

Resonate

BIBLE STUDY

**“TABLE FOR TWO:
DIVINE CONVERSATION”**

The King of the universe summons you into His mighty presence. You have been told that He has an important message that He desires to share with you. How would you feel? How would you respond? This week we will study that conversation, what God wants to tell the world, one person at a time.



Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 55:3; Luke 1:26-33; John 3:1-18

The Word

The music group Queen wrote a song called "Who Wants to Live Forever"? The song always upsets me whenever I hear it. The tune is sad and dreary. But it also is wrong. We will live forever, whether we want to or not. We were created for eternity. The destination of our eternity depends upon our earthly choice of accepting or rejecting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Isaiah 55:3a

³ *Give ear and come to me;
hear me, that your soul may live.*

Verse 3a: The Lord Almighty is speaking here. He wants everyone to know how to experience salvation. He wants each person to accept the path that brings the soul to life. If we come close, if we listen, He will tell us exactly how eternal life can be ours.

Isaiah 55:3b

³ *...I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.*

Verse 3b: The Lord had made an unconditional covenant with David, the second king of Israel. God promised to establish and sustain the Davidic dynasty by promising that a godly king, like David, would rule forever.

Luke 1:26-33

²⁶*In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."*

²⁹*Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. ³¹You*

will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Verse 26-33: Jesus, God Himself, was born. He is from the line of David and fulfills the covenant given to David. This covenant was originally given to one man, David. However, the verses in Isaiah open up the covenant to all people. The blessing of David having an offspring that would be the eternal king becomes a blessing to us because the Son of Man can rule over us now.

In order to be under the rule of a government, you must be under the government. For example, the citizens of Australia do not have to be concerned with obeying the laws of America for they are not in America. However, they need to follow the rules of Australia in order to receive the benefits of obeying the law. This principle is the same spiritually. Since Jesus is the eternal Ruler, we need to come under the laws of His kingdom in order to share in the benefits of being under His authority. There is only one way to become a part of this spiritual nation: you must be born into it.

John 3:1-18

¹Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴"How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

⁹"How can this be?" Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰"You are Israel's teacher," said Jesus, "and do you not understand these things? ¹¹I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up

the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because he has not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

Verse 1-18: Belief in the Son of Man, Jesus, who was crucified on a cross for our sins, is the only way to be born again. This birth gives you citizenship into the eternal kingdom where you will live forever under the rule of the King of kings. The Lord wants everyone to be born again. This is the message He is declaring to the nations of the world so people will become a part of the spiritual nation of the universe.

Up Close and Personal

Praise the Lord who has kept the covenant to David about a kingdom that will rule forever.

Explain how to be born again.

When were you born again?

How does God declare the message of salvation to the nations?

DAY
2

Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 55:4; Revelation 1:5; Philippians 2:8-11

The Word

Court cases often have eye-witnesses. They tell the jury what they saw of the crime or they may be the alibi for the defendant. Either way, they share the knowledge they have in order to add to the evidence that the jury must weigh in order to reach a verdict.

Christianity is based on faith, but it is also based on evidence. Just like a jury, we come to conclusions through the testimony of witnesses instead of personal first-hand knowledge. The Lord gives His testimony about Himself through others.

Isaiah 55:4

*⁴See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the peoples.*

Verse 4: The witness is not the one in authority in the courtroom but the judge is. The witness, in this account, is also the leader of the peoples. A known person of power is testifying for the case. Important government officials are rarely called to testify unless the case is extremely important. The case in question is salvation. This is the most important decision in the universe. The Judge makes Himself the witness in order that more people will weigh the evidence in favor of salvation.

Revelation 1:5

⁵...and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Verse 5: Jesus Christ is the faithful witness as well as the Judge. The All-Powerful one forfeits His right to demand us to believe in Him and instead allows us the option to believe His testimony or not. He gives us the right to choose, to weigh the evidence. At least He allows us that opportunity while we are alive on earth. One day, however, we will no longer need to weigh the evidence for we will stand before the complete proof.

Philippians 2:8-11

*⁸And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to death—
even death on a cross!
⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.*

Verse 8-11: Jesus is the Ruler of the universe because He humbled Himself to the cross. He endured the torture as payment for our sins committed against the Perfect Judge. Therefore, Jesus is eternally honored. Even if people choose to reject the evidence of Christ on earth, they will one day acknowledge Him as Lord. At that point, there will be no disputing His authority or His accomplishment of victory over sin and death.

Have you weighed the evidence of Jesus Christ? The Word of God corroborated His story. Archaeological finds and historical documents support the Word of God. The Faithful Witness has spoken through the generations to people who have believed His testimony. But that is not enough. The Faithful Witness desires to speak to you. Will you confess Him as Lord now or will you wait until you stand before the Judge?

Up Close and Personal

Proclaim Jesus as Lord. Bow down if you are able.

When did you first confess Jesus as Lord?

What evidence weighed in on your decision to become a follower of Christ?

When have you pointed someone else toward the evidence proving Christ as our Savior and Lord?



The Word

Today's Scripture:

2 Samuel 12:1-9, 13; James 1:13-17; Romans 6:23

Yesterday we discussed weighing the evidence of Jesus. We will continue this theme as we look at prophecies about Jesus which have already come true. This will build the way for tomorrow as we discuss prophecies about the near future. The hope of future prophecies finds its stability in ones already fulfilled. Below is a list of prophetic Scriptures about the Messiah and how they were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

Fulfilled Prophecy	Tenakh/Hebrew Scripture	New Testament
His pre-existence	Micah 5:2	John 1:1, 14
Born of the seed of a woman	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:18

Of the seed of Abraham	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 1:1-16
All nations blessed by Abraham's seed	Genesis 12:3	Matthew 8:5, 10
God would provide <u>Himself</u> a Lamb as an offering	Genesis 22:8	John 1:29
From the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Matthew 1:1-3
Heir to the throne of David	Isaiah 9:6-7	Matthew 1:1
Called "The mighty God, The everlasting Father"	Isaiah 9:6	Matthew 1:23
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
Born of a virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:18
His name called Immanuel, "God with us"	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
Declared to be the Son of God	Psalms 2:7	Matthew 3:17
His messenger before Him in spirit of Elijah	Malachi 4:5-6	Luke 1:17
Preceded by a messenger to prepare His way	Malachi 3:1	Matthew 11:7-11
Messenger crying "Prepare ye the way of the Lord"	Isaiah 40:3	Matthew 3:3
Would be a Prophet of the children of Israel	Deuteronomy 18:15	Matthew 2:15
Called out of Egypt	Hosea 11:1	Matthew 2:15
Slaughter of the children	Jeremiah 31:15	Matthew 2:18
Would be a Nazarene	Judges 13:5; Amos 2:11; Lam. 4:7	Matthew 2:23
Brought light to Zabulon & Nephthali, Galilee of the Gentiles	Isaiah 9:1-2	Matthew 4:15

Presented with gifts	Psalms 72:10	Matthew 2:1, 11
Rejected by His own	Isaiah 53:3	Matthew 21:42; Mark 8:31, 12:10; Luke 9:22, 17:25
He is the stone which the builders rejected which became the headstone	Psalms 118:22-23; Isaiah 28:16	Matthew 21:42; I Peter 2:7
A stone of stumbling to Israel	Isaiah 8:14-15	I Peter 2:8
He entered Jerusalem as a king riding on an ass	Zechariah 9:9	Matthew 21:5
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:21
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:15; Luke 22:5
The 30 pieces of silver given for the potter's field	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 27:9-10
The 30 pieces of silver thrown in the temple	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:5
Forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Matthew 26:56
Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11	Matthew 26:60
Silent to accusations	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:14
Heal blind/deaf/lame/dumb	Isaiah 35:5-6; Isaiah 29:18	Matthew 11:5
Preached to the poor/brokenhearted/captives	Isaiah 61:1	Matthew 11:5
Came to bring a sword, not peace	Micah 7:6	Matthew 10:34-35
He bore our sickness	Isaiah 53:4	Matthew 8:16-17
Spat upon, smitten and scourged	Isaiah 50:6, 53:5	Matthew 27:26, 30
Smitten on the cheek	Micah 5:1	Matthew 27:30
Hated without a cause	Psalms 35:19	Matthew 27:23

The sacrificial lamb	Isaiah 53:5	John 1:29
Given for a covenant	Isaiah 42:6; Jeremiah 31:31-34	Romans 11:27/Galatians 3:17, 4:24/Hebrews 8:6, 8, 10; 10:16, 29; 12:24; 13:20
Would not strive or cry	Isaiah 42:2-3	Mark 7:36
People would hear not and see not	Isaiah 6:9-10	Matthew 13:14-15
People trust in traditions of men	Isaiah 29:13	Matthew 15:9
People give God lip service	Isaiah 29:13	Matthew 15:8
God delights in Him	Isaiah 42:1	Matthew 3:17, 17:5
Wounded for our sins	Isaiah 53:5	John 6:51
He bore the sins of many	Isaiah 53:10-12	Mark 10:45
Messiah not killed for Himself	Daniel 9:26	Matthew 20:28
Gentiles flock to Him	Isaiah 55:5, 60:3, 65:1; Malachi 1:11; II Samuel 22:44-45; Psalm 2:7-8	Matthew 8:10
Crucified with criminals	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:35
His body was pierced	Zechariah 12:10; Ps. 22:16	John 20:25, 27
Thirsty during execution	Psalm 22:16	John 19:28
Given vinegar and gall for thirst	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Soldiers gambled for his garment	Psalm 22:18	Matthew 27:35
People mocked, "He trusted in God, let Him deliver him!"	Psalm 22:7-8	Matthew 27:43
People sat there looking at Him	Psalm 22:17	Matthew 27:36
Cried, "My God, my God why hast thou forsaken me?"	Psalm 22:1	Matthew 27:46

Darkness over the land	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
No bones broken	Psalms 34:20, Numbers 9:12	John 19:33-36
Side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57, 60
Resurrected from the dead	Psalms 16:10-11; 49:15	Mark 16:6
Priest after the order of Melchizedek	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 5:5-6; 6:20; 7:15-17
Ascended to right hand of God	Psalms 68:18	Luke 24:51
LORD said unto Him, "Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool"	Psalms 110:1	Matt 22:44; Mark 12:36, 16:19; Luke 20:42-43; Acts 2:34-35; Hebrews 1:13
His coming glory	Malachi 3:2-3	Luke 3:17

Sims, Daniel. "Tenakh/Hebrew/Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus Christ, Messiah". October 25, 2007. <<http://www.jesus-is-lord.com/messiah.htm>>

These are only a few examples. There are over 300 Messianic prophecies which were written hundreds or even thousands of years before Jesus walked the earth. But God was faithful in fulfilling every one of them. He wanted the world to make no mistake who the Savior of mankind would be.

To get a feel for the probabilities involved, consider this. An author and speaker named Josh McDowell calculated the odds of Jesus fulfilling only eight of the Messianic prophecies as 1 out of 10¹⁷ (a one followed by 17 zeros). This is equivalent to covering the entire state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep, marking one of them, mixing them all up and having a blind-folded person select the marked one at random the first time.

"Prophecies fulfilled by Jesus". 2006. October 25, 2007. <<http://www.bprc.org/topics/fulfill.html>>

Weigh the evidence. Jesus is Who He claimed to be. He is the Savior and Lord. Make no mistake. Just as He fulfilled prophecy about His time on earth, He will fulfill prophecy about His return!

Up Close and Personal

Praise the Lord who keeps His Word.

What do you think are the purposes of prophesy?

What are your thoughts about prophecies that were fulfilled?

How does this help you as you consider the future?

DAY
4

Today's Scripture:

Deuteronomy 7:6-9; Isaiah 55:5, 2:2-4; 9:7; Psalm 122:6; Revelation 22:20

The Word

The nation of Israel is the center of the world. Media is focused on it; nations fight over it; controversy has reigned in it. The country itself is only "290 miles in length from north to south and some 85 miles across at its widest point".

"Looking at Israel-The Land". 2003. Israel Philatelic Service. October 25, 2007. <<http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Facts+About+Israel/Looking+at+Israel/Looking+at+Israel-+The+Land.htm>>

Why would the world be interested in a plot of land barely larger than New Jersey? The reason for such interest is that the Lord Himself has declared the land His. One day He will rule again from Jerusalem. In the meantime, the enemy wants to wreak havoc on the people of God, for the Jews are the Lord's chosen people.

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

⁶ For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you out of all the peoples on the face of the earth to be his people, his treasured possession.

⁷ The LORD did not set his affection on you and choose you because you were more numerous than other peoples, for you were the fewest of all peoples. ⁸ But it was because the LORD loved you and kept the oath he swore to your forefathers that he brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the land of slavery, from the power of Pharaoh

king of Egypt. ⁹ Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commands.

Verse 6-9: The Lord chose the Israelites to be His people. They will always be His people. One day He will return to Israel and reign from Jerusalem. All the nations of the earth will be under the divine rule of Jesus. Soon this tiny nation will be restored as the pride of the world. It will no longer live under threat from the enemy because the world will want to be its ally.

Isaiah 55:5

⁵ Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations that do not know you will hasten to you,
because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor."

Verse 5: Israel has had generations of difficulty. But this will not always be the case. Peace will one day reign and the dignity of this nation will be restored. All opposition will be removed and Israel will be the focal point for government and for spiritual leading.

Isaiah 2:2-4

² In the last days
the mountain of the LORD's temple will be established
as chief among the mountains;
it will be raised above the hills,
and all nations will stream to it.

³ Many peoples will come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
He will teach us his ways,
so that we may walk in his paths."
The law will go out from Zion,
the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He will judge between the nations
and will settle disputes for many peoples.
They will beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks.
Nation will not take up sword against nation,
nor will they train for war anymore.

Verse 2-4: Imagine a world where the top news story is about kind deeds people did for one another. The reporters would no longer report on war but on spiritual festivals around the globe.

Isaiah 9:7

*⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace
there will be no end.
He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.
The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.*

Verse 21-23: A perfect rule that will never end. We never see Him voted out of office. We do not have to worry about the election of corrupt officials. We will never question His judgment. Everything will be as it should be; all of us will finally live in peace.

But that day has not come, yet. Right now we are in the midst of wars, problems, chaos. Israel is constantly fighting to keep ownership of its own land. But we can side with our friends in Israel, the people the Lord chose to call His own.

Psalm 122:6

*⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
"May those who love you be secure.*

Verse 6: When we are praying for the peace of Jerusalem, we are praying for the return of Christ. For Jerusalem will not stay in lasting peace until the Lord's return. When that day is, only God knows, but we can long for it and pray for it until then.

Revelation 22:20

²⁰He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Up Close and Personal

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

How does knowing the future of Christ's reign help us now?

What can you do to remind yourself to pray for Israel?



The Word

Today's Scripture:

Isaiah 55:3-5; Proverbs 16:25; Revelation 21:1-7

The nation of Israel is a testimony of God's faithfulness:

Quote from Charles Krauthammer - The Weekly Standard, May 11, 1998

"Israel is the very embodiment of Jewish continuity: It is the only nation on earth that inhabits the same land, bears the same name, speaks the same language, and worships the same God that it did 3,000 years ago. You dig the soil and you find pottery from Davidic times, coins from Bar Kokhba, and 2,000-year-old scrolls written in a script remarkably like the one that today advertises ice cream at the corner candy store."

"Ingathering of the Israelites." *Israel Science and Technology Directory*. 1999-2007. October 25, 2007. <<http://www.science.co.il/Israel-history.asp>>

The Lord said that the Jews would remain and they have. Despite wars and attempted genocides the nation is a testimony to the fact that the Word of God is true and stands firm forever. With that truth let us review the main passage from the week:

Isaiah 55:3-5

- ³ *Give ear and come to me;
hear me, that your soul may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.*
- ⁴ *See, I have made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander of the peoples.*
- ⁵ *Surely you will summon nations you know not,
and nations that do not know you will hasten to you,
because of the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel,
for he has endowed you with splendor."*

Verse 3-5: The Lord has promised us that if we listen to Him and come to Him that our souls will live. His Word is true. This is not a promise for the "super spiritual" but for everyone. Each person can come to Him and experience this. The choice is ours. We can attempt to go through life in our own way, but that only leads to death.

Proverbs 16:25

²⁵ *There is a way that seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.*

Verse 25: Our way leads to death; the choices that seem right to us are not right. They may look good for now but in the end they come to nothing. The Lord alone knows the pathway to eternal life. But He is not trying to hide the way from us. He wants everyone to be saved. But He will not force it upon anyone.

A glorious future awaits those who choose the Lord if we will accept Him now.

Revelation 21:1-7

¹*Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."*

⁵*He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."*

⁶*He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. ⁷He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son."*

Verse 1-7: God will once again dwell with us. He did so before, as a man living in Israel who taught the ways of God and died for the sin of man. Next time Jesus returns to earth, He will reign as King. For those of us who believe His Word as true, we will be with Him.

Up Close and Personal

Praise the King who will reign forevermore.

How does the fact the nation of Israel is still around encourage your belief in the Word?

Since the Word is true, what part of it do you need to trust in today?