

The other day someone sent me a very interesting article entitled “Aliens Are Causing Global Warming”. It was a very interesting article, to say the least. However, one of the foundational points that the article made is that when scientists cannot reach an agreement on the facts, they reach a consensus.

He gave many examples through the years, for example why 1 in 7 women died in childbirth, with one doctor saying it was unsanitary conditions that caused a fever and it took 120 years before they recognized the fact. And another example was that during the early 1900's there was an epidemic, which some said was caused by a virus, but one scientist said was caused by diet. Because they did not listen to him, the prevailing consensus was that it was a virus, hence many thousands died.

The latest “consensus” is that which concerns global warming – hence the title of his article. The point being is that there are as many who discount global warming as those who accept it, but because of various political and social forces there is a consensus that it exists. It is not based on fact... it is not based on science ... it is based on consensus.

One thing however, is not based on consensus. That is the person and work of our Savior the Lord Jesus Christ. His birth, his life, his ministry, his death, resurrection and ascension were all prophesied in the Old Testament over a 1000 years before he was even born. And some of the prophecies themselves date 1000's of years before his birth, recorded in the Scriptures under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Turn with to the beginning of our Gospel lesson from Luke 18:31-34 (READ). Let me say this clearly, that what we believe about our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ is not consensus, but is based in fact on the authority of Scripture. If you believe in the authority of the Word of God then the facts are indisputable – they are beyond question.

What we have before us is the third time that Jesus predicted his death. Luke records two other occasions in chapter 9, and here again in chapter 18. The 2nd time in chapter 9 we read similar words that the disciples did not understand what he was saying. In other words, their hearts had not yet been open to the truth of what was to happen.

Here in chapter 18, we read something different – 18:31: *“Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, “Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.”*

Note clearly what our Savior says: *“and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.”* Everything that happened in the life of our Savior was prophesied in the Old Testament Scriptures.

Time does not permit us to look at all the prophecies – there are literally dozens – and there are some that are yet to be fulfilled. But there was the first one, immediately after the fall that we saw in our study of Genesis last week, from Genesis 3:15: *“And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”*

This is the 1st promise of a Savior and it describes what would eventually happen on the cross where Satan would be defeated. In Luke 24, after the resurrection, as Jesus was on the road with some of the disciples we read Luke 24:27: *“And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.”*

And then we know that throughout the Old Testament Scriptures there are a multitude of prophecies concerning our Savior’s birth, life, rejection, suffering, death and resurrection.

I quote just a few. In Micah 5:2 we read of the place of his birth: 5:2: *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.”*

In Isaiah 9:7 we read that Jesus will be the heir to the throne of David – 9:7: *“Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.”*

In Jeremiah 31:15 we read of the prophecy of the slaughter of the innocents under Herod – 31:15: *“Thus says the LORD: “A voice was heard in Ramah, Lamentation and bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her children, Refusing to be comforted for her children, Because they are no more.”*

Isaiah 53 prophecies his rejection and suffering – 53:3-7: *“He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.”*

Psalms 22 describes what happens at a crucifixion, written over 1000 years before it was even invented as means of execution. And as I said, there are many others – the fact that he would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver and that the money would be returned for a potters field. The fact that false witnesses would accuse him is prophesied in Psalm 27 and the fact that his hands and feet would be pierced in Psalm 22.

There is also the facts that were prophesied that not a bone would be broken, that they would pierce his side, that the soldiers would cast lots for his clothes and that he would be buried with the rich. It is all in the Old Testament. As Jesus said: *“and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished.”*

And lastly, the fact that he would rise from the dead and ascend into heaven. Psalm 16:10 says: *“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”* And Psalm 68:18 says: *“You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the LORD God might dwell there.”*

The point of all this is that what we believe has its basis in historical fact, not consensus. It was prophesied in

the Old Testament and it was fulfilled in the life of Christ.

Peter tells us this in 2 Peter 1:16 & 19-21: *“For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty.... “And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.”*

We know that the Scriptures were inspired by God. Yes, men wrote down the words, but they did so under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As we read in 2 Timothy 3:16-17: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”*

Again, what we believe has its basis in indisputable fact. There are no contradictions in the Scriptures and they are true from beginning to end. What God said that He would do, He has done. No other religion or cult can claim this. No other religion or cult has the body of evidence that Christianity has. No other religion or cult has the history that Christianity does.

Consider the facts – Mormonism is a little over 150 years old, Jehovah’s Witnesses a little less, along with Christian Scientists, which is neither Christian or Scientific. Then there is Scientology which came about in the 1950’s! Why would any one believe them.

But Christianity is based in historical, verifiable fact. It is based on the person and work of Jesus Christ and the faithfulness of God. So, let us be thankful that God has revealed the truth to us. And when you read about those that criticize Christianity, remember it is because their eyes and hearts have not been opened to God’s revealed truth.