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MESSIANIC PROPHECIES FULFILLED BY JESUS

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INTRODUCTION

The passion of Jesus Christ stands alone as the most important event creation has ever known. The Bible tells us that long before the world began, God had planned that the crucifixion of Jesus would be the method and payment for sin – the only payment that would reconcile sinners to a holy and loving God.

1 Peter 1:19-20 – *“He paid for you with the precious lifeblood of Christ, the sinless, spotless Lamb of God. God chose Him for this purpose long before the world began, but now in these final days, He was sent to the earth for all to see. And He did this for you.”*

Down through history, God provided us a roadmap. He foretold various signs and conditions through His prophets. These prophets spoke of things that mankind should watch for so that the Messiah would be recognized and believed. These signs or prophecies were given to us in the Old Testament. The Old Testament is the part of the Bible written before Jesus was born. Its writings were completed in 450 B.C.

The Old Testament, written hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, contains over 300 prophecies that Jesus fulfilled through His life, death and resurrection. Mathematically speaking, the odds of anyone fulfilling this amount of prophecy are staggering. Mathematicians put it this way:

1 person fulfilling 8 prophecies: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000

1 person fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power

1 person fulfilling 300+ prophecies: Only Jesus!

It is the magnificent detail of these prophecies that mark the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Only God could foreknow and accomplish all that was written about the Christ. This historical accuracy and reliability sets the Bible apart from any other book or record.

The New Testament was written after the death of Jesus Christ. Archeologists have found thousands of manuscripts of the New Testament. Some of these pieces of manuscript are dated less than

100 years after the original letters were written. In terms of historical reliability, the Bible is superior to any other ancient writings.

This is the miraculous and reliable record of the Word of God. God gave us these prophecies to build our faith and point the way to His Son. As 1 John 1:1-3 states: *“The One who existed from the beginning is the One we have heard and seen. We saw Him with our own eyes and touched Him with our own hands. He is Jesus Christ, the Word of Life. This One who is life from God was shown to us, and we have seen Him. And now we testify and announce to you that He is the One who is eternal life. He was with the Father, and then He was shown to us. We are telling you about what we ourselves have actually seen and heard, so that you may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ.”*

In this booklet, we will take a look at just a few of the prophecies concerning the life and passion of Jesus Christ. Our prayer is that your faith will be increased and your witness strengthened as you understand and are able to communicate more clearly that Jesus Christ is indeed the Lamb of God, slain for our sins. Our hope is that you will know beyond doubt that His death is the sacrifice for our sins.

A Word About God’s Prophets

The prophets of God were often sent on dangerous missions. The prophets were to warn the people about God’s coming judgment against sin. They were sent to call the people back to God in repentance and to assure them of God’s continuing love and purpose for them.

1. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM

Micah 5:2 – *“But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village in Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you, one whose origins are from the distant past.”*

About the Prophecy of Micah

Micah was an eighth century B.C. prophet. He lived at the same time as the prophets Amos, Hosea and Isaiah. The Book of Micah tells how the judgment of God will fall on Samaria and Jerusalem due to sin, and afterwards, God will give restoration. Micah describes a wonderful future where the city of Bethlehem will give birth to a ruler greater than David. He also prophesies of a time when Jerusalem will become the religious center of the world.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 2:1-6 – *“Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We have seen His star as it arose, and we have come to worship Him.’ Herod was deeply disturbed by their question, as was all of Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law. ‘Where did the prophets say the Messiah would be born?’ he asked them. ‘In Bethlehem,’ they said, ‘for this is what the prophet wrote: ‘O Bethlehem of Judah, you are not just a lowly village in Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”*

Luke 2:4-5, 7, 15 – *“And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped Him snugly in strips of cloth and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn. When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, ‘Come on, let’s go to Bethlehem! Let’s see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.’”*

John 7:42 – *“For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born.”*

2. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

Isaiah 7:14 – *“All right then, the Lord Himself will choose the sign. Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel – ‘God is with us.’”*

Isaiah 9:6-7 – *“For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on His shoulders. These will be His royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of His ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the Lord Almighty will guarantee this!”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

The prophet Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. The book of Isaiah is one of the four major prophetic books in the Old Testament, along with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Chapter 7 of Isaiah was written about 735 B.C. King Ahaz was on the throne and Isaiah was sent with the message that God was sending Judah a sign – this sign would be a child called “God is with us.”

The Fulfillment

Matthew 1:20-23 – *“As he considered this, he fell asleep, and an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream. ‘Joseph, son of David,’ the angel said, ‘do not be afraid to go ahead with your marriage to Mary. For the child within her has been conceived by the Holy Spirit. And she will have a son, and you are to name Him Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.’ All of this happened to fulfill the Lord’s message through His prophet: ‘Look! The virgin will conceive a child! She will give birth to a son, and He will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us).’”*

3. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE A PROPHET LIKE MOSES

Deuteronomy 18:15 – *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your fellow Israelites, and you must listen to that prophet.”*

About the Prophecy in Deuteronomy

Deuteronomy 1:1a states: *“This book records the words that Moses spoke to all the people of Israel while they were in the wilderness east of the Jordan River.”* These words were written about 1260 B.C. Throughout the book of Deuteronomy, Moses talks to the people of Israel as they are about to enter the Promised Land. He reminds them of their covenant with God and their glorious future, if they obey Him.

The Fulfillment

John 7:40-42 – *“When the crowds heard Him say this, some of them declared, ‘This man surely is the Prophet.’ Others said, ‘He is the Messiah.’ Still others said, ‘But He can’t be! Will the Messiah come from Galilee? For the Scriptures clearly state that the Messiah will be born of the royal line of David, in Bethlehem, the village where King David was born.’”*

Acts 3:20-23 – *“Then wonderful times of refreshment will come from the presence of the Lord, and He will send Jesus your Messiah to you again. For He must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through His prophets. Moses said, ‘The Lord your God will raise up a Prophet like me from among your own people. Listen carefully to everything He tells you.’ Then Moses said, ‘Anyone who will not listen to that Prophet will be cut off from God’s people and utterly destroyed.’”*

4. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE TEMPTED BY SATAN

Psalm 91:10-12 – *“No evil will conquer you; no plague will come near your dwelling. For He orders His angels to protect you wherever you go. They will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

The Psalms are a collection of the hymns of ancient Israel. Scholars divide them into five groups:

1. Hymns in praise of God's glory
2. Community lamentations
3. Royal hymns for special occasions
4. Individual prayers
5. Individual praise and thanksgiving

It is difficult to date the individual psalms. King David is credited with writing many of them, and the collection of these hymns continued after the days of Israel's exile. It is believed the collection was finalized before the second century B.C.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 4:5-7 – *“Then the Devil took Him to Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, ‘If You are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, “He orders His angels to protect you. And they will hold you with their hands to keep you from striking your foot on a stone.”’ Jesus responded, ‘The Scriptures also say, “Do not test the Lord your God.”’”*

5. THE MESSIAH WOULD ENTER JERUSALEM TRIUMPHANTLY

Zechariah 9:9 – “Rejoice greatly, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey – even on a donkey’s colt.”

About the Prophecy of Zechariah

Zechariah the prophet came from a priestly family. He was a visionary, who with the prophet Haggai worked on the rebuilding of the Temple. The New Testament Gospels quote Zechariah more than any other prophet. Part one of the book of Zechariah was written in 520 B.C. Zechariah spoke about the judgment and salvation of God and about the coming Messiah who would be a priest, governor, humble king and afflicted shepherd.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 21:8-11 – “Most of the crowd spread their coats on the road ahead of Jesus, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. He was in the center of the procession, and the crowds all around Him were shouting, ‘Praise God for the Son of David! Bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Praise God in highest heaven!’ The entire city of Jerusalem was stirred as He entered. ‘Who is this?’ they asked. And the crowds replied, ‘It’s Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth in Galilee.’”

Luke 19:35-37 – “So they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their garments over it for Him to ride on. Then the crowds spread out their coats on the road ahead of Jesus. As they reached the place where the road started down from the Mount of Olives, all of His followers began to shout and sing as they walked along, praising God for all the wonderful miracles they had seen.”

John 12:12-15 – “The next day, the news that Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem swept through the city. A huge crowd of Passover visitors took palm branches and went down the road to meet Him.

They shouted, 'Praise God! Bless the One who comes in the name of the Lord! Hail to the King of Israel! Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, fulfilling the prophecy that said: 'Don't be afraid, people of Israel. Look, your King is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt.'"

6. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE REJECTED BY HIS OWN PEOPLE

Isaiah 53:1, 3 – *“Who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power? He was despised and rejected – a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on Him and looked the other way when He went by. He was despised, and we did not care.”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

Chapters 40–55 in the book of Isaiah address the people in exile in Babylon – directly before the time of their return – about 538 B.C. Chapter 53 is known as the great prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

The Fulfillment

John 1:10-11 – *“But although the world was made through Him, the world didn’t recognize Him when He came. Even in His own land and among His own people, He was not accepted.”*

John 12:37-38 – *“But despite all the miraculous signs He had done, most of the people did not believe in Him. This is exactly what Isaiah the prophet had predicted: ‘Lord, who has believed our message? To whom will the Lord reveal His saving power?’”*

Matthew 26:3-4 – *“At that same time the leading priests and other leaders were meeting at the residence of Caiaphas, the high priest, to discuss how to capture Jesus secretly and put Him to death.”*

7. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BETRAYED BY ONE OF HIS FOLLOWERS

Psalm 41:9 – *“Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”* (NIV)

Psalm 55:12-13 – *“It is not an enemy who taunts me – I could bear that. It is not my foes who so arrogantly insult me – I could have hidden from them. Instead, it is you – my equal, my companion and close friend.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

Psalm 41 is a psalm of David. He speaks of his own isolation and his trust in God. He describes how the sharing of food unites people in loyalty and friendship.

Psalm 55 is a psalm of David as well. In this psalm, he outlines the betrayal of a trusted friend, who was seemingly a follower of God. Both of these psalms prophesy the betrayal of Jesus by a close and trusted friend.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 26:47, 49-50a – *“And even as He said this, Judas, one of the twelve disciples, arrived with a mob that was armed with swords and clubs. They had been sent out by the leading priests and other leaders of the people. So Judas came straight to Jesus. ‘Greetings, Teacher!’ he exclaimed and gave Him the kiss. Jesus said, ‘My friend, go ahead and do what you have come for.’”*

Luke 22:21-22, 47b – *“But here at this table, sitting among us as a friend, is the man who will betray Me. For I, the Son of Man, must die since it is part of God’s plan. But how terrible it will be for My betrayer!” A mob approached, led by Judas, one of His twelve disciples. Judas walked over to Jesus and greeted Him with a kiss.”*

John 13:18, 21, 26 – *“I am not saying these things to all of you; I know so well each one of you I chose. The Scriptures declare, “The one who shares My food has turned against Me,” and this will soon come*

true'. Now Jesus was in great anguish of spirit, and He exclaimed, 'The truth is, one of you will betray Me!' Jesus said, 'It is the one to whom I give the bread dipped in the sauce.' And when He had dipped it, He gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot."

8. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BETRAYED FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER

Zechariah 11:12-13 – *“And I said unto them, ‘If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was priced at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”* (KJV)

About the Prophecy of Zechariah

In chapter 11 of the book of Zechariah, the prophet refers to 30 shekels of silver as a “goodly price.” This amount also refers to the amount paid for the life of a slave. Zechariah’s prophecy speaks about the amount paid for the Lord and His life.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 26:14-16 – *“Then Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve disciples, went to the leading priests and asked, ‘How much will you pay me to betray Jesus to you?’ And they gave him thirty pieces of silver. From that time on, Judas began looking for the right time and place to betray Jesus.”*

Matthew 27:3-4a – *“When Judas, who had betrayed Him, realized that Jesus had been condemned to die, he was filled with remorse. So he took the thirty pieces of silver back to the leading priests and other leaders. ‘I have sinned,’ he declared, ‘for I have betrayed an innocent man.’”*

9. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE TRIED AND CONDEMNED

Isaiah 53:8 – *“From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment?”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

Written in 538 B.C., chapter 53 of the book of Isaiah is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:1-2 – *“Very early in the morning, the leading priests and other leaders met again to discuss how to persuade the Roman government to sentence Jesus to death. Then they bound Him and took Him to Pilate, the Roman governor.”*

Luke 23:1, 23 – *“The entire council took Jesus over to Pilate, the Roman governor. But the crowd shouted louder and louder for Jesus’ death, and their voices prevailed.”*

Acts 4:26-28 – *“‘The kings of the earth prepared for battle; the rulers gathered together against the Lord and against His Messiah.’ That is what has happened here in this city! For Herod Antipas, Pontius Pilate the governor, the Gentiles, and the people of Israel were all united against Jesus, Your holy Servant, whom You anointed. In fact, everything they did occurred according to Your eternal will and plan.”*

10. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE SILENT BEFORE HIS ACCUSERS

Psalm 35:11 – *“Malicious witnesses testify against me. They accuse me of things I don’t even know about.”*

Isaiah 53:7-8a – *“He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet He never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, He did not open His mouth. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms and Isaiah

Psalm 35 is a psalm of David. In this hymn, he reassures those who are right with God that they have nothing to fear. He calls on God to pay back his enemies who have unjustly come against him. The prophecy in this psalm shows the confidence of the Messiah to entrust His life to God, who will answer and judge His accusers.

Again, the 53rd chapter of Isaiah was written in 538 B.C. It is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:12-14 – *“But when the leading priests and other leaders made their accusations against Him, Jesus remained silent. ‘Don’t you hear their many charges against You?’ Pilate demanded. But Jesus said nothing, much to the governor’s great surprise.”*

Mark 15:3-5 – *“Then the leading priests accused Him of many crimes, and Pilate asked Him, ‘Aren’t You going to say something? What about all these charges against You?’ But Jesus said nothing, much to Pilate’s surprise.”*

1 Peter 2:22-23 – *“He never sinned, and He never deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when He was insulted. When He suffered, He did not threaten to get even. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly.”*

11. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE SMITTEN AND SPAT UPON

Micah 5:1 – *“Mobilize! Marshal your troops! The enemy is laying siege to Jerusalem. With a rod they will strike the leader of Israel in the face.”*

Isaiah 50:6 – *“I give My back to those who beat Me and My cheeks to those who pull out My beard. I do not hide from shame, for they mock Me and spit in My face.”*

About the Prophecy of Micah and Isaiah

The book of Micah, by the prophet Micah, was written in the eighth century B.C. He describes how the restoration of God follows His judgment of sin. Micah describes the future of Jerusalem as the center of religious activity for the whole world.

Chapter 50 in the book of Isaiah was written in 538 B.C. In the Servant Song of Isaiah, chapter 50, we see the first glimpse of the Messiah’s suffering and rejection.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 26:67-68 – *“Then they spit in Jesus’ face and hit Him with their fists. And some slapped Him, saying, ‘Prophecy to us, You Messiah! Who hit You that time?’”*

Matthew 27:30 – *“And they spit on Him and grabbed the stick and beat Him on the head with it.”*

Mark 14:65a – *“Then some of them began to spit at Him, and they blindfolded Him and hit His face with their fists.”*

Mark 15:19 – *“And they beat Him on the head with a stick, spit on Him, and dropped to their knees in mock worship.”*

John 19:1-3 – *“Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on His head, and they put a royal purple robe on Him. ‘Hail! King of the Jews!’ they mocked, and they hit Him with their fists.”*

12. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE MOCKED AND TAUNTED

Psalm 22:7-8 – *“Everyone who sees Me, mocks Me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, ‘Is this the One who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save Him! If the Lord loves Him so much, then let the Lord rescue Him!’”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

Psalm 22 is a psalm of David, and in it he describes an execution. The early portion of the psalm speaks of the Messiah’s suffering; the later portion describes the universal deliverance the Messiah makes possible.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:39-40 – *“And the people passing by shouted abuse, shaking their heads in mockery. ‘So! You can destroy the Temple and build it again in three days, can You? Well then, if You are the Son of God, save Yourself and come down from the cross!’”*

Luke 23:11, 35 – *“Now Herod and his soldiers began mocking and ridiculing Jesus. Then they put a royal robe on Him and sent Him back to Pilate. The crowd watched, and the leaders laughed and scoffed. ‘He saved others,’ they said, ‘let Him save Himself if He is really God’s Chosen One, the Messiah.’”*

13. THE MESSIAH TO DIE BY CRUCIFIXION, WITH PIERCED HANDS AND FEET

Psalm 22:14-16 – *“My life is poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within Me. My strength has dried up like sunbaked clay. My tongue sticks to the roof of My mouth. You have laid Me in the dust and left Me for dead. My enemies surround Me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on Me. They have pierced My hands and feet.”*

Zechariah 12:10a – *“Then I will pour out a spirit of grace and prayer on the family of David and on all the people of Jerusalem. They will look on Me whom they have pierced and mourn for Him as for an only son.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms and Zechariah

Again, Psalm 22 is a Psalm of David. In this psalm he is describing an execution. The early portion of this psalm describes the Messiah's suffering; the later portion describes the universal deliverance the Messiah makes possible.

In Chapter 12 of the book of Zechariah, the prophet speaks of God's own representative who is killed at the hands of His people. At a future point, the people of God will realize whom they have pierced and will mourn for “the son” who died.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:31 – *“When they were finally tired of mocking Him, they took off the robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be crucified.”*

Mark 15:20 – *“When they were finally tired of mocking Him, they took off the purple robe and put His own clothes on Him again. Then they led Him away to be crucified.”*

John 19:15-16 – *“‘Away with Him,’ they yelled. ‘Away with Him – crucify Him!’ ‘What? Crucify your king?’ Pilate asked. ‘We have no*

king but Caesar,' the leading priests shouted back. Then Pilate gave Jesus to them to be crucified."

14. THE MESSIAH WOULD SUFFER WITH SINNERS

Isaiah 53:12a – *“I will give Him the honors of One who is mighty and great, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners.”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah The prophet Isaiah lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. The book of Isaiah is one of the four major prophetic books in the Bible, along with Jeremiah, Ezekiel and Daniel. Chapter 53 is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:38 – *“Two criminals were crucified with Him, their crosses on either side of His.”*

Mark 15:27 – *“Two criminals were crucified with Him, their crosses on either side of His.”*

Luke 23:32-33 – *“Two others, both criminals, were led out to be executed with Him. Finally, they came to a place called The Skull. All three were crucified there – Jesus on the center cross, and the two criminals on either side.”*

15. THE MESSIAH'S GARMENTS WOULD BE DIVIDED BY CASTING LOTS

Psalm 22:18 – *“They divide My clothes among themselves and throw dice for My garments.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

Again, Psalm 22 is a psalm of King David. In this hymn he describes an execution. The early portion of the psalm speaks of the Messiah's suffering and the later portion describes the universal deliverance He made possible.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:35 – *“After they had nailed Him to the cross, the soldiers gambled for His clothes by throwing dice.”*

Mark 15:24 – *“Then they nailed Him to the cross. They gambled for His clothes, throwing dice to decide who would get them.”*

John 19:23-24a – *“When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they divided His clothes among the four of them. They also took His robe, but it was seamless, woven in one piece from the top. So they said, ‘Let's not tear it but throw dice to see who gets it.’ This fulfilled the Scripture that says, ‘They divided My clothes among themselves and threw dice for My robe.’”*

16. THE MESSIAH'S BONES WOULD NOT BE BROKEN

Numbers 9:12 – *“They must not leave any of the lamb until the next morning, and they must not break any of its bones. They must follow all the normal regulations concerning the Passover.”*

About the Prophecy of Numbers

Numbers is the fourth of the five books written by Moses. It is the travel history of Israel's journey in the desert. It begins two years after leaving Egypt and ends just before entry into Canaan. It is a 38-year record of the murmurings of the nation of Israel and the constant companionship of God. It is a record of God's ongoing work to produce repentance in His people. Chapter 9 discusses the proper observance and preparation of Passover and prophetically describes Jesus, the Passover Lamb.

The Fulfillment

John 19:31-37 – *“The Jewish leaders didn't want the victims hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath (and a very special Sabbath at that, because it was the Passover), so they asked Pilate to hasten their deaths by ordering that their legs be broken. Then their bodies could be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus, they saw that He was dead already, so they didn't break His legs. One of the soldiers, however, pierced His side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out. This report is from an eyewitness giving an accurate account; it is presented so that you also can believe. These things happened in fulfillment of the Scriptures that say, ‘Not one of His bones will be broken,’ and ‘They will look on Him whom they pierced.’”*

1 Corinthians 5:7b – *“Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us.”*

17. THE MESSIAH WOULD DIE AS A SIN OFFERING

Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 12 – *“But He was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on Him the guilt and sins of us all. From prison and trial they led Him away to His death. But who among the people realized that He was dying for their sins – that He was suffering their punishment? I will give Him the honors of One who is mighty and great, because He exposed Himself to death. He was counted among those who were sinners. He bore the sins of many and interceded for sinners.”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

Isaiah the prophet lived in Jerusalem in the eighth century B.C. Chapter 53 of Isaiah is known as the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

The Fulfillment

John 1:29 – *“The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, ‘Look! There is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!’”*

Acts 10:43 – *“He is the One all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who believes in Him will have their sins forgiven through His name.”*

Acts 13:38-39 – *“Brothers, listen! In this man Jesus there is forgiveness for your sins. Everyone who believes in Him is freed from all guilt and declared right with God – something the Jewish law could never do.”*

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 – *“I passed on to you what was most important and what had also been passed on to me – that Christ died for our sins, just as the Scriptures said. He was buried, and He was raised from the dead on the third day, as the Scriptures said.”*

Ephesians 1:7 – *“He is so rich in kindness that He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.”*

1 Peter 2:24 – *“He personally carried away our sins in His own body on the cross so we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. You have been healed by His wounds.”*

Revelation 1:5b – *“All praise to Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding His blood for us.”*

18. THE MESSIAH WOULD SEE HIS SEED

Isaiah 53:10-11 – “But it was the Lord’s good plan to crush Him and fill Him with grief. Yet when His life is made an offering for sin, He will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord’s plan will prosper in His hands. When He sees all that is accomplished by His anguish, He will be satisfied. And because of what He has experienced, My Righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.”

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

The Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant reveals the incredible purpose of God in sending the Messiah to suffer for our sins. Isaiah wrote this chapter in the eighth century B.C. He foretold that the Messiah would see His heirs, those who would find salvation through His sacrifice.

The Fulfillment

Ephesians 1:4-5, 21-23 – “Long ago, even before He made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in His eyes. His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave Him great pleasure. Now He is far above any ruler or authority or power or leader or anything else in this world or in the world to come. And God has put all things under the authority of Christ, and He gave Him this authority for the benefit of the church. And the church is His body; it is filled by Christ, who fills everything everywhere with His presence.”

Hebrews 12:2 – “We do this by keeping our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends from start to finish. He was willing to die a shameful death on the cross because of the joy He knew would be His afterward. Now He is seated in the place of highest honor beside God’s throne in heaven.”

19. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BURIED IN A RICH MAN'S TOMB

Isaiah 53:9 – *“He had done no wrong, and He never deceived anyone. But He was buried like a criminal; He was put in a rich man’s grave.”*

About the Prophecy of Isaiah

Once again, the Great Prophecy of the Suffering Servant reveals the incredible purpose of God in sending the Messiah to suffer for our sins. Isaiah wrote this chapter in the eighth century B.C. He foretold that the Messiah would die and be buried in a rich man’s grave.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 27:57-60 – *“As evening approached, Joseph, a rich man from Arimathea who was one of Jesus’ followers, went to Pilate and asked for Jesus’ body. And Pilate issued an order to release it to him. Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a long linen cloth. He placed it in his own new tomb, which had been carved out of the rock. Then he rolled a great stone across the entrance as he left.”*

20. THE MESSIAH WOULD BE RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Psalm 16:10 – *“For You will not leave my soul among the dead or allow Your Godly One to rot in the grave.”*

Psalm 30:3 – *“You brought me up from the grave, O Lord. You kept me from falling into the pit of death.”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

The Psalms are a collection of the hymns of ancient Israel. The collection of Psalms was finalized before the second century B.C.

Psalm 16 is a psalm of David. In this hymn he reminds us that as we set our hearts on God and trust our lives to His care, we will find joy and security. David prophesies that the Messiah will not be abandoned in the grave, and His body will not decay.

Psalm 30 is a psalm written by David, for the dedication of the Temple. In it he prophesies that the Messiah will be raised from the grave.

The Fulfillment

Matthew 28:5-7 – *“Then the angel spoke to the women. ‘Don’t be afraid!’ he said. ‘I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He has been raised from the dead, just as He said would happen. Come, see where His body was lying. And now, go quickly and tell His disciples He has been raised from the dead, and He is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there. Remember, I have told you.’”*

Mark 16:6-7 – *“The angel said, ‘Do not be so surprised. You are looking for Jesus, the Nazarene, who was crucified. He isn’t here! He has been raised from the dead! Look, this is where they laid His body. Now go and give this message to His disciples, including Peter: Jesus is going ahead of you to Galilee. You will see Him there, just as He told you before He died.’”*

Acts 2:27-31 – *“For You will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the way of life, and You will give me wonderful joy in Your presence.’ Dear brothers, think about this! David wasn’t referring to himself when he spoke these words I have quoted, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David’s own descendants would sit on David’s throne as the Messiah. David was looking into the future and predicting the Messiah’s resurrection. He was saying that the Messiah would not be left among the dead and that His body would not rot in the grave.”*

1 Corinthians 15:17, 20 – *“And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless, and you are still under condemnation for your sins. But the fact is that Christ has been raised from the dead. He has become the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again.”*

21. THE MESSIAH WOULD SIT AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND

Psalm 110:1 – *“The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit in honor at My right hand until I humble Your enemies, making them a footstool under Your feet.’”*

About the Prophecy of The Psalms

Psalm 110 is a psalm of David. It is a prophetic psalm that seems to speak of a coming coronation. This royal psalm clearly speaks of the coming Messiah.

The Fulfillment

Mark 16:19 – *“When the Lord Jesus had finished talking with them, He was taken up into heaven and sat down in the place of honor at God’s right hand.”*

Acts 2:32-36 – *“This prophecy was speaking of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead, and we all are witnesses of this. Now He sits on the throne of highest honor in heaven, at God’s right hand. And the Father, as He had promised, gave Him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today. For David himself never ascended into heaven, yet he said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit in honor at My right hand until I humble Your enemies, making them a footstool under Your feet.”’ So let it be clearly known by everyone in Israel that God has made this Jesus whom you crucified to be both Lord and Messiah!”*

Hebrews 10:12-13 – *“But our High Priest offered Himself to God as one sacrifice for sins, good for all time. Then He sat down at the place of highest honor at God’s right hand. There He waits until His enemies are humbled as a footstool under His feet.”*

JESUS AND YOU

As you have just read, it was God's plan from before the world began that Jesus would come to earth and be crucified as a holy and final offering for sin. Because of God's deep love for each one of us, He provided the way of salvation – the only way that we are able to enter a relationship with Him.

John 14:6-7 – “Jesus told him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me. If you had known who I am, then you would have known who My Father is. From now on you know Him and have seen Him!’”

The Gospel, then, is God's provision for our salvation. The word Gospel means “Good News.” The Good News is that God Himself has already made all the arrangements for your salvation. God loves you and wants you to be His own child.

1 John 4:9-10 – “God showed how much He loved us by sending His only Son into the world so that we might have eternal life through Him. This is real love. It is not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as a sacrifice to take away our sins.”

Through Jesus Christ, you can enjoy a personal relationship with God. He bridged the gap that separated us from God. The Bible outlines this incredible plan:

John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life.”

Romans 8:16-17a – “For His Holy Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we will share His treasures – for everything God gives to His Son, Christ, is ours, too.”

Mankind is sinful. You and I have sinned against God's holy law. As a result of our sin, we are separated from God. In this state of separation, we cannot know God or experience Him in personal relationship.

Romans 3:23 – *“For all have sinned; all fall short of God’s glorious standard.”*

Romans 6:23 – *“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

1 John 1:8 – *“If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth.”*

Jesus Christ is the only provision for our sin. It is only through Him that we can know God personally, experience His love, and receive eternal life.

2 Corinthians 5:21 – *“For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ.”*

Ephesians 1:6-7 – *“So we praise God for the wonderful kindness He has poured out on us because we belong to His dearly loved Son. He is so rich in kindness that He purchased our freedom through the blood of His Son, and our sins are forgiven.”*

Colossians 1:13-14 – *“For He has rescued us from the one who rules in the kingdom of darkness, and He has brought us into the Kingdom of His dear Son. God has purchased our freedom with His blood and has forgiven all our sins.”*

Hebrews 12:24a – *“You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which graciously forgives.”*

We must each receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. When we receive Him, we are given new life; we are born into His family; and we can know God personally. Just to intellectually agree that Jesus died on the cross is not enough. Each of us must turn to God, acknowledging our sin and our powerlessness to save ourselves. We must ask Jesus to come into our lives and receive His sacrifice as total payment for our sins. We do this as an act of faith and will.

John 3:15b,18 – *“Everyone who believes in Me will have eternal life. There is no judgment awaiting those who trust Him. But those who do not trust Him have already been judged for not believing in the only Son of God.”*

Acts 16:31 – *“They replied, ‘Believe on the Lord Jesus and you will be saved, along with your entire household.’”*

Ephesians 2:8-9 – *“God saved you by His special favor when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.”*

Revelation 3:20 – *“Look! Here I stand at the door and knock. If you hear Me calling and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal as friends.”*

God sees you and knows your heart. There are no magic words or precise formulas you must express. You can talk to God right now in the quietness of your heart and invite Him into your life as your Lord and Savior.

Here’s a simple prayer:

“Lord Jesus, thank You that You are the Messiah. Thank You for dying on the cross for my sin. I want to know You personally. I invite You into my life as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for forgiving me of all my sin and for the gift of eternal life. Help me to grow close to You in this new life You’ve given me.”

If this prayer expresses the desire of your heart – pray it right now. Jesus will hear you. He will save you and come into your heart and life. You will become a child of God and have eternal life.

John 1:12 – *“But to all who believed Him and accepted Him, He gave the right to become children of God.”*

Hebrews 7:25a – *“Therefore He is able, once and forever, to save everyone who comes to God through Him.”*

If you have made a decision to trust Jesus, you have been born into God’s family. God’s promise to you is that He will never leave you or forsake you. One of the best things you can do right now is to tell someone about your decision.

Romans 10:9-10 – *“For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made*

right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.”

If you already know the Lord, please share these incredible prophecies with those around you. Make this the season that you tell the Good News of Jesus Christ to family and friends. God bless you, and may thanksgiving and love fill your heart as you meditate on all the Messiah has endured and fulfilled for you.

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are taken from the New Living Translation.