

# Prophecy Unveiled – Jesus' Death

Sunday, April 3, 2022

## Introduction

John 19:16-24, 28-37 (NIV)

### The Crucifixion of Jesus

So the soldiers took charge of Jesus. <sup>17</sup> Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha). <sup>18</sup> There they crucified him, and with him two others—one on each side and Jesus in the middle.

<sup>19</sup> Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read: JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. <sup>20</sup> Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. <sup>21</sup> The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate, “Do not write ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

<sup>22</sup> Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

<sup>23</sup> When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.

<sup>24</sup> “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled that said, “They divided my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.” So this is what the soldiers did.

### The Death of Jesus

<sup>28</sup> Later, knowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup> A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips.

<sup>30</sup> When he had received the drink, Jesus said, “It is finished.” With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

<sup>31</sup> Now it was the day of Preparation, and the next day was to be a special Sabbath. Because the Jewish leaders did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath, they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. <sup>32</sup> The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. <sup>33</sup> But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already

dead, they did not break his legs. <sup>34</sup> Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. <sup>35</sup> The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup> These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled: "Not one of his bones will be broken," <sup>37</sup> and, as another scripture says, "They will look on the one they have pierced."

In this section of John Chapter 19 he focuses his attention on the events of the Crucifixion. Specifically he relates it to the fulfilment of many Old Testament Prophecies readily known to those of his day. In doing so he presents an undeniable weight of evidence that Jesus, the promised Messiah, is the fulfillment of those prophecies and that this evidence alone should be more than enough for us to believe.

Later John Writes...

"But these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name" ( [John 20:31](#))

Other Gospel writers also point to the fulfilment of Prophecy in the death and resurrection of Jesus...

"But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled" ([Matt. 26:56](#)).

Jesus himself pointed to the fulfilment of prophecy when he spoke with two of his disciples on the Road to Emmaus...

...And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures. ([Luke 24:25-27](#)).

Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled" ([Luke 24:44](#)).

The following twenty-five Old Testament prophecies deal with events surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus Christ including His betrayal, trial, death and burial. They were uttered by many different voices and over a period of 500 years, yet they were all fulfilled within twenty-four hours on the day that He died for the sins of the world.

In The words of Max Lucado...

*Linger on the hill of Calvary.*

*Rub a finger on the timber and press the nail into your hand.*

*Taste the tinge of cheap wine and feel the scrape of a thorn on your brow.*

*Touch the velvet dirt, moist with the blood of God.*

*Allow the tools of torture to tell their story.*

*Listen as they tell you what God did to win your heart.*

— Max Lucado, *He Chose the Nails*

The first prophecy, the oldest of all, had been given by God at the time of Adam and Eve's sin:

### 1. THE SERPENT WOULD BRUISE THE SEED OF THE WOMAN

**Prophecy:** “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (Gen. 3:15).

**Fulfillment:** “ ‘Now is *the* judgment of this world. Now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And if I be lifted up from the earth, I will draw all to Myself.’ But He said this to signify by what death He was about to die” (John 12:31-33).

### 2. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE CUT OFF, BUT NOT FOR HIMSELF.

**Prophesied:** “And after sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off but not for Himself” (Dan. 9:26).

**Fulfilled:** “ ‘Nor consider that it is better for us that one man die for the people, than that the whole nation should perish.’ Now he did not say this of himself, but being high priest that year, prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation; and not for the nation only, but also that He might gather together into one the children of God who were scattered abroad” (John 11:50-52).

### 3. SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER

**Prophecy:** [Zechariah 11:12](#) And I said to them, “If it is good in your sight, give *me* my wages; but if not, never mind!” So they weighed out thirty *shekels* of silver as my wages.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 26:14-15](#) Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, <sup>15</sup> and said, “What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?” And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver.

#### 4. BETRAYED BY A FRIEND

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 55:12-14](#) For it is not an enemy who reproaches me, Then I could bear *it*; Nor is it one who hates me who has exalted himself against me, Then I could hide myself from him. <sup>13</sup> But it is you, a man my equal, My companion and my familiar friend. <sup>14</sup> We who had sweet fellowship together, Walked in the house of God in the throng.

“Even a man, my close friend in whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, has lifted up his heel against me” (Psa. 41:9).

**Fulfillment:** “Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests in order that he might deliver Him up to them. And after hearing *this*, they were delighted and promised to give him money. And he sought how he might conveniently betray Him” (Mark 14:10-11).

[Matthew 26:49-50](#) And immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Hail, Rabbi!” and kissed Him. <sup>50</sup> And Jesus said to him, “Friend, *do* what you have come for.” Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and seized Him.

#### 5. THE MONEY CAST TO THE POTTER

**Prophecy:** [Zechariah 11:13](#) Then the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter, *that* magnificent price at which I was valued by them.” So I took the thirty *shekels* of silver and threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:5-7](#) And he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood.” <sup>7</sup> And they counseled together and with the money bought the Potter’s Field as a burial place for strangers.

**NOTE:** Notice that in both prophecy and fulfillment we find stated that (1) it was silver; (2) there were 30 pieces ([Matt. 27:3](#)); (3) they were thrown down; (4) they were cast down in the House of the Lord; and (5) the money was used to purchase the potter’s field.

#### 6. THE DISCIPLES FORSOOK HIM

**Prophecy:** [Zechariah 13:7](#) "Awake, O sword, against My Shepherd, And against the man, My Associate," Declares the LORD of hosts. "Strike the Shepherd that the sheep may be scattered; And I will turn My hand against the little ones.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 26:56](#) “But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left Him and fled. (See also [Mark 14:27](#))

“Then they all forsook Him and fled” (Mark 14:50).

## 7. ACCUSED BY FALSE WITNESSES

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 35:11](#) Malicious witnesses rise up; They ask me of things that I do not know.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 26:59-60](#) Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain false testimony against Jesus, in order that they might put Him to death; and they did not find *any*, even though many false witnesses came forward. But later on two came forward,

## 8. SCOURGED, MOCKED, SMITTEN AND SPIT UPON

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 50:6](#) I gave My back to those who strike *Me*, And My cheeks to those who pluck out the beard; I did not cover My face from humiliation and spitting.

**Fulfillment:** “Then he released Barabbas to them; but after scourging Jesus, he delivered *Him* up so that He might be crucified. Then the governor’s soldiers, after taking Jesus with *them* into the Praetorium, gathered the entire band against Him; and they stripped Him *and* put a scarlet cloak around Him. And after plating a crown of thorns, they put *it* on His head; and a rod in His right hand; and bowing *on* their knees before Him, they mocked Him, and *kept on* saying, ‘Hail, king of the Jews!’ Then, after spitting on Him, they took the rod and struck *Him* on the head” (Matt. 27:26-30).

NOTE: Note here the details that correspond in both prophecy and fulfillment (1) He was to be smitten, (2) He was to be smitten on the face (as well as the other parts of the body). See [Luke 22:64](#). (3) He was to be spit upon, and (4) He was to be spitten upon in the face.

## 9. SILENT BEFORE HIS ACCUSERS

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 53:7](#) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:12-14](#) And while He was being accused by the chief priests and elders, He made no answer. Then Pilate said to Him, “Do You not hear how many things they

testify against You?” And He did not answer him with regard to even a *single* charge, so that the governor was quite amazed.

## 10. WOUNDED AND BRUISED

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 53:5](#) But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:26, 29](#) Then he released Barabbas for them; but after having Jesus scourged, he delivered Him to be crucified. . . . And after weaving a crown of thorns, they put it on His head, and a reed in His right hand; and they kneeled down before Him and mocked Him, saying, “Hail, King of the Jews!”

## 11. FELL UNDER THE CROSS

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 109:24](#) My knees are weak from fasting; And my flesh has grown lean, without fatness.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:17](#) They took Jesus therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross, to the place called the Place of a Skull, which is called in Hebrew, Golgotha. [Luke 23:26](#) And when they led Him away, they laid hold of one Simon of Cyrene, coming in from the country, and placed on him the cross to carry behind Jesus.

NOTE: Evidently the Lord was so weak that His knees gave way under the weight of the heavy cross. So they had to put it on another.

## 12. SACRIFICED AS THE PASSOVER LAMB OF GOD

**Prophecy:** “He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter...” (Isa. 53:7).

**Fulfillment:** “For Christ our Passover was sacrificed for us” (I Cor. 5:7). “Knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things ... but by *the* precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who truly was foreknown before *the* foundation of *the* world, but was manifested in *these* last times for your sakes” (I Pet. 1:18-20).

## 13. HANDS AND FEET PIERCED

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 22:16](#) For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; They pierced my hands and my feet.

**Fulfillment:** [Luke 23:33](#) And when they came to the place called The Skull, there they crucified Him and the criminals, one on the right and the other on the left.

NOTE: Christ was crucified in the customary Roman manner, the hands and feet being pierced by huge spikes which fastened the body to the wooden cross. See [John 20:25-27](#) “ . . . except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails . . . Then said He (Jesus) to Thomas, reach hither thy finger and behold My hands,” etc.

#### 14. CRUCIFIED WITH THIEVES

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 53:12](#) Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

**Fulfillment:** [Mark 15:27-28](#) And they crucified two robbers with Him, one on His right and one on His left. 28 (And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with transgressors.")

#### 15. PRAYED FOR HIS PERSECUTORS

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 53:12](#) Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, **And interceded for the transgressors.** (emphasis mine)

**Fulfillment:** [Luke 23:34](#) But Jesus was saying, “Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots, dividing up His garments among themselves. Here Jesus, as foreseen by Isaiah, “interceded for the transgressors” who nailed him to the cross.

#### 16. PEOPLE SHOOK THEIR HEADS

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 109:25](#) I also have become a reproach to them; When they see me, they wag their head.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:39](#) And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads.

## 17. PEOPLE RIDICULED HIM

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 22:8](#) “Commit *yourself* to the LORD; let Him deliver him; Let Him rescue him, because He delights in him.”

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:41-43](#) In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking *Him*, and saying, <sup>42</sup>“He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the cross, and we shall believe in Him. <sup>43</sup>“He trusts in God; let Him deliver *Him* now, if He takes pleasure in Him; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

## 18. PEOPLE ASTONISHED

**Prophecy:** “Many were astonished at Him—for *His body was* so disfigured—even His form beyond that of the sons of men” (Isa. 52:14). [Psalm 22:17](#) I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

**Fulfillment:** [Luke 23:35](#) And the people stood by, looking on. And even the rulers were sneering at Him, saying, “He saved others; let Him save Himself if this is the Christ of God, His Chosen One.”

## 19. GARMENTS PARTED AND LOTS CAST

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 22:18](#) They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:23-24](#) The soldiers therefore, when they had crucified Jesus, took His outer garments and made four parts, a part to every soldier and *also* the tunic; now the tunic was seamless, woven in one piece. <sup>24</sup>They said therefore to one another, “Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, *to decide* whose it shall be”; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, “They divided My outer garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.”

NOTE: How exact the inspired prophecy! The garments were to be *parted* among them, but the vesture was to be *awarded* to one by *lots*. These were statements that would appear almost contradictory unless explained by the record of the scene at the cross.



## 20. HIS FORSAKEN CRY

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 22:1](#) For the choir director; upon Aijeleth Hashshahar. A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:46](#) And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?”

## 21. GALL AND VINEGAR GIVEN HIM

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 69:21](#) They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:28-29](#) After this, Jesus, knowing that all things had already been accomplished, in order that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I am thirsty.” <sup>29</sup>A jar full of sour wine was standing there; so they put a sponge full of the sour wine upon a *branch of hyssop*, and brought it up to His mouth.

## 22. COMMITTED HIMSELF TO GOD

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 31:5](#) Into Thy hand I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O LORD, God of truth.

**Fulfillment:** [Luke 23:46](#) And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, “Father, into Thy hands I commit My spirit.” And having said this, He breathed His last.

## 23. FRIENDS STOOD AFAR OFF

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 38:11](#) My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague; And my kinsmen stand afar off.

**Fulfillment:** [Luke 23:49](#) And all His acquaintances and the women who accompanied Him from Galilee, were standing at a distance, seeing these things.

## 24. BONES NOT BROKEN

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 34:20](#) He keeps all his bones; Not one of them is broken.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:33, 36](#) but coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs; . . . <sup>36</sup>For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled,” Not a bone of Him shall be broken. “

NOTE: It is profitable to notice two other prophecies concerning His bones which undoubtedly had an exact fulfillment, although such is not stated in Scripture in so many words. We draw our conclusions from honest inference. (1) [Psalm 22:14](#) “All my bones are out of joint.” Hanging on the cross by the hands and feet would easily disjoin the bones, especially when we remember that the body was fixed to the frame while lying on the ground. (2) [Psalm 22:17](#) “I may tell all My bones.” He was left hanging on the cross naked ([John 19:23](#)) and all His bones could thus easily be seen. The extension of the body and the wasting pangs of crucifixion would make the bones more prominent than usual.

## 25. HEART BROKEN

**Prophecy:** [Psalm 22:14](#) I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:34](#) but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water.

NOTE: The blood and water running out of the pierced side presented an evidence that the heart had literally burst.

## 26. HIS SIDE PIERCED

**Prophecy:** [Zechariah 12:10](#) “And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

**Fulfillment:** [John 19:34-37](#) but one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately there came out blood and water. <sup>35</sup>And he who has seen has borne witness, and his witness is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you also may believe. <sup>36</sup>For these things came to pass, that the Scripture might be fulfilled,” Not a bone of Him shall be broken. “ <sup>37</sup>And again another Scripture says, “They shall look on Him whom they pierced.”

## 27. DARKNESS OVER THE LAND

**Prophecy:** [Amos 8:9](#) “And it will come about in that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “That I shall make the sun go down at noon And make the earth dark in broad daylight.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:45](#) Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour.

NOTE: The Jews reckoned twelve hours from sunrise to sunset. This would make the sixth hour about noon, and the ninth hour near three o’clock.

## 28. BURIED IN A RICH MAN’S TOMB

**Prophecy:** [Isaiah 53:9](#) His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

**Fulfillment:** [Matthew 27:57-60](#) And when it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. <sup>58</sup>This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered *it* to be given over *to him*. <sup>59</sup>And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, <sup>60</sup>and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the entrance of the tomb and went away.

*The same hand that stilled the seas stills your guilt.*

*The same hand that cleansed the Temple cleanses your heart.*

*The hand is the hand of God.*

*The nail is the nail of God.*

*And as the hands of Jesus opened for the nail, the doors of heaven opened for you.”*

— Max Lucado, *He Chose the Nails*