

Prophecies About Jesus: Part I

1. By the time John wrote, *most* Christians are 2nd Generation Christians
  - a. Jerusalem destroyed / Temple gone / *not* Jews as John was / had *not* walked with Jesus
  - b. John is one of the very last living witnesses – living *HUMAN* connection to Jesus
  - c. **1 John 1:1-3** – *That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which we have **seen with our eyes**, which we have **looked upon**, and our hands have **handled**, concerning the Word of life—<sup>2</sup> the life was manifested, and **we have seen, and bear witness**, and declare to you that eternal life which was with the Father and was manifested to us—<sup>3</sup> that which **we have seen and heard** we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.*
  - d. Is Jesus *really* available for ALL? — Even those who never saw Him?
  
2. John earnestly wants people (who have NOT seen Jesus' face or heard Jesus' voice) to have the same experience he has had – so they too will believe.
  - a. Without seeing and hearing Jesus as John did, there is a reason to believe:
    - **John 2:22** – *Therefore, **when He had risen from the dead**, His disciples remembered that He had said this to them; [destroy this temple and in 3 days I will raise it up] and **they believed the Scripture** and the word which Jesus had said.*
    - If "2nd Generation" Christians accept the Scripture, EVEN IF they weren't alive to see Jesus in person, they will be led to Him THROUGH the prophecies.
    - They will have AMPLE reason to trust Him.
  - b. He grew up a Jew with a deep respect for Scripture.
    - John had heard Jesus unfold the Scriptures
    - Seen Him fulfill the Scriptures – did not understand it all at first
      - At least 30 times through the book of John, possibly many more, he includes REFERENCES and ALLUSIONS to the Old Testament
      - What is an ALLUSION? – When you are reading something and think that "SOUNDS LIKE" something I've heard before
  - c. The first line of the lesson says: *"In a discussion with the religious leaders about His identity, Jesus affirmed the authority of Scripture."*
    - Referring to **John 10:34-35** – Referring back to Psalm 82, Jesus shows that if God's Word uses the term god (elohim) to refer to human judges, how much more appropriate is it to call Himself the *Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '?"<sup>35</sup> If He called them gods, to whom the word of God came (**and the Scripture cannot be broken**)*
  
3. **JOHN the BAPTIST**
  - a. **John 1:23** – *He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the LORD,"' as the prophet Isaiah said."*
    - John the Disciple reporting what John the Baptist quoted from memory
  - b. **Isaiah 40:3** – *The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; Make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*
    - Isaiah 40 begins the section of Isaiah's prophecies that promise restoration and a glorious future
    - What is that glorious future? – Just the rebuilt city of Jerusalem?
    - The promise is leading forward to Jesus the Messiah (especially seen in Isaiah 42, 49-50, 52-53, 61)

- The preparation that began with Isaiah’s prophecy reached its climax in the ministry of John the Baptist who said in **Mt. 3:2** *“Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”*
  - NOTICE, John the Baptist calls himself the VOICE — But Jesus is the WORD
4. **John 2:16-17** – *And He said to those who sold doves, “Take these things away! Do not make My Father’s house a house of merchandise!”<sup>17</sup> Then His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up.”*
- Looking at Jesus prompted the disciples to review what they knew from the scrolls.
  - All of the Bible showed Jesus’ life in advance through the Word of God.
  - Jesus was the Living Word
- a. **Psalm 69:9** – *Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me.*
- We find the story of Jesus bound up in this Psalm
  - **Vs. 3-4** – *I am weary with my crying; My throat is dry; My eyes fail while I wait for my God.<sup>4</sup> Those who hate me without a cause Are more than the hairs of my head; They are mighty who would destroy me, Being my enemies wrongfully; Though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.*
  - **Vs. 20-21** – *Reproach has broken my heart, And I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; And for comforters, but I found none.<sup>21</sup> They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.*
5. **THEMES in the life of Jesus**
- a. **John 7:38** – *He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*
- Jesus refers to many OT statements about himself that use the metaphor of living water
  - Living water is FLOWING – creating an freshwater ecosystem that supports life
- b. **Isaiah 44:3** – *For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, and floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, and My blessing on your offspring;*
- **Isaiah 58:11** – *The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your soul in drought, and strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail.*
  - **Jeremiah 2:13** – *“For My people have committed two evils: they have forsaken Me, the fountain of living waters, and hewn themselves cisterns—broken cisterns that can hold no water.*
  - **Zechariah 13:1** – *“In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.*
  - **Isaiah 12:3** – *Therefore with joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*
6. **SPECIFIC DETAILS of Jesus’ death**
- a. John describes the soldiers breaking the legs of the criminals so that they suffocated and died. Why share that gruesome detail?
- **John 19:36**– *For these things were done that the Scripture should be fulfilled, “Not one of His bones shall be broken.”*
  - **Numbers 9:12** – Regarding the Passover Lamb *They shall leave none of it until morning, nor break one of its bones.*
  - Jesus IS our Passover Lamb. God planned it this way from the beginning.
7. **When did the disciples “get it?”**
- a. **John 20:8-9** – *Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed.<sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.*
- **What was that Scripture? Psalm 16:10** – *For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.*

John the Baptist: **John 1:27** – *It is He who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose.*

**2 Corinthians 1:20** – *For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.*

Things unfulfilled TO Ancient Israel, because they failed at receiving the promises are fulfilled through faith in Christ