

Program: SS Panel 2024 4 Q

Quarterly title: Themes in the Gospel of John

Quarterly author: E. Edward Zinke and Thomas Shepherd

Lesson Title: #8 Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies

For Lesson Dates: *November 16-22, 2024*

Section title: Wednesday - Old Testament Prophecies About Jesus: Part 2

Note: This color and font = quarterly text

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Lesson 8

**November 16–22*

Fulfilling Old Testament Prophecies

Read for This Week’s Study: *John 5:17, 20, 36–40, 46, 47; John 13:18; John 17:12; Jer. 2:13; Zech. 9:9; John 8:12–30.*

Memory Text: “ ‘But I have a greater witness than John’s; for the works which the Father has given Me to finish—the very works that I do—bear witness of Me, that the Father has sent Me’ ” (*John 5:36, NKJV*).

WEDNESDAY

November 20

Old Testament Prophecies About Jesus: Part II

READ

Jesus said to the religious leaders: " 'You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me' " (*John 5:39, NKJV*). What an incredible claim to make about Himself!

Estimates vary, but some scholars argue that Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled hundreds of Old Testament prophecies. Whatever the amount, the odds against one man's fulfilling even a few of them, much less them all, are staggering. Every now and then someone will use an image like this: imagine filling an area the size of Texas with coins two feet high and painting one coin pink and then mixing them all up. Then give a blindfolded person one chance to pick the pink coin. What are the odds that, with one pick, he or she would get the pink one?

The number of Old Testament prophecies that Jesus Christ is said to have fulfilled varies among scholars and theologians, but a common estimate is around 300. These prophecies cover various aspects of His life, including His birth, ministry, death, and resurrection.

Different interpretations and methods of counting can lead to different totals, but the consensus is that Jesus fulfilled many specific prophecies from the Old Testament.

READ

No question—Christ's birth, life, and death were predicted by the Old Testament, stunning evidence of His identity as the expected Messiah. John points to these Old Testament texts over and over to make that very point about who Jesus was, and also, why we should believe in Him and accept the salvation He offers.

What do each of the following passages from John's Gospel reveal about Jesus as a fulfillment of Messianic prophecy?

John 12:13 **13** took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!' The King of Israel!"

Psalms 118:26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! We have blessed you from the house of the Lord.

John 12:14 -15 **14** Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written:

15 "Fear not, daughter of Zion; Behold, your King is coming, Sitting on a donkey's colt."

Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem!

Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

John 13:18 **18** "I do not speak concerning all of you. I know whom I have chosen; but that the Scripture may be fulfilled, 'He who eats bread with Me has lifted up his heel against Me.'

Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted,
Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me.

John 19:37 **37** And again another Scripture says, "They shall look on Him whom they pierced."

Zechariah 12:10, 10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

Zechariah 13:6 **6** And one will say to him, 'What are these wounds between your arms?' Then he will answer, 'Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.'

Some of the key prophecies include:

1. **Birthplace**: Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)
2. **Lineage**: Descendant of David (Jeremiah 23:5)
3. **Virgin Birth**: Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14)
4. **Ministry**: A prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15)
5. **Death**: Suffering servant (Isaiah 53), crucifixion (Psalm 22)
6. **Resurrection**: Not abandoned to the grave (Psalm 16:10)

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, “Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. **11** And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. **12** Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

>>> it is interesting to note how Jesus spoke to two of His disciples after he was resurrected from the dead. They were underway the road to Emmaus. They were discouraged because they said their hopes on Jesus establishing an earthly throne.

The Road to Emmaus

Luke 24:21-27 21 But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, today is the third day since these things happened.

22 Yes, and certain women of our company, who arrived at the tomb early, astonished us.

23 When they did not find His body, they came saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said He was alive.

24 And certain of those *who were* with us went to the tomb and found *it* just as the women had said; but Him they did not see.”

25 **Then He said to them, “O foolish ones,** and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?”

27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

>>> We see here in this encounter Jesus had with the disciples traveling on the road to mass we see the Jesus places value in understanding how the prophecies of the Old Testament found their fulfilling fulfillment in his life, death, and resurrection.

>>> God does not want us to follow him with just an emotional acceptance or blind faith, or without an intellectual reasoning. He wants us to evaluate, examine the evidence, and facts concerning Him, His promises appeal to our intellect and our hearts. Notice:

Isaiah 1:18-20 “Come now, and let us reason together,”

Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool.

19 If you are willing and obedient, You shall eat the good of the land;

20 But if you refuse and rebel, You shall be devoured by the sword”; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures

Acts 17:2-3 2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures,

3 explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.”

Paul reasoned with them from the Scriptures

Acts 28:23-24 23 So when they had appointed him a day, many came to him at *his* lodging, to whom he explained and solemnly testified of the kingdom of God, persuading them concerning Jesus from both the Law of Moses and the Prophets, from morning till evening.

24 And some were persuaded by the things which were spoken, and some disbelieved.

How firmly grounded are you in what you believe? If someone were to challenge you on why you believe in Jesus as the Messiah, what answers could you give, and where would you go, and why, to help defend that faith?