

Fulfilled prophecy was one of the most important areas where the New Testament writers appealed to establish Jesus' claims to Messiahship and deity. The Prophet Isaiah gives very specific details of His virgin birth and prenatal eternal origin in the following words:

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign;
Behold a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and
she will call his name Immanuel.

(Isaiah 7:14)

The name Immanuel, *God with us*, does not mean with us in a general way, like on our side, but personally present. Therefore, naming this Child Immanuel could only mean that He was God come as a Man. Isaiah makes another astonishing statement of this kind further on, where he says:

Draw near to me, hear this! From the beginning I
have not spoken in secret, from the time it came to
be I have been there. And now the Lord has sent me
and his Spirit.

(Isaiah 48:16-17)

The One speaking in this passage is obviously the Lord God, who has existed and spoken from the beginning of time and revealed Himself to man. Yet in the above words He says, "The Lord has sent me and his Spirit."

In Zechariah chapter twelve we find yet another astounding example. Speaking through His Prophet the Lord says, "and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him." The pronouns *me* and *him* refer to two individuals yet appear to be the same Person.

Therefore, the very accusation with which the religious establishment condemned Jesus to death – that He claimed to be equal to the Father – was the fundamental credential of Israel's promised Messiah.