

Prophecy Unveiled - The Birth of a Savior

Sunday, December 5, 2021

In This new series I want to spend some time investigating Prophecy in the scriptures. As we do, I want us to keep these ground rules in mind

- There is much we can learn from studying prophecy

Amos 3:7

7 Surely the Sovereign Lord does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

Isaiah 46:10-13

10 I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

11 ...What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.

12 Listen to me, you stubborn-hearted, you who are now far from my righteousness.

13 I am bringing my righteousness near, it is not far away; and my salvation will not be delayed. I will grant salvation to Zion, my splendor to Israel.

- There is much that will still be unclear

1 Corinthians 13:12 (NirV)

12 Now we see only a dim likeness of things. It is as if we were seeing them in a foggy mirror. But someday we will see clearly. We will see face to face. What I know now is not complete. But someday I will know completely, just as God knows me completely.

- **The point of prophecy is not to be able to set times and dates** or even to know exactly how things will come to pass, but to believe that God has a time schedule and that the things He speaks of will come true.

Matthew 24:36 (NirV)

36 "But no one knows about that day or hour. Not even the angels in heaven know. The Son does not know. Only the Father knows.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-2 (NirV)

5 Brothers and sisters, we don't have to write to you about times and dates. 2 You know very well how the day of the Lord will come. It will come like a thief in the night.

- By studying prophecy, we can become more aware of the devils' schemes and the world in which we live.

2 Corinthians 2:11

11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Ephesians 6:10-14

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place,

- Prophecy helps us be prepared

Matthew 25:1-13

25 "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6 "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7 "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

9 "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

10 "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11 “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

12 “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

13 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Matthew 24:44

44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- We must keep in mind that prophecy must be examined from three different viewpoints (The Past - prophecy that has already been fulfilled, The Present - Prophecy that is currently unfolding, and The Future - Prophecy that is yet to be fulfilled) In some cases a particular prophecy may have application to all three.

As we begin this journey and since it is the season of Advent; I wanted to take the next couple of weeks to focus on the Prophecies surrounding **The Birth of Christ**.

Some scholars believe there are more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of Jesus fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible.

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, was passionate about biblical prophecies. With 600 students from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stoner looked at eight specific prophecies about Jesus. They came up with extremely conservative probabilities for each one being fulfilled, and then considered the likelihood of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies.

The conclusion to his research was staggering. The prospect that anyone would satisfy those eight prophecies was just 1 in 10^{17} . In [Science Speaks](#), he described it like this:

"Let us try to visualize this chance. If you mark one of ten tickets, and place all of the tickets in a hat, and thoroughly stir them, and then ask a blindfolded man to draw one, his chance of getting the right ticket is one in ten. Suppose that we take 10^{17} silver dollars and lay them on the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state.

"Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote using their own wisdom."

A Seed to Crush the Serpents Head

The first prophecy of a Savior is spoken by God in the garden of Eden after Adam and Eve Sinned

God had promised that "when you eat from [the tree] you will certainly die" (Genesis 2:17). They did not die physically that day—though that would come later—but instead died spiritually, and this death was passed down to all of their descendants. This event is known as the Fall. As the apostle Paul writes, this "trespass resulted in condemnation for all people" (Romans 5:18), because Adam and Eve were appointed as representatives of all mankind

Yet even then God's love and mercy were displayed as He revealed his plan for a Savior who would defeat the enemy

Genesis 3:15

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

This verse has been called the protoevangelion—the first telling of the gospel—because it foretells that a son of Eve would one day destroy the serpent but sustain an injury in the process. This was fulfilled by Jesus who defeated Satan decisively on the cross yet suffered the agony of crucifixion (1 John 3:8; Hebrews 12:2).

By sending his Son to remove the barrier of sin that had separated humankind from God since the Fall, God implemented a rescue plan that resulted in the redemption of all who will accept his free pardon. - The Birth of Jesus by Christopher Reese

The unfolding of this prophecy's fulfillment can first be seen in the words The fulfillment of this prophecy can be seen in the Angel's words to Joseph

Matthew 1:20-21

20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because

what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

Thus, one of the primary reasons God the Son took on human flesh and was born into the world was to save humanity from the inherited guilt of the Fall and from all the sins they would ever commit. Jesus’ birth was the fulfillment of a promise God made in the Garden, to save mankind from spiritual death and to ultimately overturn the curse of the Fall. - The Birth of Jesus by Christopher Reese

And again, in the message of the angels delivered to the Shepherds

Luke 2:10-11

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.

That's why Paul says in 1 Timothy 4:10...

1 Timothy 4:10

10 ...we have put our hope in the living God, who is the Savior of all people, and especially of those who believe.

Prophetic Promises to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob & Judah

- The nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage

Prophecy:

"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3).

Fulfillment:

"And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, ‘Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.’ When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways” (Acts 3:25–26).

- God's covenant with Isaac's ancestors

Prophecy:

"Then God said, 'Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him'" (Genesis 17:19).

Fulfillment:

"Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned'" (Romans 9:7).

- The nations will be blessed through Jacob's offspring

Prophecy:

"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (Genesis 28:14).

Fulfillment:

Jacob is part of Jesus' genealogy.

"the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor" (Luke 3:34)

- The scepter will come through Judah

Prophecy:

"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his" (Genesis 49:10).

Fulfillment:

Judah is part of Jesus's genealogy.

"the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah" (Luke 3:33)

Mary certainly made the connection with these prophecies as evidenced by her song of praise upon visiting her cousin Elizabeth

Luke 1:46-47; 54-55

46 And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord 47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

54 He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful 55 to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors.”

From The Line of David

Prophecy:

"When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:12-13).

“The days are coming,’ declares the LORD, ‘when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In His days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which He will be called: The LORD Our Righteous Savior” ([Jeremiah 23:5-6](#)).

Fulfillment:

"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1)

In fulfillment of this prophecy given over 600 years before, the angel Gabriel told Mary, *“You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of his father David, and He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His kingdom will never end”* ([Luke 1:31-33](#)).

Born of A Virgin

Prophecy - “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel” ([Isaiah 7:14](#)).

Fulfillment

“She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Immanuel” (which means, God with us). (Matthew 1:21-23; compare Isaiah 7:14)

Writing for a Jewish audience, Matthew appeals to Old Testament prophecies early and often, to show his readers that Jesus was their long-awaited Messiah, the descendant of David and Abraham. He begins by citing this message from Isaiah to the Judean king Ahaz, 700 years earlier, which was fulfilled in the virgin birth of Christ. Matthew parallels the name Jesus (“God is salvation”) with the title Immanuel (“God with us”) as they both describe Mary’s child, the incarnate Son of God who would save his people from their sins.

Mary verifies the fulfillment of this miraculous prophecy with her question to the Angel Gabriel

Luke 1:34-35

34 “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

35 The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.