

# God Wrote a Book: Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus

## Opening Discussion

1. Why do you think God gave us so many prophecies about Jesus?
2. Which prophecies about Jesus do you remember?
3. Why do you think people reject fulfilled prophecies about Jesus as evidence of Scripture's accuracy and Divine authorship?

More than 300 prophecies were fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus.

## 1. The promise of the Messiah

The Lord God said to the serpent . . . "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." **Genesis 3:14-15**

Characteristics of the promised one in Genesis 3:15

- The promised one would be a human.
- The promised one would be a man.
- The promised one would be the offspring/seed of the woman.
  - The only other references to the seed of women:
    - Hagar, who gave birth to Abraham's son Ishmael, when she was cast out by Sarah (Genesis 16:10)
    - Rebekah, who married Abraham's son Isaac, as her family blessed her and sent her off to be married (Genesis 24:60)
    - Widowed daughters of priests when considering whether they were allowed to eat of the food designated for the priests (Leviticus 22:13)
    - Of women accused and subsequently cleared of adultery, regarding their ability to have children (Numbers 5:28)
    - Of Hannah, as she prayed and asked for a son (1 Samuel 1:11)
  - What do all of these have in common?
    - They are all unique situations which necessitate an emphasis on the woman's role in reproduction.
    - Every other reference to human offspring/seed refers to the man's part in reproduction or to general descendants of men.
  - Why, then, was Adam looked over in this prophecy?
    - There was no immediate reason to exclude Adam.
    - His exclusion pointed forward to the unique nature of the Messiah's birth.
    - It does not provide the full details of the virgin birth.
    - It does, however, indicate that the birth of the promised one would involve a woman in a unique way.
- The promised one would destroy the serpent and his work.
- The promised one would be harmed in the process of achieving victory.

## 2. The genealogy of the Messiah

- The Messiah would be a human (Genesis 3:15).
- The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham (Genesis 12:3).
- The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham through Isaac, not Ishmael (Genesis 17:18-19).
- The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham and Isaac through Jacob, not Esau (Genesis 25:23)
- The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob through Judah, not one of Jacob's other sons (Genesis 49:10).
- The Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Judah through David (2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 11:1).

## 3. The birth of the Messiah

- The Messiah would be born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14).
- The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2).
- Gold and frankincense would be brought to the Messiah from other nations (Isaiah 60:6).

## 4. The Ministry of the Messiah

- The Messiah would minister in Galilee.

In the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. **Isaiah 9:1-2**

- The Messiah would heal the blind, deaf, lame, and mute.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. **Isaiah 35:4-6**

- The Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a donkey.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. **Zechariah 9:9**

## 5. The Death of the Messiah

- The Messiah would be pierced.

And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. **Zechariah 2:10**

- The Messiah would die a horrible death.

## **Psalm 22**

- The Messiah would die a substitutionary death.

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. **Isaiah 53:3-7**

## **6. The Resurrection and Ascension of the Messiah**

- The Messiah would not be abandoned to death.

You will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption. **Psalm 16:10**

- The Messiah would be crushed as an offering yet still have prolonged days.

Yet it was the will of the Lord to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. **Isaiah 53:10**

## **7. The Kingdom of the Messiah**

- The Messiah would come from Israel and rule over other nations.

I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near: a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel. **Numbers 24:17**

- The Messiah would be a man with authority to approach God's Throne. He would receive a Kingdom that includes all nations.

I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. **Daniel 7:13-14**

### **Sources:**

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