost primarily concerned with the last week of Jesus' life - the Passion. (CQ Note: That is not correct.) That takes up most of the material. It is a simple drama inserted into a more or less realistic historical background.*

Let's start with some prophecies concerning the context of Jesus' birth. Could these things have been "staged?" Could they have been made up? Would Jesus in the womb be able to choose where he was physically born?

Bethlehem is the town of David, the King of Israel after King Saul. Interestingly, the prophecy said Messiah would come from the lineage of King David. Bethlehem was a great symbol of the reign of King David. A ruler over Israel coming from Bethlehem makes a lot of sense!

BORN IN BETHLEHEM: Sometimes God uses specific places to send specific messages regarding His plan! Prophecy: Micah 5:2 Prophecy Completed: Luke 2:47

But to a skeptic, could this have been a story made up just to fulfill a prophecy? Yes, the story could have been written after the fact and the author could have placed the beginning of the "story" in Bethlehem.

BORN OF A VIRGIN: Sometimes God uses absolute miracles to show us the power of His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14 Prophecy Completed: Luke 1:26-31

If someone 2,000 years ago was trying to fabricate a story, would they have gone that far to try to make the point?

 **Gospels have pro-Roman bias, K. Humphreys, caesarsmessiahdoc.com**

- *What I think we can say regarding the Gospels is that they show a decided pro-Roman bias. Let's paint the scene then. Rome is the great and emerging empirical power. It colonized the east as the Eastern Empire of Greece declined. In the areas it took over, it used in the first phase "client kings." In other words, it found those members of the local aristocracy that would collaborate with Rome, and they would happily do so because Rome would preserve their position. So, the classic example is of course the Herodian family. Herod was a Roman puppet, but Herod ruled his own provinces in his own way and with a rod of iron.*

We do believe there was a "pro-Jewish Law" bias and an "anti-Pharisee" bias. We do not understand what a "pro-Roman" bias would be.



(Source: <http://caesarsmessiahdoc.com/Synopsis/synopsis.html>) Through interviews with experts, we learn that Jesus is not a historical figure, the events of Jesus' life were based on a Roman military campaign, his supposed second coming refers to a historical event that already occurred, the teachings of Christ came from the ancient pagan mystery schools, and the Gospels were written by a family of Caesars and their supporters who left us documents to prove it. Dissecting the history and literature of this time, the Scholars note that the history officially provided by the Church does not hold up to rigorous scrutiny. Much like the ancient era from which Christianity emerged, we are currently on the brink of an immense paradigm shift. Studying this history can help us understand modern-day politics, and give us the much-needed perspective for coming up with solutions to today's problems, in order to create a better world.

Could Joseph (Jesus' earthly father) have played an active role in making sure prophecy was fulfilled?

OUT OF EGYPT I CALL MY SON: Sometimes God directs events for the fulfillment of His plan! Sometimes God allows the hatred and greed of men to fulfill His plan!

"OUT OF EGYPT I CALL MY SON"	
PROPHECY	PROPHECY
<p>Hosea 11:1: (NASB) <i>When Israel was a youth I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son. ¹⁶Then when Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he became very enraged, and sent and slew all the male children who were in Bethlehem and all its vicinity, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had determined from the magi. ¹⁷Then what had been spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ </p> <p>Jeremiah 31:15: (NASB) <i>Thus says the LORD; A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; She refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more.</i></p> <p>How do we know this prophecy was meant for this event?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rachel was the mother of two of the tribes, Joseph and Benjamin, which tribes occupied Palestine at the time of the first advent. 2. Rachel was buried in Bethlehem. <p>Genesis 35:19: (NASB) <i>So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem).</i></p>	<p>Matthew 2:12-23: (NASB) ¹²And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way. ¹³Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, get up! Take the child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him. ¹⁴So Joseph got up and took the child and his mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt. ¹⁵He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: <i>Out of Egypt I called My Son.</i></p>
<p>Sometimes God directs events for the fulfillment of His plan! Sometimes God allows the hatred and greed of men to fulfill His plan!</p>	

The book of Matthew was written for Jewish converts to show that the life of Jesus was built upon the Old Testament. It describes events fulfilled that God previously said would happen. These are things Jesus could not have had any control over.

A NAZARENE: Sometimes God directs broad events and then leaves us to make specific decisions to fulfill His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 1:1 The word "branch" here is from Strongs #5341 "netser," a green sprout, a shoot. This is the word from which Nazareth is derived, a "weak (tender) shoot," as Nazareth was a weak city. Prophecy Completed: Matthew 2:19 What Old Testament prophecy did this fulfill if the city of Nazareth did not exist in the Old Testament? It is obscure but right there in Isaiah 11:1!



PRECEDED BY A FORERUNNER: Sometimes God calls a specific person with specific talents to accomplish His plan! Prophecy: Malachi 3:1 Prophecy Completed: Luke 7:24,27

DECLARED TO BE THE SON OF GOD: Sometimes God tells us ahead of time what He Himself will say in proclaiming His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 2:7 Prophecy Completed: Matthew 3:17

HIS PATH WAS PREPARED FOR HIM: Sometimes God's prophecies are fulfilled in stages illustrating the stages of His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 40:3-5 Prophecy Completed: Luke 3:3-6

Prophecy's pattern over thousands of years is that it unfolds in stages. Isaiah, for example, has many prophecies of the End Times. In Isaiah 40, we see the results of Jesus' first AND second coming. The prophecy was not fulfilled all at once.

PREACHING IN GALILLEE: Sometimes God focuses on specific places to draw specific people and lessons about His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 9:1,2 Galilee signifies a circle; implying this land would be encircled by the Gentiles. Galilee would be a very central place for the unfolding of Jesus' message. Prophecy Completed: Matthew 4:13-16

The Gentiles would have a view into the Gospel message initially but then would come to the Gospel later on after the death of Jesus and the conversion of Cornelius. These prophecies not only provide factual pieces from the Old Testament to the New Testament, but they give us an idea of "why." We get a sense of God's plan in a bigger picture. This is very faith strengthening!

TEACHING IN PARABLES: Sometimes God prophesies that things will remain perplexing in the unfolding of His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 78:2-4 Prophecy Completed: Matthew 13:34-35

AS A PROPHECT AND TEACHER: Sometimes God prepares us through prophecy with examples of the people who carry out His plan! Prophecy: Deuteronomy 18:15
Prophecy Completed: Luke 24:18-19

BINDING UP THE BROKENHEARTED: Sometimes God allows prophecy to be plainly understood to further His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 61:1-2 Prophecy Completed: Luke 4:18-21

Jesus knew the prophecies, knew his mission and fulfilled them willingly. For Jesus to have staged all this would be impossible. For a Roman to write this after the fact as some skeptics believe, they would have had to know the Jewish Scriptures absolutely inside and out - including very veiled references. Not likely!

LOVED BY THE CHILDREN: Sometimes God prophesies the obvious details of His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 8:2 Prophecy Completed: Matthew 21:15-16

TRIUMPHANT ENTRY INTO JERUSALEM: Sometimes God reveals the thrilling prospects and magnitude of His plan still to come! Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9 Prophecy Completed: Mark 11:17-11

This happened spontaneously because of the person Jesus was. Unless he sent out invitations to the 300,000 gathered, this could not have been staged!

HIS OWN PEOPLE DID NOT BELIEVE: Sometimes God prophesies the hard to grasp realities that He allows in His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 53:1 Prophecy Completed: John 12:37-38

After the fact when the writers sat down to write the Gospel, they recognized the connections. There is a resounding, clear and detailed picture of Jesus' days in the book of Isaiah.

REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE: Sometimes God prophesies the hard to grasp realities that He allows in His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 53:3 Prophecy Completed: John 1:11 and Luke 23:18

Was the life of Jesus fabricated for the purpose of controlling the people? Look at the amazing positive effect the life of Jesus has had on the world in the last 2,000 years. Yes, there has been a lot of misinterpretation of his name, such as with the Crusades. But when you see the principles of love, compassion, forgiveness, honesty, integrity, following the will of God, living a life of prayer and sacrifice - the goodness from that life is hard to fathom.

Has there ever been a fabricated individual that comes close to that influence?

BETRAYED BY A CLOSE FRIEND: Sometimes God reveals the human heartbreak that He allows in His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 78:2-4 Prophecy Completed: Matthew 13:34-35



Even this small detail came true. Perhaps this gave Jesus a point of encouragement. Even though he was revealing his betrayer, this detail was prophesied by his Father. He could have faith in his walk because prophecy was unfolding.

Prophecy, however, did not interfere with his personal choices.

For example, as a parent sometimes you know what your child will do before he or she does it. Sometimes you let the child go down that road without interference as a learning experience. You don't interfere with their free will; you just know what they will choose because you know your child so well.

BETRAYED FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER: Sometimes God reveals details of uncanny accuracy in His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 22:15-16 Prophecy Completed: John 20:25-27

Did Judas "hold out" until he got exactly the 30 pieces in order to force the prophecy to come true?!

CRUCIFIXION FORETOLD: Sometimes God reveals things not even yet in existence that He allows in His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 22:15-16 Prophecy Completed: John 20:25-27



Crucifixion not invented, Jesus fulfilled Old Testament Prophecies, "J8"

- *When David wrote Psalm 22 crucifixion hadn't even been invented yet, hadn't even been thought of; it would have been considered inhumane in the ancient Middle East and yet the Roman government decides this is one way when you've conquered a country to subjugate these people and keep them under authority. Crucify as many as you have to, terrorize the population into submission.*
- *The actual term "crucifixion" is not actually used in the Old Testament; however, there are several ancient references that clearly indicate it was the means of capital punishment by which the Messiah would die. As a result, the fulfillment of Messianic prophecy hinged upon a specific historical chronology.*

God knows the beginning from the end. He has allowed a lot of difficult and sad things to happen but that is part of the plan. The difficulty is allowed for a small period of time for a learning experience that will last forever.

MOCKERY EXPLICITLY FORETOLD: Sometimes God lets us see just how calloused the heart of man is - a revealing of His plan! Prophecy: Psalms 22:7-8 Prophecy Completed: Matthew 27:39-43

The prophecies give us more understanding for what is coming but also should be a faith-strengthening comfort for us to see that God really does have this all in hand. When we look at the condition of the world we live in, fear not! We have myriads of prophecies showing how God understands, allows and will intervene. God's plan will not go unfulfilled!

THE WORLD'S DELIVERANCE FORETOLD: Sometimes God tells us the "happily ever after" - the end result of His plan! Prophecy: Isaiah 53:5-7 Prophecy Completed: Romans 5:6-8

Look at the depth of these and other prophecies. Jesus' life was *not* scripted. His life was *not* fabricated by a group of Romans out to control the people. Jesus Christ the man died for the sin of Adam and was raised to the right hand of the power of God. His life was given for the sake of Adam so that all of our lives could have an opportunity of life everlasting in the future. The Bible proves itself over thousands of years of history and prophecy!

***So, did Jesus live according to a script?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!***