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THE BIBLE VIEW

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Isaiah's Prophecies

Bill Brinkworth

One of the many proofs that the Bible is God's Word and not just a book is the many prophecies it foretells. Hundreds of its prophecies have come true and have been verified by history. Many unfilled prophecies are expected to be fulfilled shortly.

A prophecy is an absolute proof that the Bible is God's Word. Only God can know the future. Those that claim to tell the future have been repeatedly proven not to be accurate in their guesses. God's Word has always been true.

Of the many futuristic predictions within the Bible's pages, over 300 foretold what Christ would do, way before Jesus was even born. They told of the One who would come and bear the sins of man, so, through his death, people could have their iniquities forgiven and have a way to Heaven. They all came true as Jesus Christ lived and died.

Although Scripture is peppered with prophecies of His coming, there are many found in Isaiah 53. If you read it for yourself, you will find prophecies about Jesus' life and death 712 years before His birth. The over 40 predictions about Jesus that all came true in chapter 53 include:

- Many would have unbelief: (vs. 1) *"Who hath believed our report?"*
- Many would not understand: (vs. 1) *"... and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"*
- Christ came quietly and gently into the world: (vs. 2) *"For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant...."*
- Christ came from an unimportant, unpopular family: (vs. 2) *"... and as a root out of a dry ground..."* Jesus' mother, being a virgin, was also "dry ground."
- He would not be unusual in appearance or have uncommon beauty: (vs. 2) *"... he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."*
- He would be hated by some: (vs. 3) *"He is despised and rejected of men..."*
- He would not have an easy life: (vs. 3) *"... a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief...."*

- Not many would care what happened to Him: (vs. 3) “... and we hid as it were our faces from him; and we esteemed him not.”, (vs. 4) “... yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”
- He would die for our sins and take our sins upon Himself: (vs. 4) “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows...”, (vs. 5) “But he was wounded for our transgressions...”, (vs. 6) “... and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”, (vs. 8) “... for the transgression of my people was he stricken...”, (vs. 10) “... when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin...”, (vs. 11) “... by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.”
- He would be beaten: (vs. 5) “... he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”, (vs. 7) “... and he was afflicted...”
- Many would turn against Him: (vs. 7) “He was oppressed...”
- He would take the beatings and not cry out: (vs. 7) “... yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.”
- He would go to prison: (vs. 8) “He was taken from prison...”
- Men would judge Him: (vs. 8) “... and from judgment...”
- He would preach to the people of His time: (vs. 8) “... and who shall declare his generation? ...”
- He would be killed: (vs. 8) “... for he was cut off out of the land of the living...”
- He would die like the sinners he died for: (vs. 9) “And he made his grave with the wicked...”, (vs. 12) “... because he hath poured out his soul unto death”, (vs. 12) “and he was numbered with the transgressors...”
- He would be buried with the rich: (vs. 9) “... and with the rich in his death...”
- He would do no wrong: (vs. 9) “... because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth.”
- It would be God’s will and way that the Saviour would die the way God allowed Him to die: (vs. 10) “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief...”
- His life would not end at His death: (vs. 10) “... he shall prolong his days...”
- God will be pleased with what the Saviour would do: (vs. 10) “... and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand”, (vs. 11) “He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied...”, (vs. 12) “Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong...”
- He would pay for all mankind’s sin with His death: (vs. 12) “... and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”

After reading the New Testament, especially its first four books, one will find that all the above prophecies came true many years after. How could that happen? Coincidence? Hardly. The only way they could have all come true is that the futuristic predictions were recorded by God in His perfect, preserved Word! The Bible is not just another book!

It Was Foretold

Bill Brinkworth

In Mark 11:1-11, the Triumphal Entry account, where Jesus was honored as He entered Jerusalem, is described. Before His riding through the streets, Jesus asked two of His disciples to get the colt of a donkey for Him to ride.

All that Christ did while on this Earth was planned. His riding through the streets prior to His death was also planned. About 487 years before the birth of Christ, the prophet Zechariah foretold of the Messiah's ride on a young donkey colt:

"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass." Zechariah 9:9

These fulfilled prophecies were important because they showed that Jesus was not just a man, as many cults teach. He was the promised and long-awaited Messiah who would die so that others could live eternally. The over 300 prophecies Christ fulfilled include those about:

- His ancestry
- His birth
- His character
- His ministry
- His dual nature. He was the Son of God and became the human Son of Man.
- His death
- His resurrection
- His ascension and exaltation
- His second advent

(* Above points from *All the Messianic Prophecies of the Bible* by Herbert Lockyer)

All fulfilled prophecies, Jesus' miracles, His power, and His teachings should have alerted all that Jesus was the promised One that would come to pay man's sin-debt. Certainly, all that was fulfilled could not possibly be written off as a "coincidence," but it was by many, and He was ignored by others. The Saviour came, and many did not recognize Him then, and today many still do not recognize Him as Saviour.

Jesus' Death Was Prophesied

Bill Brinkworth

Psalm 22 is one of three prophetic Psalms about Jesus. It describes some of what would happen at Christ's crucifixion. Although some believe it may have been written about 1,060 years B. C., it is very accurate about what did happen to our Saviour.

Some of the foretold events about Jesus' death, according to this chapter, include:

- *"To the chief Musician upon Aijeleth Shahar, A Psalm of David. My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?" Psalm 22:1*

Jesus fulfilled it:

"And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Mat. 27:46

- *“All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 He trusted on the LORD that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him.” Psalm 22:7-8*

It was fulfilled:

“And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, 40 And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross... 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.” Mat. 27:39-40, 43 Also: Luke 23:35.

- *“Many bulls have compassed me: strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. 13 They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion.” Psalm 22:12-13*

It was fulfilled:

The “strong bulls of Bashan” were most likely referring to the Roman soldiers that abused and killed our Saviour.”

“And the soldiers also mocked him, coming to him, and offering him vinegar,” Luke 23:36 Also: John 19:32, 34.

- *“My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death.” Psalm 22:15*

It was fulfilled:

“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. 29 Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth.” John 19:28-29

- *“For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.” Psalm 22:16* “Dogs” usually refers to Gentiles, and the Roman soldiers were Gentiles. Also, at the time this Psalm was written, there was no crucifixion, and the Roman Empire was not even in existence. God certainly knew all that would happen when Jesus would die on that cruel cross in advance.

It was fulfilled:

“Then the soldiers, when they had crucified [Crucifying included piercing of hands and feet] Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.” John 19:23

“And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.” John 19:37 This verse even reminds the reader it was prophesied, as it was quoting the Psalm’s prophecy.

- *“They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.” Psalm 22:18*

It was fulfilled:

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts, to every soldier a part; and also his coat: now the coat was without seam, woven from the top throughout.” John 19:23 Also: Mat. 27:35, Luke 23:34.

There are certainly more fulfilled prophecies in this chapter than are listed above. What is shown in this brief study should convince anyone that Jesus’ death was previously planned by God. It is a fulfilled prophecy of our Saviour coming to this Earth and being a sacrifice for all our sins if the sinner will accept what was done for him.

Jesus’ last words on the Cross were, “... It is finished...” (John 19:30) These prophecies in this Psalm and many more were completed. His work was finished.

“As He [Jesus] was suspended there [on the cross] between Heaven and Earth, He became the ladder let down from Heaven to this Earth so that men might have a way to God.” — J. Vernon McGee.