

**Palisades Community Bible Church  
Online Sunday School**

**Prophecies of Jesus' First and Second Coming Pt 4**

August 30, 2020

As we begin our fourth installment, it seems fitting to continue examining the context within which the Jews lived during the time that Jesus was a young boy. As Americans, it's hard to conceive of the oppression and control that results from an absolute ruler.

Adolf Hitler learned well from First Century Romans that the Hebrews were a unique people. Their form of self-government through the Sanhedrin maintained internal order. Their unexplainable prosperity at everything they touched was easy to exploit. All it took to control them was to work closely with the Sanhedrin to influence their proceedings. In so doing, the Jews made for easy subjects who respected the authorities.

The Roman rulership experienced great upheaval around 4 BC. King Herod died and Julius Caesar was assassinated. Herod's rule in the region surrounding Jerusalem was assumed by Archelaus, his son, who proved to be an ineffectual, weak ruler. Rebellions and anarchy soon followed. The Jews would have been better off with the old king!

Intent on proving himself, Archelaus struck hard at the Jews during their Passover celebration. The city and Temple were packed with thousands of pilgrim worshippers and his soldiers slew 3,000 innocent people.

The newly seated Caesar Augustus was also keen on managing the Jews for his benefit. By 6 AD, he deemed Herod Archelaus unfit and exiled him to Gaul.\*\* He proclaimed Judea a Roman province. Now, the Hebrews were under direct control of Roman governors. Publicans and tax collectors were positioned at every gate and traveling point to extract heavy taxes. The Sanhedrin were no longer free to govern their own, especially to the point of executions, without Roman consent.

Augustus demanded complete submission to his domain – a humiliation the Jews had no choice but to endure.

Perhaps this is a partial reason for the Scribes' and Pharisees' focus on the coming Messiah as a 'conquering king.' Perhaps they were looking for rescue from their circumstances, as we read in the Book of Judges. They certainly were not anticipating a servant Messiah who would take away the sins of man. They let their dire circumstances take their eyes off their very own scriptures! To them, Jesus was a threat.

**"But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?" (John 5:45–47)**

May we learn from the errors of the first century Jewish leaders NOT to let current circumstances affect our absolute faith in God, and His Word!

We are looking at 55 prophecies of Jesus covering four specific areas:

- Jesus's birth
- Jesus's ministry
- Jesus's death and resurrection
- Jesus' role in the church

#### **Prophecies of Jesus' Death and Resurrection:**

43. God's anointed will not see decay (resulting from death) Prophecy:

**"Therefore, my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay. You make known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand" (Psalm 16:9–11).**

Fulfillment:

**"Seeing what was to come, he spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, that he was not abandoned to the realm of the dead, nor did his body see decay" (Acts 2:31).**

44. The Messiah would be abandoned by those closest to him Prophecy:

**"Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me" (Psalm 41:9).**

Fulfillment:

**"I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill this passage of Scripture: 'He who shared my bread has turned against me'" (John 13:18).**

45. The Christ will ascend into the heavens to distribute gifts Prophecy:

**"When you ascended on high, you took many captives; you received gifts from people, even from the rebellious—that you, Lord God, might dwell there" (Psalm 68:18).**

Fulfillment:

**"But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift. <sup>8</sup> Therefore He says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, And gave gifts to men." <sup>9</sup> (Now this, "He ascended"—what does it mean but that He also <sup>[a]</sup>first descended into the lower parts of the earth? <sup>10</sup> He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.) Ephesians 4:7-10**

46. The Christ's thirst will be quenched with vinegar and gall Prophecy:

**"They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst" (Psalm 69:21).**

Fulfillment:

**"There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it" (Matthew 27:34).**

47. The Messiah's resurrection predicted Prophecy:

**"I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the Lord has done. The Lord has chastened me severely, but he has not given me over to death" (Psalm 118:17–18).**

Fulfillment:

**"In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not**

here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: "The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again"" (Luke 24:5–7).

48. The Messiah will conquer death Prophecy:

**"On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that enfolds all peoples, the sheet that covers all nations; he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove his people's disgrace from all the earth. The Lord has spoken" (Isaiah 25:7–8).**

Fulfillment:

**"When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: 'Death has been swallowed up in victory'" (1 Corinthians 15:54).**

49. The Messiah will be mocked and abused Prophecy:

**"'I clothe the heavens with darkness and make sackcloth its covering.' The Sovereign Lord has given me a well-instructed tongue, to know the word that sustains the weary. He wakens me morning by morning, wakens my ear to listen like one being instructed. The Sovereign Lord has opened my ears; I have not been rebellious; I have not turned away. I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting" (Isaiah 50:3–6)**

Fulfillment:

**"Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand. Then they knelt in front of him and mocked him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!' they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him" (Matthew 27:27–31).**

### Prophecies of Jesus' Role in the Church:

What kind of presence would Jesus have in his church? These prophecies consider how Jesus would rule and judge the world.

50. God will raise up a prophet like Moses Prophecy:

**"The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. For this is what you asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, 'Let us not hear the voice of the Lord our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die'" (Deuteronomy 18:15–16).**

Fulfillment:

**"But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?" (John 5:45–47)**

51. God will raise up a faithful priest who does God's will Prophecy:

**"I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always" (1 Samuel 2:35).**

Fulfillment:

**"For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people" (Hebrews 2:17).**

52. The Messiah will judge the world justly Prophecy:

**"The Lord reigns forever; he has established his throne for judgment. He rules the world in righteousness and judges the peoples with equity. The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. Those who know your name trust in you, for you, Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you" (Psalm 9:7–10).**

Fulfillment:

**"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead" (Acts 17:31).**

53. The Messiah will have all authority over judgment Prophecy:

**"I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open" (Isaiah 22:22).**

Fulfillment:

**"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open" (Revelation 3:7).**

54. The Messiah will pour out his Spirit Prophecy:

**"For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants" (Isaiah 44:3)**

Fulfillment:

**"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you" (John 16:7).**

55. The Messiah will usher in a new covenant Prophecy:

**"'The days are coming,' declares the Lord, 'when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and with the people of Judah'" (Jeremiah 31:31).**

Fulfillment:

**"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins" (Matthew 26:28).**

We have just completed studying ONLY 55 of the 300+ prophecies of Jesus, and their fulfillment. Isn't it amazing how consistently God has demonstrated that He tells us what He is going to do, then He does it in ways that no human could accomplish? I've had several conversations with people who dismiss the acts of

Jesus claiming that everything was staged or faked. Yet, one need only point out a few of the facts, such as the virgin birth, the raising of the dead, the fact that no bones were broken, or Jesus' resurrection and appearance to over 500 people to shoot that argument down. None of these could have, or would have, been faked for the sake of presenting a false Messiah.

I once heard a pastor say that all of humanity may be divided down the middle with one simple question: "What think ye of Christ?" May we never tire of sharing the Gospel.

Our next installment will focus on the prophecies of Jesus' second coming.

**Heavenly Father, you loved us enough to give us freedom. Freedom of thought, expression, and the freedom to love you, or walk away. We pray you will bind Satan from invading the hearts and minds of those who need you so much. We also pray you'll keep our own hearts and minds stayed on Jesus!**

**Amen**

\*\* Correction: My further research showed an error in last week's installment. I stated that Herod Archelaus was whom Pilate sent Jesus for additional examination. This is the correction:

(By the way, Herod the Great died in 4 BC. His kingdom was divided between three sons and a daughter. Herod Archelaus ruled the region surrounding Jerusalem, from Samaria to the north, to Judea in the south between the Mediterranean Sea and the Dead Sea. He was found unfit by Caesar who replaced him with a Governor. It was Archelaus' brother, Antipas, who had executed John the Baptist, to whom Pontius Pilate sent Jesus for additional examination. Herod Antipas returned Jesus to Pilate having found '...no fault in him.')

Thankfully, this error will not invalidate anyone's salvation!! 8-)  
If you'd like a corrected copy emailed to you, please reach me at:  
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