INTRO: The Jews of Jesus' day prided themselves in their familiarity with the Scriptures. Tho the O.T. had relatively little to say about eternal life, there were at least a few passages that indicated that possibility. The last line of the 23rd Psalm read, "I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." When King David's young son died, David said, "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Sam. 12:23). Jesus informed the Jews that with all their searching of the Scriptures, they had missed the major significance of what the O.T. was all about.

I. PROPHECIES OF THE BIRTH & EARLY LIFE OF CHRIST.

A. The virgin birth.

And I will put enmity between you & the woman & between your seed & her Seed; He shall bruise your head & you shall bruise His heel. (Gen. 3:15).

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive & bear a Son & shall call His name Immanuel. (Isa. 7:14).

Matthew 1:18-23.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law. (Gal 4:4)

B. To be born in Bethlehem.

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Tho 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 have been from old, from everlasting (Micah 5:2). MT 2:1

C. The Seed of Abraham, Gen. 22:18; Root of Jesse, Isa 11:1

Matthew 1:1, 6

D. Some of His titles:

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; &
the govt will be upon His shoulder. & His name will be
called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6).

E.  The attempt of Herod to have Him killed in infancy was
foretold by the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord, "A voice was heard in Ramah,
lamentation & bitter weeping, Rachel weeping for her
children, refusing to be comforted for her children, be-
cause they are no more" (Jer 31:15) MT 2:12-18.

F.  The infant nation of Israel coming out of Egypt foreshad-
owed Christ coming from Egypt where He had been
hidden during the wrath of Herod.

When Israel was a child, I loved him, & out of Egypt I

II.  HIS MINISTRY.
   A.  He was to be rejected by the Jewish leaders.
       He will be as a sanctuary, but a stone of stumbling & a
       rock of offense to both houses of Israel (Isa 8:14)
       Rom. 9:30-33.

   B.  He would be a redeemer.
       "The Redeemer will come to Zion & to those who turn
       from transgressing in Jacob" says the Lord. (Isa 59:20)

   C.  His miracles were foretold. READ ISA 61:1-2. LK 4:17-21
   D.  His parables were foreseen.
       I will open My mouth in a parable; I will utter dark say-
       ings of old. (Psa. 78:2) Matt. 13:34.

   E.  His meekness.
       Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter
       of Jerusalem! Behold your King is coming to you; He is
       just & having salvation, lowly & riding on a donkey, a
       colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech. 9:9)  Matt. 21:1-5.

F. A light to shine where there previously had been darkness.

III. HIS SACRIFICIAL DEATH FORETOLD.
A. Betrayed by a friend.
   Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me (Psa. 41:9)

B. Sold for 30 pieces of silver.

C. False witnesses testified against Him.

D. They would smite the Shepherd. READ ZECH 13:7;
   Mark 14:56-59.
   Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops;
   He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.  (Micah 5:1).
   I gave My back to those who struck Me & My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame & spitting (Isa. 50:6).
   MT 26:67; 27:30.

E. His hands & feet pierced.
   For dogs have surrounded Me; the assembly of the wicked enclosed Me. They pierced My hands & My feet.  (Psalm 22:16).

F. Vinegar to drink.
   They also gave me gall for my food & for My thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. (Psa 69:21). MT 27:34.

G. Not a bone to be broken.
   He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.

H.  His crucifiers cast lots for His clothing.
    They divide My garments among them & for My
    clothing they cast lots (Psa 22:18) JN 19:23.

I.  The words of Christ upon the cross.  Psa 22:1; MT 27:46
J.  His death was foretold in great detail in 2 chapters of the
    O.T.--Isaiah 53 & Psalm 22.

IV.  HIS RESURRECTION WAS A MATTER OF PROPHECY.
    For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow

V.  HIS POSITION TODAY FORETOLD.
    A.  King & Priest.
        The Lord has sworn & will not relent, "You are a
        priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek"
        READ ZECH. 6:12-13

    B.  His enemies have become His footstool.

    C.  He is to be heard in all things.  Deut. 18:15, 18-19; Acts 3:

    D.  He is chief cornerstone in God's spiritual temple.

Cox Springs, TX, February 26, 1967
Springhill, LA, June 29  1975
La Porte, TX, October 1, 1978
Exton, PA, December 3, 1989
Shiloh, Mexia, TX, March 12, 1995
Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, September 10, 2000