

## Prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament revealed in the New

Most of you know that I am Pastor of Visitation here at the Worship Place. One of my great joys is to visit folks in assisted care homes who were in years past active members of our Church. Most of them have walked with Jesus most of their lives and love to have me visit them, read the Scriptures and pray with them. I usually come away feeling encouraged myself.

However, one day I walked away from a visit feeling both sad and angry. I asked an lady, "If you should die today and God should ask you, "Why should I let you into heaven", what would you say? I was shocked when I heard her say, "Well, I've been a church-goer all of my life but I don't believe in a heaven or a hell". What made her come to this conclusion? She said she had attended a Jesus Seminar and lost the faith she had as a younger person. Nothing I said convinced her otherwise. My heart is heavy whenever I think of her.

The first words out of Jesus' mouth when His disciples asked him, "What will be the sign of your coming were, "Do not be deceived." In Luke 18:8 He asked, "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?" Why would He make such statements?

When Jesus said that He was the Son of God, there were many contemporaries that questioned that statement. Today there are still more doubters than believers. Recently someone has said that HE either was what He said He was or He was a lunatic, liar or both.

Here is a quote from a man who is involved with the Jesus Seminar which has influenced so many preachers and seminary professors into questioning the Word of God and Jesus being the Son of God. When asked about the Bible and Fundamentalism here was the spokesman's answer. "They (Jesus Seminar) want to rescue the Bible from fundamentalism and to free Americans from the naïve belief that the Jesus of the Bible is the "real" Jesus. They want a Jesus who's relevant for today. We need a "new fiction".

So tonight we are going to show from the Scriptures how we can - *know* that Jesus is the Son of God. You need this information in order to guard your own faith.

I came across this interesting article that illustrates what I am about to teach tonight.

Values in America are on the decline according to a recent survey conducted by the Culture and Media institute . Of the 2,000 Americans who took part, 74% felt that moral values are weaker than 20 years ago. In the words of the director of CMI, the study is, for better or worse, a "snapshot of America." The report reveals and American that "no longer enjoys cultural consensus on God, religion and what constitutes right and wrong." The result is a moral subjectivity that is unparalleled in the history of our nation. Yesterday's standards have been lost to today's relativism.

With 87% of Americans claiming to believe in God, one would assume that there would be a nationwide consensus about our values as a nation but a closer look at the results expose some revealing insights. Not everyone who claims to believe in God (87%) believes that the Bible is the authoritative word of God (only 52% hold to such belief) and even fewer (36%) believe people should live by principles as set forth in the Bible. Since the founding of America the Bible has been the key standard of measurement for moral absolutes in this nation. As of late, a trend had emerged whereby individuals create a self-made standard of morality and the result is unequivocal –we are slipping.

So let's start at Luke 4:16—21: "He (Jesus) went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Now let's set the scene. Jesus had just appeared on the scene, was baptized, and went through the temptation from Satan. Now He is in the synagogue where He often went on the Sabbath. They handed Him a scroll and He read from Isaiah about Himself. That is where all His trouble began. From then on they wanted Him dead.

There are many Old Testament prophecies about Jesus Christ. Some interpreters place the number of Messianic prophecies in the hundreds, in fact, some scholars estimate that there are more than 300 Messianic prophecies in the Bible's Old Testament that refer to the Messiah (Jesus). Jesus is unique among all people in history in that He is the fulfillment of centuries of Messianic prophecies, which are found in the Old Testament, that foretold his place of birth, details of his life, his mission, his nature, his death, and his resurrection. The prophecies are sometimes called "Messianic prophecies," because they refer to the Messiah, which means "anointed one" or "chosen one."

Now as we think about prophecies in the OT we often equate them to foretelling the future such as the Book of Daniel, Zechariah, Isaiah, Ezekiel or Revelation. These are prophecies that have yet to be fulfilled or are being fulfilled today. The ones that we are going to look into tonight were amazingly fulfilled in Jesus' lifetime. No mere mortal man could have predicted the events around Jesus life so many years in advance. Are you ready to have a "faith lift?"

Let's begin with Genesis 3:15.

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your off-spring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

I am going to quote from the Defender’s Bible with notes by Dr. Henry Morris:

“This verse is famous as the ‘first gospel’. The curse was directed immediately towards the serpent, but its real thrust was against the evil spirit possessing its body; “that old serpent, called the Devil” Rev. 12:9. Satan may have assumed that he had now won the allegiance of the woman and all her descendents, but God told him that there would be enmity between him and the woman. The “seed of the woman” can only be an allusion to a future descendant of Eve who would have no human father. Biologically, a woman produces no seed, and except in this case biblical usage always speaks only of the seed of men. This promised Seed would, therefore, have to be miraculously implanted in the womb. In this way, he would not inherit the sin nature which would disqualify every son of Adam from becoming a Savior from sin. This prophecy thus clearly anticipates the future virgin birth of Christ. Satan will inflict a painful wound on the woman’s seed. But Christ in turn will inflict a mortal wound on the serpent, crushing his head. This prophecy was fulfilled in the first instance at the cross, but will culminate when the triumphant Christ casts Satan into the lake of fire.”

Now let’s fast forward a few thousand years to the time of Moses. He was entering the final years of his life and was concerned about the

future of Israel. Then God revealed this to Him in Deuteronomy 18:15-19:

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.' And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good. 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him'.” (Deuteronomy 18:15-19, NKJV).

I got the following from Peter and Paul LaLond from Toronto Canada:

Like Moses, the Messiah would be a leader, a prophet, a lawgiver, a deliverer, a teacher, a priest, an anointed one, a mediator, a human and one of God's chosen people (a Jew) performing the role of intermediary between God and man—speaking the words of God—and like Moses, the Messiah would offer himself to die for the sins of the people. Both Moses and Jesus performed many miracles validating their message. As infants, both their lives were threatened by evil kings, and both were supernaturally protected from harm. Both spent their early years in Egypt. Both taught new truths from God. Both cured lepers (Num 12:10-15; Matt. 8:2-3) and confronted demonic powers. Both were initially doubted in their roles by their siblings. Moses lifted up the brazen serpent to

heal all his people who had faith; Jesus was lifted up on the cross to heal all who would have faith in Him. Moses appointed 70 elders to rule Israel (Num. 11:16-17); Jesus appointed 70 disciples to teach the nations (Luke 10:1, 17). And there are many other parallels between the lives of Moses and Jesus.

**Then we find that he would be a descendant of the family of Jesse** in the tribe of Benjamin (Isaiah 11:1-5) “A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord-- and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.”

The fulfillment can be seen in Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1 and Luke 3:23-38.

**He will be born in a small city called Bethlehem**, specifically the one formerly known as Ephratah (Micah 5:2). We have to realize that Bethlehem was known as Bethlehem Judah and Bethlehem Ephratah but Micah specifically named it as Bethlehem of Ephrath. It was

fulfilled in Luke 2:4-20. Because Mary and Joseph were from Galilee, it was not their choice to be in Bethlehem for the birth of their son. It was forced upon them by Caesar Augustus' taxation decree which required Joseph to leave his home in the city of Nazareth and return to his place of origin to pay the tax, thus fulfilling the OT prophecies about the place of His birth. I don't know about you but that just strengthens my belief in the Word of God.

Next, we find that he was to be born of a virgin Isa. 7:14 "Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." We find the fulfillment in Matt 1 and Luke 1.

**Next we find that He will be a priest after the order of Melchisedek (Melchisedec) Psalm 110:4**"The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek.". Fulfilled: Hebrews 5:6 "And he says in another place, "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

**Next we see that a messenger will prepare the way for Him** (Isa. 40:3 "A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our *God*." Malachi 3:1 "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the Lord Almighty."

This next prophesy is one that might be difficult to follow. So I am going to quote again from Peter and Paul LaLonde from their book *Startling Proofs and Prophecies*. They write:

“The precise timing of Jesus' crucifixion was also given to the Jews when God revealed to the prophet Daniel (9:24) how the Jews could calculate the day of the revealing of the Messiah. Talking of a 490 year period, the prophet foresaw that it would begin “from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem” (9:25). In the book of Nehemiah we learn that this command was given "in the month Nisan [on the Hebrew calendar], in the twentieth year of the king" (2:1). The king was Artaxerxes Longimanus who ruled from 465 to 425 B.C. The prophet Daniel said that 483 years from that date, the Messiah would be revealed to Israel, but He would then "be cut off, but not for himself" (9:26). This prophecy refers to the crucifixion when Jesus died, or was cut off, for the sins of the world.

“483 years later, to the day, was Sunday, April 6, 32 A.D. On that day, which we commemorate as Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and revealed Himself as Israel's Messiah. He was killed four days later, thus fulfilling the prophecy that He would be revealed and then slain.”

With such accuracy, how in the world can anyone deny that Jesus indeed is the Christ?

**He will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey** (the colt of an ass) (Zechariah 9:9). Fulfillment: Matt. 21:5; Luke 19:32-37.

**He will be hated for no reason** (Psalm 69:4). Fulfillment: John 15:25.

**He will be betrayed** (Psalm 41:9). Fulfillment: Matt. 27:3-10.

**More specifically, He will be betrayed by a friend** (Psalm 41:9).  
Fulfillment: Matt. 27:3-10; 26:47-48.

**The price of his betrayal will be thirty pieces of silver** (Zech. 11:12). Fulfillment: Matt. 27:3-10.

**The betrayal money will be cast onto the floor** (Zech. 11:13).  
Fulfillment: Matt. 27:5.

**More specifically, it will be cast onto the floor of the Temple**  
(Zech. 11:13). Fulfillment: Matt. 27:3-10.

**The betrayal money will be used to buy a potter's field** (Zech. 11:13). Fulfillment: Matt. 27:6-10.

**He will not open his mouth to defend himself** (Isaiah 53:7).  
Fulfillment: Matthew 27:12.

**He will be beaten and spit upon** (Isaiah 50:6). Fulfillment: Matthew 26:67; 27:26-30.

**He will be “numbered with the transgressors”** (Isaiah 53:12).  
Fulfillment: Jesus was crucified as a criminal in between two thieves  
(Mat 27:38).

**He will be pierced** (Zechariah 12:10). Fulfillment: John 19:34

**His hands and feet will be pierced** (Psalm 22:16; . Zechariah 12:10; Galatians 3:13).

**Crucifixion foretold.** Psalm 22 graphically prophecies the Messiah's manner of death. At the time the psalm was written (and long after), the penalty for blasphemy was stoning. However, at the time Jesus was condemned by the Sanhedrin, it no longer had the legal right to put people to death. Thus, the case was taken to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who crucified him according to Roman custom.

**The Jewish Passover sacrifice and Jesus Christ's sacrificial death coincide exactly.**

**His bones will not be broken** Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12 states that the Passover lamb's bones are not to be broken. Fulfillment: John 19:33

**They will divide his clothing and cast lots for them** Psalm 22:18. Fulfillment: John 19:23-24.

**He will be given vinegar and gall to drink** Psalm 69:21. Fulfillment: Matthew 27:34, 48.

**He will say: “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?”** Psalm 22:1. Fulfillment: Matthew 27:46.

**He will be buried with the rich** (saiah 53:9. Fulfillment: Matthew 27. According to Henry Morris,

This passage [[Isaiah 53:9](#)] could also be read, “they planned His grave (to be) with the wicked, but it was with a rich man [[Joseph of Arimathea](#)] in His death.” *The Defender's Bible*

**He will not decay** [Psalm 16:10](#). Fulfillment: [Acts 2:31](#)

**He will be resurrected from the dead** [Psalm 16:10](#). Fulfillment: [Acts 2:31](#), etc.

**He will ascend into heaven** [Psalm 68:18](#). Fulfillment: [Acts 1:9](#).

**He will be seated at the right hand of God** [Psalm 110:1](#).  
Fulfillment: [Hebrews 1:3](#).

**He will be the Son of God** [Psa. 2:7](#). Fulfilled: [Matthew 3:17](#),

And there are so many more that I did not quote. So do we have any more information to prove that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God? Let's consider the following chart that I found that give the odds of this all happening to just one person without the divine intervention of God:

- |   |                         |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Jesus would be a descendant of David                         | $10^2$ (1 in 10,000)    |
| 2. Jesus would be born in Bethlehem                             | $10^5$ (1 in 100,000)   |
| 3. Jesus would be a miracle worker                              | $10^5$ (1 in 100,000)   |
| 4. Jesus would present Himself as King riding on a donkey       | $10^6$ (1 in 1,000,000) |
| 5. Jesus would be betrayed by a friend for 30 pieces of silver. | $10^6$ (1 in 1,000,000) |

6. Jesus would be crucified  $10^6$  (1 in 1,000,000)

7. Jesus would first present Himself as King  $10^6$  (1 in 1,000,000)  
173,880 days from the decree of Artaxerxes to  
rebuild Jerusalem

Total Probability (Without God)  $10^{36}$  (1 in 100 Billion,  
billion, billion, billion)

So as you can see, what was written so many years before the event can be trusted so what has been prophesied for future events will also come to pass.