

The following references should never be considered an exhaustive accounting; however the messianic Scripture comparisons below have been of considerable interest over the years in reinforcing my faith to personally accept the full impact, meaning and reason for the divine conception and resurrection of our Lord and Savior. My observations lead me to think that too many are relying on the faith of others to carry them. In the heavy times we'll all need our own convictions.

The prophet Micah, around 700 BC in Micah 5:2 wrote: *“But you Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will rule over Israel, whose origins are from old, from ancient times.”* The Gospel of Matthew in verse 2:1 records: *“Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judah.”*

Isaiah in verse 7:14, prophesied: *“The virgin will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”* Matthew 1:18 says: *“His mother, Mary was pledged to marry Joseph, but before they came together she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit.”*

About 500 BC Zachariah 9:9 tells us: *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout daughter of Jerusalem! See, your King come to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey.* The Gospel of John, in verses 12:13-14, reminds us: *“They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, ‘Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel.’ Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it.”*

Psalms 41:9, written by David 1,000 BC describes the betrayal by Judas: *“Even my close friend whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”* Mark 14:10 says: *“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them.”*

Isaiah 53:3 tells us: *“He was despised and rejected by men... Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”* John 1:11 tells us: *He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”*

Isaiah 43:12 tells us: *“He was numbered with transgressors.”* Matthew 27:38 says: *“Two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left.”*

Psalms 22:16 says: *“They have pierced my hands and my feet.”* John 20:27 says: *“Put your finger here, see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.”*

Psalms 16:10 reminds us: *“You will not abandon me to the grave; nor will you let your Holy One decay.”* In Acts, the NT book describing the history of the early church, verse 3:15 tells us: *“You killed the author of life, but God raised Him from the dead.”*

Psalms 68:18 says: *“You ascended on high.”* In Acts 1:9 we read: *“He was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.”*

Hundreds of years apart; so was it all just coincidental? I don't think so!!!

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