

TOPIC 3.1**CHRIST'S LIFE WAS PREDICTED
100S OF YEARS BEFORE. FACT
OR FICTION?****Conversation Points**

- ★ I wish I had learned another language fluently when I was younger.
AGREE or DISAGREE?
- ★ If I didn't need the money, I would not want to (go to) work.
AGREE or DISAGREE?
- ★ I think that the government should give every homeless person a house for them to own. **AGREE or DISAGREE?**

Reflection

Windsor was not her real name - at least *it was not the name that her mother gave her* when she was born - that name was *Jenny Guinness*. But there was so much sadness and pain in her early childhood that her original name evoked the memories of that pain. Windsor grew up in California. Her parents were always fighting. Not merely the yelling kind. Their fights involved kicking, punching, throwing things. Police charged both of them with domestic violence and deemed them to be unfit parents. They divorced when she was four. Windsor was put into "protective care" and placed in a "Children's Home" with other wards of the State. This "Home" had no windows and the unfortunate children that were placed there were punished frequently for breaking the Home's rules (even though none of the children ever quite knew what those rules were). Windsor would cry herself to sleep each night until her father got permission from the court to collect her out of this dubious institution. While she was ever grateful that her father rescued her, she would ever wonder why her mother made no such effort. This unforgiveness toward her mother would remain with her for the rest of her life.

Windsor's relationship with her father broke down over the coming years and it was agreed by her separated parents that the best thing for her would be to send her to boarding school. When she turned old enough to get her Californian driver's license, it was suggested to her that during her summer break that she should try out for a modelling audition in San Francisco which she was hoping might lead to her getting some vacation spending money. Little could she have known that this would dramatically change her life. She became the cover-girl for Clinique, several fashion houses, and was in demand around the world to strut their catwalks as the world's number one super-model. Her manager organised for a European photographer to be exclusively assigned to her. He wasn't just famous as a photographer though due to his family being the descendants of European royalty. Soon they were seen everywhere together and then she was seen wearing an engagement ring he gave her.



Windsor's parents were typical of the trendy Californian arty set. They had been into the party scene which included recreational drug use, “free love”, and New Age religion — although Windsor's dad was less interested in New Age spirituality than Windsor's mother. Thus, while Windsor had been exposed to religious ideas, she herself had never become ‘religious’. But as her success as a young supermodel travelling the world to the adoration of the world's leading fashion designers grew, she began to question what life was all about, and what her life really meant. She and her fiancé had many conversations about this without her ever finding the answers she was looking for. It was a party hosted by Salvador Dalí that things came to a head for Windsor.

At this party were the world's leading fashion designers, artists, musicians, European royalty and the cream of the modelling world. The theme of the party was *animal*. Thus each of the guests bejewelled in diamond encrusted animal collars, animal masks, and expensive designer fashion animal costumes. This struck Windsor as unusually odd - but not as odd as Salvador Dalí's pet de-fanged and de-clawed leopard chained to a table in the middle of the room. “All these *people* are trying to be what they are not, and the one *animal* in the room is not permitted to be who she truly is!” This moment struck her deeply and seemed to sum up the frustrations of all of her questions over the past few months. She returned to New York and told her manager that she needed time off “to figure some things out.” Her manager told her to talk to some New Age gurus, who had recently moved into New York, to get the answers she was looking for. But they were of no use to her. So she decided to search for the answers she was after by going directly herself to God.

Day after day she would walk out of her Park Avenue apartment building and call out to God. She was looking for the answers to her questions about life and its meaning, and she reasoned that these answers could be found if she could just find God! But day after day she could *not* find God. Finally, she cried out, “God, I can’t find You. If You are there, will You please find me?”

After years of having no contact with her mother, her mother made contact with her. “I have cancer” she told Windsor. “Can I come and see you?” she asked her estranged daughter. Windsor took sympathy on her and invited her to come and stay with her. Her mother had already reached the end of her treatment options. Hearing of her plight, some kindly person mentioned to her that she knew of three women in nearby Canada who prayed for people with incurable diseases with some success.

When the three women from Canada arrived at New York airport as each one walked past the newsagent to collect their luggage they each were immediately oddly transfixed at the Vogue magazine cover facing the passersby. The Spirit said to the first intercessor, “Pray for this young lady!” She stopped and obeyed the Spirit. The next intercessor was about to walk past and also heard the Spirit say the same thing and similarly obeyed, as did the third. They each then remarked in amazement with each other what had just happened to them. They continued to discuss this rather odd moment in the taxi on their way to pray for this terminally diseased woman. As they arrived at the Park Avenue apartment they were greeted at the door by Windsor. Stunned expressions came on the faces of each intercessor as they stood there amazed until one of them said, “You’re the young lady!” Windsor waited for an explanation. “You’re the one who God told us to pray for!” With that, Windsor burst into tears and cried, “He’s found me! He’s found me!” Windsor became a Christ-follower and an advocate for children in protective care. Her fuller story was detailed in her memoir, *Faces*. Author, Os Guinness, in writing about Windsor Elliott, described her journey to faith in Christ as being “punctured” by a “signal of transcendence” — when she encountered Salvador Dalí’s pet cheetah, ‘Babou.’ In reviewing her book, Os Guinness said, “In the field of fashion photography, the unique asset each person has is obviously their face, but she was intrigued to realize that there is more to our ‘faces’ than we often think. In fact, there are usually three faces we each have—the face we are born with, the faces we learn to put on throughout our lives—whether cosmetically or socially and the face we are becoming through the choices that form our inner character.”



The life of supermodel, Windsor Elliott, was leading - characterised by international travel to exotic places, luxurious jewellery and clothes, famous and rich friends, and great wealth, would have seemed to be ideal. **Despite all of these trappings of success why did she feel so empty and lost, and how did God 'finding' her change all that?**

For Windsor Elliott, the signal of transcendence punctured her world of glamour and success. It pointed her toward a deeper reality and meaning beyond the artificial and the ever-changing....No signal is a signal for everyone to hear, so one person's signal is another person's silence. Be ready, then, for the call that comes to you in your life.

OS GUINNESS

Signals of Transcendence, 77.

One of the things that makes Jesus Christ unique among all other founders of religions is the extraordinary amount of prophecies about Him given hundreds of years before His birth

There are no prophecies about Siddhartha (the Buddha), Mohammed (the supposed founder of Islam), or any other lesser known religious leaders for that matter, before they were born. But when Jesus of Nazareth declared that the Scriptures 'speak of Me' (John 5:39) He was declaring something that could easily be verified and something that is unique to Christianity: *hundreds - and even thousands - of years before Jesus was born the prophets had foretold how He would be born, what He would do, what He would accomplish, the circumstances surrounding His death and burial, and that He would be raised from the dead and ascend back the Father!*

If Jesus really was who He claimed to be (Jn. 5:18), and if the Bible (the "Scriptures") really was what He claimed it to be (Jn. 10:35; 13:18), then it would not be surprising that God would have inspired certain prophets to foretell about His Son coming into our world as our Saviour (Jn. 1:35).

From the Bible

1. The prophet Isaiah wrote his prophecies around 750 BC. Note what each of these prophecies foretold about the coming Christ-

(a) Isa. 7:14

(b) Isa. 9:6-7

(c) Isa 53:2

(d) Isa 53:3

(e) Isa. 53:5

(f) Isa. 53:7

(g) Isa. 53:9

2. What did the prophet Micah prophesy about the coming Christ? (Micah 5:2)
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3. What did the prophet Hosea prophesy about the early childhood of the Christ? (Hos. 11:1; refer to Matt. 2:15)
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4. What did the prophet Zechariah (ca. 330 BC) prophesy about Jesus? (Zech. 9:9; Matt. 21:2-5)
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5. King David wrote his prophetic psalm around 1000BC. Read Psalm 22:1, 17, 18. Compare these verses with Matthew 27:46, John 19:36, and Matthew 27:35 and what David prophesied about the coming Christ-
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The Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure of all Christian reality; therefore, the truths about Him are central to Christianity. Any theology that deemphasizes Christ by placing humankind in the center cannot ultimately disclose to us the fullness of what the Bible teaches. Jesus is the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies, and He is the author of the teaching of the New Testament. He is understood by Christians to be the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world, as well as the coming King (Rev. 13:8; 19:11-16).

DAVID R. NICHOLS, P. 291

Additional References

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Horton, Stanley M. ed. 2007. *Systematic Theology.* Springfield, MO: Logion Press. David R. Nichols, chapter 9, *The Lord Jesus Christ.*