**A Case For Easter by Lee Strobobel**

**Week 1: Introduction pages 7-8**

Who is Lee Strobel?

* Author, Journalist, Senior editor, Chicago Times, Senior Crime Reporter, Atheist
* Degree in Journalism and a Law Degree from Yale
* Researched for this book took over 2 years
* His initial perspective was that Christian faith blinds them to the real facts regarding Jesus and that they only see (believe) what they wanted to see (believe)

What is the meaning of Apologetics?

* The discipline of defending a position
* The New Testament mandates that we be able to defend our faith (I Peter 3:15, Titus 1:9, Acts 17:11)

What is the meaning of Passover?

* A memorial to suffering and death
* Commemorates liberation of Israel from Egypt
* Meal consists of unblemished sheep/goat whose blood was placed on the doors to alert the death angel to pass them by (entire animal had to be consumed so if family was too small, families gathered to share), no leaven (no time for bread to rise), bitter herbs (signified the bitterness of their life in slavery), sitting up at table as opposed to reclining with outer garments and shoes on as a symbol of being ready to flee upon a moment’s notice

What is the meaning of the Easter?

* In Hebrew, Jesus means *Salvation Now* (in the present tense)
* Originally a pagan holiday adopted to celebrate the resurrection of Christ

What is the passion and why is it called the passion?

* Passion originally meant suffering and did not migrate to love/lust until introduced by the French in the 1500s.
* The Passion is the story of the suffering of Christ prior to His trial, during the trial and flogging, on the cross, through to His death.

What is the Christian Creed?

* I Corinthians 15:1-11 – Christ died for our sins, was buried, was resurrected on the 3rd day, and was witnessed walking on this earth by others following the resurrection. All of this occurred according to Scripture.

Why is this study monumental?

* I Corinthians 15:17-23
* Without the resurrection there is no Christian Religion

What are Messianic Prophesies?

* Over 365 Prophesies in the Old Testament that foretell the coming of the Messiah
* There are more than 100 that were fulfilled in the Passion week alone
* Zachariah 9:9 predicts the Messiah’s triumphant entry as a King on a Donkey (Daniel 70 weeks) Read Daniel 9:24-27.
* Psalm 41:9 predicts that the Messiah would be betrayed by a friend
* Zachariah predicts that 30 pieces of silver would be paid to the betrayer of the Messiah – 10 more than the going price for a slave in the day of Zachariah and the correct amount for a slave in Jesus’s time given inflation
* Zachariah 11:30 predicts that the betrayer would return the silver
* ISAIAH 53 is the cornerstone of Messianic Prophesy
* Christ died at the precise time that the Passover Lamb by tradition, was slaughtered
* Isaiah 53:12/Mark 15:27 Crucified with criminals
* Psalm 22:7-8/Matthew 27:29-34 He will be taunted and mocked
* Psalm 22:18/Matthew 27:35 His clothes would be divided by casting lots
* Amos 8:9/Matthew 27:45 Darkness would overcome the earth
* Psalm 22:1/Matthew 27:46 My God, why have You forsaken me
* Psalm 22:15, 69:21/John 19:28-29 Drank vinegar
* Psalm 31:5/Luke 23:46 Into your hands I commit my Spirit
* Psalm 34:20/John 19:32-33 No bones would be broken
* Isaiah 53:9/All accounts of Joseph of Arimathea His grave was with the rich

What are the statistical odds of these prophesies coming true?

* 60 males, 40 females – Odds of selecting a female 4 in 10 or 40%
* 60 right handers, 40 left handers – Odd of selecting a left hander 4 in 10 or 40%
* Males & females/right & left handers – Odds of selecting a left handed female 16%
* If you throw a dice, the probability of getting a 6 is 1 in 6 or 16.67%
* If you throw two dice the odds of getting two 6’s is 1/36 not 1/12 or 2.77%. When adding two probabilities, you multiple them not add them.
* A very conservative estimate of filling 8 Messianic prophesies is 1/1017th or having a bowl the size of the state of Texas filled with silver dollars two feet high with one marked. Then asking someone blindfolded to pick it in one try.
* The probability to fulfil 16 would be 1/10 48th or a bowl the size of earth’s orbit filled 2 feet high with silver dollars.
* Christ fulfilled over 365 prophecies with his first coming and there is still over 2500 of his second coming that are yet to be fulfilled.