

LESSON 4

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST

Scripture Texts: Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18-23; Isaiah 53:1-3; John 12:37-38; Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:16-22; Acts 3:18



Prophecies concerning Christ and His visit to the earth form a very important part of Bible history. Today we study three sets of Scripture giving prophecies and their fulfillment.

The Old Testament writings studied today were written several hundred years before Christ's birth. One writer wrote and another writer, hundreds of years later, recorded its fulfillment. Not one prophecy failed; all were fulfilled. Often the New Testament says **that it might be fulfilled**. For these many and detailed prophecies to come true after several hundreds of years means that God was speaking. This proves that the Bible is true, that the writers of it were inspired by God, told by Him what to write.

MEMORY VERSE: *But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled.*

Acts 3:18

The Sign of Immanuel

Isaiah 7:14 The Lord himself shall give you a sign. This was God's plan and He would carry it out. **A virgin shall conceive, and bear a son.** This would be a miracle, a thing impossible with man. God is not confined or limited by the laws of nature; He established nature's laws. This prophecy was spoken by Isaiah to wicked King Ahaz somewhere around 740 B.C.

Matthew 1:18-23 When . . . Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. This proves without doubt that Joseph was not the father of Jesus. He and Mary were engaged but not yet married. Mary was a virgin. **This was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken . . . by the prophet**—not one word of God will be allowed to fail. The birth of Jesus is definitely the event to which this prediction pointed.

Man's Attitude Foreseen

Isaiah 53:1-3 Who hath believed . . . It does not seem possible that when the Creator visits His earth so few should believe Him and that He would be **despised and rejected of men**. Yet around 730 years after this prophecy was made the following is recorded in God's Word.

John 12:37-38 They believed not on him. The people's unbelief fulfilled this prophecy of Isaiah. Does the fact that God knew beforehand of the people's sin force them to do it? No, they did not do it because it was written about, but it was written because they would do it. This does not mean that He wanted it to be so. He just knew they would choose to do so.

Good Tidings of Salvation

Isaiah 61:1-3 Spirit of the Lord God is upon me . . . to preach good tidings . . . to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty . . . to comfort . . . to give unto them beauty for ashes . . . Christ brought these things to mankind. What a marvelous ministry!

Luke 4:16-19 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue . . . He regularly attended the synagogue, a good example indeed. He **stood up for to read . . . the book of the prophet Esaias**—the prophecy we just looked at.

Luke 4:20-22 This day is this scripture fulfilled. Jesus said He was the One then beginning that ministry. God told Isaiah about it around 730 years before. The people who saw and heard Jesus that day, who knew Him from babyhood, felt the truth of His claim. They **bare him witness, and wondered at the gracious words.** Truly **in him was life; and the life was the light of men** (John 1:4).

All Fulfilled

Acts 3:18 Those things which God before had shewed by the . . . prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled. It cannot be that one Word of God shall fail. It never has. Great is His faithfulness!

Of what practical value to you and me are these facts? They are all-important. Our eternal salvation rests upon the dependability of God and upon our faith in that dependability. **He that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him** (Hebrews 11:6). The proofs established by these prophecies give us a sure ground for faith. **Seek ye out of the book of the Lord, and read: no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate: for my mouth it hath commanded . . .** (Isaiah 34:16). Friend, what God commands comes true. Step out on His promises. Jesus Christ is the Person Who the Bible says He is—the Son of God. He is eternal. He is life—thus, the only source of everlasting life.

Many Prophecies

A few predictive prophecies about Christ you may like to examine are: Psalm 69:21—Matthew 27:34; Isaiah 9:6,7—Luke 1:30-33; Isaiah 53:5—Matthew 8:16,17; Isaiah 53:7—Luke 23:9; Isaiah 53:12—Mark 15:27,28; Micah 5:2—Matthew 2:1-6; Zechariah 9:9—Matthew 21:1-11; Zechariah 11:12,13—Matthew 26:14,15; 27:3-7; Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20; Zechariah 12:10—John 19:33-37.

JUST A THOUGHT

One of the worst dangers that confront the younger generation is the example set by the older generation.

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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