

Christ in Prophecy

Reading: 1 Peter 1:10-12

Intro:

The Old Testament prophets wrote of the coming Christ, *e.g.* **Isaiah 53**
They "...searched carefully.." as to when, how, who, *etc.* but they didn't have the "complete picture".

The "mystery" has now been reported by the Apostles (*e.g.* **Ephesians 3:1-12**).

Various Old Testament prophecies relating to Jesus are quoted in New Testament, showing the link. Jesus Himself referred to what was previously written about his life and death – **Luke 4:16-21**, **Matthew 26:54, 56**, **Luke 24:44-47**

1) Jesus miraculous birth

Jesus' conception was to be different from normal conceptions, *i.e.* miraculous.
Isaiah 7:14 "...a sign, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son..."

Matthew 1:18-25 Mary pregnant before Joseph and Mary come together.
In **Luke 1:26-35** (particularly verses **27, 34**) and **Matthew 1:24-25** show that Mary was a virgin up to time of Jesus' birth
Matthew 1:23 (New Testament) fulfills **Isaiah 7:14** (Old Testament).

2) The place of Jesus' birth

The place of the Messiah's birth was known from the Old Testament.
Matthew 2:1-6 When the wise men came seeking the new-born King of the Jews, the religious leaders referred to **Micah 5:2** (written 700 years earlier).
"...Bethlehem (8km south of Jerusalem).....out of you shall come a Ruler....."

Luke 2:6-7 Mary gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem (**Luke 2:4-5**)

Note: Mary and Joseph normally lived in Nazareth, 130km away to the north.

Luke 2:1-5 A census required them to go back to Judah

– Joseph, descendant of David, belonged to tribe of Judah (**Matthew 1:2, 6, 16**).

Point: Centuries before-hand, God knew the exact place where the Jesus Christ would be born, a town not normally the home of Jesus' parents.

3) Jesus' sinless life

Isaiah 53:9 "...He had done no violence...no deceit in His mouth..."
"violence" = unrighteousness, wrongdoing, besides meaning physical harm.

Isaiah 53:4-6, 8b "...His suffering was for the sins of *others*..."
- not for anything He had done.

Old Testament sacrifices had to be "perfect" – *i.e.* without blemish.

e.g. **Leviticus 1:3, 10, 3:1, 6, 4:23, 28, 32**

Malachi 1:7-8, 13-14 Blemished sacrifices are rejected by God.

Christ in Prophecy

Jesus is our New Testament sacrificial lamb.

John 1:29, 36 “...*lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world....*”

1 Peter 1:18-19 “...*blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish....*”

1 Peter 2:21-22 Even under great provocation, He “...*committed no sin....*”.

Hebrews 4:15 “...*tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin....*”

4) Jesus trial, death and resurrection

The events at Gethsemane, the trials, and the execution, were not a case of “things going wrong” – they were a case of “things going to God’s plan”.

Acts 2:22-23 “...*Him being delivered by the determined purpose...of God..*”

Matthew 16:21-23 “...*Jesus told His disciples He must suffer many things...*”

Isaiah 53:7 “...*He was oppressed....afflicted...lamb to the slaughter....*”

The suffering servant would not give a long discourse to defend Himself. He would allow Himself to be led away. At times, Jesus remained silent during the trials (**Matthew 26:63a, 27:12-14**). At other times, Jesus spoke briefly (**John 18:20, 23, 34-37**)

Isaiah 53:8, 9, 12 *His suffering lead to death.* (**Matthew 27:50, Mark 15:37**)

Psalms 22:16, 18 *His hands, feet were pierced, clothing divided* (**John 19:24**)

Isaiah 53:9 “...*His grave with the rich....*” (**Matthew 27:57-60, John 19:38**)

Psalms 16:10 “...*not allow Holy One to see corruption...*” (**Acts 2:29-32**)

Application:

a) We can trust God’s Word.

God knows about things centuries before they actually happen All the Old Testament prophecies about Jesus were written over 500 years before Christ came to earth. (Isaiah was written around 700BC).

Also, the prophecies about Jesus’ had a great level of detail – they were not some “generic” statements that could be applied to more than just Jesus. The things that happened did so, because God is always in control.

Point: What God said would happen, did happen.

Lesson for us: We can be assured that if God has promised or warned about something in the New Testament, then we had better believe it.

b) Jesus’ obedience to the Father’s will is an example for us – regardless of the cost.

Jesus knew what would happen to Him before He came to earth. What was written was the Father’s will. Jesus came to do the Father’s will (**John 5:30**).

Jesus was obedient to the point of death (**Philippians 2:5-8**).

Point: God’s will has to have top priority in our lives, not our will.

Lesson for us: We are to have the same mind as Christ (**Philippians.2:5**). There will be times when obeying God will require us to do things we some times would prefer not to do – *e.g.* loving enemies (**Matthew 5:44**), forgiving others (**Ephesians 4:32**), putting away sin (**Romans 6:15**).

Jesus endured the suffering because of the reward (**Hebrews 12:2**).

We too have a reward (**2 Timothy 4:8, 1 Corinthians 15:58**).