

# Prophecies of Jesus' First, And Second, Coming Pt 2

081620

I hope the first installment of this series has been a blessing. I'm certainly getting a lot out of it!

Last week, I confessed that I 'beat up' on the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day for not examining His fitness as Messiah. But, let's look at why they are 100% without excuse, and why Jesus confronted them so harshly:

- They had several centuries of history of both false and legitimate prophets from which to learn.
- They had a long, written history of God's "signs and wonders" foretelling what He was going to do, then doing it in a supernatural way.
- They had the perfectly preserved scriptures – which they, themselves, were tasked with maintaining, teaching and LEARNING FROM!
- They had a series of rituals and traditions, such as Passover, to constantly remind them of God's power and grace.
- They knew the specific prophecies foretelling the Messiah
- We have no record of any of them even inquiring of God about Jesus.

The high-ranking priests had EVERY REASON to examine Jesus, and they had God's word to guide them. As so many of their forefathers, they had abandoned their faith in God and turned to idolatry, and sin. **Isaiah 59: 1 Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear. 2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear. 3 For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity.**" This is God's word to Jews, not non-Jews.

As with so many of their predecessors, these Scribes and Pharisees were perpetuating **Judges 2:10b ...another generation arose after them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.** Instead of testing and examining Jesus to verify his claims as God's son, they were politically threatened by Jesus and, like roaches, ran under the stove when the light was turned on.

Do you know who else was threatened by Jesus? Herod. Appointed by Rome to serve as king over Jerusalem and the surrounding regions, this 69 yr old man, in severely bad health (gout, lung disease, VD, and others), was more afflicted by the prophecies of a new king to rule the Jewish people than the diseases he'd gradually learned to live with. For centuries, prophets had foretold the birth of a child who would be the Messiah. Even Herod knew of the five signs that would signal this child's birth:

1. A great star will rise in the sky
2. The baby would be born in Bethlehem, the birthplace of the great Jewish king, David, born 1000 years before
3. The child would be a direct descendent of David (easily proven by the meticulous genealogical records kept in the Temple)
4. Wise and powerful men would travel from great distances to honor and worship Him
5. The child's mother would be a virgin

Herod learned of the birth of Jesus, and its importance, from travelers who had come to see the baby. These "Magi" knew to pay respect to the king of a region when passing through, so they visited the palace. Herod interrogated them extensively. These were intelligent, wise, learned men. They were carrying treasures of inestimable value with which to honor the birth of the new king. After learning of their mission, and the surety of this new king's arrival, Herod sent the Magi on their way. He gave them strict orders to return to inform him of the exact location of this new king, because he, too wanted to honor him. The Magi saw through his motives and never returned. Herod believed, and was worried!

Once Herod realized these Magi were not returning, he ordered his soldiers to kill every boy child in the region, hoping to eliminate Jesus.

Now, somebody tell me how it is that an ungodly man like Herod could put HIS faith in the prophecies of Jesus, yet the very Jewish leaders whose life's purpose it was to teach the word of God and proclaim the Messiah rejected him!

Interestingly, both the Jewish leaders AND Herod had the same fear of Jesus; that He would take their power away!!

Let's conjure up a modern-day example: I've told you of the church in our area with the lesbian pastor who preaches that God is a female. Suppose the head of that coalition of churches in PA sent a consultant to review the doctrines that are taught in that church. Suppose this consultant is a true Bible-believing, blood-bought, Christian who knows the word of God very well. Just how threatened might this pastor be if this consultant were to arrive and start investigating? How might this pastor feel if the Word is opened to her and used to examine the content of her sermons? Can you imagine this?

The Romans had a saying; "What is man but to serve Caesar?" Even these godless people seemed to have their allegiances in the right order. To them, Caesar was a deity....a God. Romans lived to serve him. Perhaps it was not devotion, but the immediate consequences of NOT honoring Caesar that drove such allegiance. Perhaps it was the weekly public floggings, dismemberments, gouging out of eyes, burning of tongues with hot irons, and the crucifixions that kept their motivations aligned.

God could, certainly, be such a heavy-handed ruler. But, keep in mind; God wants us to love Him. That involves freedom of choice. Caesar got obedience, or he took their life! So it is with so many earthly Monarchs....even in our present time. So it was with the Jewish leaders of Jesus' day...."Oppose us and die!"

Perhaps, that is why so many of the non-Jews turned to Christ so readily. They had a faith and an allegiance system, already. They just did not have the true God in which to place their faith. Besides, as Jesus so often illustrated, one could be a follower of the true Christ, and live under an apostate government.

Jesus even affirmed the faith of the Roman Centurion who had asked for healing of his paralyzed servant, Matthew 8:10 **When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."**

Could that degree of faithfulness be attributed to the Scribes and Pharisees of Jesus' day? John 19: 15 records their treachery: **"But they shouted, "Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!" "Shall I crucify your king?" Pilate asked. "We have no king but Caesar," the chief priests answered.** No, the political rulers of the Jews were more threatened by Jesus than blessed by Him. They were truly guilty of dishonoring the very charge they had sworn their lives to carry

out. And, if you want modern day examples of just such behaviors, watch the news. The very people who place their hands on the Holy Bible and swear an oath to 'protect and defend...' become insidious cancers. No difference.

Let us, as followers of Christ, not become modern day 'Scribes and Pharisees.' Let us not become so comfortable in our blessings that we take our eyes off those who need the Gospel. Let us not fall so deeply into sin that the REMEDY for sin seems like poison to us. AND, let us not be so ignorant and arrogant that, when Jesus returns, we cannot discern Him from a charlatan.

Hence, the purpose of this study. Let us look at more of the prophecies that led up to Jesus' birth. In another installment, we'll start looking at the prophecies that lead to (foretell) Jesus' second coming. Hallelujah!

Last time, we looked at prophecies about Jesus' birth. Then, we looked at about half of the prophecies about Jesus' ministry. Let's finish out that list, and next week, we'll look at prophecies about Jesus' death.

### **Prophecies of Jesus' Ministry, cont.**

16. The Messiah would be a stone that causes people to stumble Prophecy:

**"He will be a holy place; for both Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap and a snare" (Isaiah 8:14).**

Fulfillment:

**"Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, 'The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,' and, 'A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.' "They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for" (1 Peter 2:7–8).**

17. Christ's ministry would begin in Galilee Prophecy:

**"Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the**

**Jordan - The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned" (Isaiah 9:1–2).**

Fulfillment:

**"When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he withdrew to Galilee. Leaving Nazareth, he went and lived in Capernaum, which was by the lake in the area of Zebulun and Naphtali—to fulfill what was said through the prophet Isaiah: 'Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles - the people living in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.' "From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'" (Matthew 4:12–17).**

18. Jesus would draw the Gentiles to himself Prophecy:

**"In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10).**

Fulfillment:

**"Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. So the Pharisees said to one another, 'See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!' "Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. 'Sir,' they said, 'we would like to see Jesus'" (John 12:18–21).**

19. Jesus would have a miraculous ministry Prophecy:

**"Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert" (Isaiah 35:5–6).**

Fulfillment:

**"When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples to ask him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?' "Jesus replied, 'Go back and report to John what you hear and see: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are**

**cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me"** (Matthew 11:2–6).

20. The Messiah would be preceded by a forerunner Prophecy:

**"A voice of one calling: 'In the wilderness prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain'"** (Isaiah 40:3–4).

Fulfillment:

**"John replied in the words of Isaiah the prophet, 'I am the voice of one calling in the wilderness, "Make straight the way for the Lord'""** (John 1:23).

21. Jesus will be a gentle redeemer of the Gentiles Prophecy:

**"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will bring justice to the nations. He will not shout or cry out, or raise his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope"** (Isaiah 42:1–4).

Fulfillment:

**"Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. A large crowd followed him, and he healed all who were ill. He warned them not to tell others about him. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he has brought justice through to victory. In his name the nations will put their hope.'" (Matthew 12:15–21).**

22. Jesus would be despised and rejected Prophecy:

**"He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem" (Isaiah 53:3).**

Fulfillment:

**"All the people in the synagogue were furious when they heard this. They got up, drove him out of the town, and took him to the brow of the hill on which the town was built, in order to throw him off the cliff" (Luke 4:28–29).**

23. Jesus will set the captives free Prophecy:

**"The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners" (Isaiah 61:1)**

Fulfillment:

**"He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' "Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. He began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'" (Luke 4:16–21).**

24. The Messiah will have a throne that is everlasting Prophecy:

**"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13–14).**

Fulfillment:

**"You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end" (Luke 1:31–33).**

25. The Messiah will bring an end to sin Prophecy:

**"Seventy 'sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the Most Holy Place" (Daniel 9:24).**

Fulfillment:

**"Know and understand this: From the time the word goes out to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be put to death and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed" (Daniel 9:25–26).**

**"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen" (Galatians 1:3–5).**

26. Jerusalem will rejoice as the Messiah comes to her upon a donkey Prophecy:

**"Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey" (Zechariah 9:9).**

Fulfillment:

**"A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, while others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and those that followed shouted, 'Hosanna to the Son of David!' 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!' 'Hosanna in the highest heaven!'**

**"When Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, 'Who is this?'" (Matthew 21:8–10)**

27. He will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Prophecy:

**"I told them, 'If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.' So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. "And the Lord said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord" (Zechariah 11:12–13).**

Fulfillment:

**"The chief priests picked up the coins and said, 'It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.' So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: 'They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me'" (Matthew 27:6–10).**

28. Christ's forerunner would come in the spirit of Elijah Prophecy:

**"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction" (Malachi 4:5–6).**

Fulfillment:

**"This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' "Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. Whoever has ears, let them hear" (Matthew 11:10–15).**

Whew! Isn't it amazing how carefully God orchestrated the mortal manifestation of his Son? Isn't it mind-boggling how many details were foretold centuries before, and then perfectly fulfilled? Isn't it humbling that the very God who created the hummingbird, the constellations, and the human genome put as much care and meticulous engineering into sending Messiah to make a way for man to commune with the Father?

Next week, we will look at the prophecies about Jesus' death. Again, I pray that these studies are a blessing to you, and to those with whom you share them.

**Oh, Lord, our Lord, how majestic you are!**

**Man cannot fully comprehend you.**

**Forgive our sins, for they are many.**

**May we never cease to pray and proclaim your name in all we do!**

**Amen**