

# Prophecies of Jesus' First, And Second, Coming

080920

55 Old Testament Prophecies about Jesus

I pray that these Sunday School 'lessons' are proving valuable to you. I long for the day when we can meet together! We're starting a multi-part series that I hope you'll find engaging. The series is on the prophecies of Christ's first, and second, coming.

I beat up on the religious leaders of Jesus' day because they were too arrogant and ignorant to recognize that Jesus fulfilled every prophecy of the Messiah. Hold on, though! Could we possibly be just as guilty of denying Jesus, if he were to return tomorrow? Hmmmm....

Do WE know our scriptures well enough to discern between a false Christ and the real one? Prior to Jesus' birth, there had been many false prophets. There are many warnings in the New Testament that false Christs will come in the last days. How will we discern the true Christ?

The fact that Jewish history is dotted with both false and true prophets tells me the Jewish leaders should have had some practice at examining and testing their validity. Although it is rather revealing that Stephen said: **"Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers," Acts 7:52.** I wonder how many Christian leaders will be accurate in discerning the second coming of Christ. Old Testament prophecies tell us....

**Jeremiah 5:30-31 An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: the prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests rule at their direction; my people love to have it so, but what will you do when the end comes?**

**Jeremiah 23:16** Thus says the Lord of hosts: “Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord.

**Jeremiah 14:14** And the Lord said to me: “The prophets are prophesying lies in my name. I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds.”

**Deuteronomy 18:20-22** But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name that I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word that the Lord has not spoken?’— when a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the Lord has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously. You need not be afraid of him. (or respect him)

**Romans 16:18** For such persons do not serve our Lord Christ, but their own appetites, and by smooth talk and flattery they deceive the hearts of the naive.

So, we see a pattern of love for words that satisfy the lusts of the heart! Did Jesus speak such words? Quite the opposite! He said ‘if you have seen me, you have seen the Father.’ He said ‘I am that I am.’ He said He would tear down the temple and rebuild it in three days. He told the Pharisees and Scribes they were like whitewashed tombs full of death. He revealed how they were misleading God’s people. These were not vain words, nor presumptive words, nor simply visions of his own. He spoke the truths of his Father.

The trouble has always been that truth is the enemy of the Cult leader. Those religious leaders were FIRST offended by truth, and they circled their own wagons to protect their power. Remember; in order for the cult leader to have power, he must rely on falsehood...lies. People who follow cults love the lies, and they love liars because the lies and liars feed their lusts. The problem for the cult is when the truth reveals the lies and both the deceivers and the deceived are revealed! THAT is why the religious leaders of Jesus' day did not examine Him according to the very WORD they were tasked with teaching!

This was not a unique problem 2000 year ago. We see it on full display every day in our society!

They had their own corrupted cult going on.....which endures in Synagogues to this day.....and Jesus threatened it with God's own truths. They may have prayed for Messiah to come, but they wanted their cultic messiah, not the real one!

**Mark 7:6-9 And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, "'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.' You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men." And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition!"**

So, let us not hold to the traditions of men. Let us not hold to false teachings. Let us not hold to the things we THINK are true but have not been tested:

**Romans 12:2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to**

**test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.**

This means that, when the truth comes your way, and it upsets your apple cart, don't spend time re-ordering your cart. Test the truth and prove it.

In this series, we're going to look at the major prophecies that foretold Jesus' first coming, as the suffering servant and savior. Then, we'll look at the prophecies of Jesus' second coming as a conquering king.

Scoffers, school teachers and college professors will confidently state that Jesus was a fake; that the fulfilled prophecies were staged. Any serious study will paint a dramatically different picture.

Biblical scholars say there are over 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. These prophecies are specific enough that the mathematical probability of one person fulfilling even a handful of them, let alone all of them, is staggeringly improbable—if not impossible.

Peter Stoner, Chairman of the Departments of Mathematics and Astronomy at Pasadena College, was passionate about biblical prophecies. With 600 students from the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Stoner looked at just eight specific prophecies about Jesus. They came up with a way of expressing the probability of Jesus fulfilling all eight of those prophecies.

First, cover the state of Texas TWO FEET deep in silver dollars and paint just one of them red. (Texas covers 268,820 square miles, almost six times that of PA. It is 10% larger than France, twice as large as Germany, or Japan or the United Kingdom.), Mix and stir the whole lot thoroughly. Have a blindfolded man parachute somewhere over the state, and walk as far as he wants, then, pick up one coin. The

probability that the blindfolded man would pick up the one red coin is approximately equal to the probability that one man could have satisfied just eight of the prophecies about Jesus.

I'll pause while you wrap your mind around that.

To get this series started, we're going to look at just 55 of the most common and obvious Old Testament prophecies about Jesus. We won't get to all 55 of them in this lesson, so look forward to next week, please.

These 55 prophecies will cover four specific areas:

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

Just one note; we will be covering a number of OT prophecies, and their specific fulfillment as stated in the NT. If any is not clear, please look it up and read the context. If it does not become clear, please contact Pastor or me. We LOVE to study the scriptures!!

### Prophecies of Jesus's birth

Not only was Christ's miraculous birth prophetically revealed, God planned His lineage from the very beginning. Here are eight prophecies predicting elements of Jesus' birth and childhood.

1. The nations will be blessed through Abraham's lineage Prophecy:

**"I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:3).**

Fulfillment:

**"And you are heirs of the prophets and of the covenant God made with your fathers. He said to Abraham, 'Through your offspring all peoples on earth will be blessed.' When God raised up his servant, he sent him first to you to bless you by turning each of you from your wicked ways" (Acts 3:25–26).**

2. God's covenant with Isaac's ancestors Prophecy:

**"Then God said, 'Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him'" (Genesis 17:19).**

Fulfillment:

**"Nor because they are his descendants are they all Abraham's children. On the contrary, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned'" (Romans 9:7).**

3. The nations will be blessed through Jacob's offspring Prophecy:

**"Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring" (Genesis 28:14).**

Fulfillment: Jacob is part of Jesus' genealogy.

**"the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor" (Luke 3:34)**

4. The scepter will come through Judah Prophecy:

**"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he to whom it belongs shall come and the obedience of the nations shall be his" (Genesis 49:10).**

Fulfillment: Judah is part of Jesus's genealogy.

**"the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah" (Luke 3:33)**

5. David's offspring will have an eternal kingdom Prophecy:

**"When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:12–13).**

Fulfillment:

**"This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham" (Matthew 1:1)**

6. A virgin will give birth, and he will be called Immanuel (God with us) Prophecy:

**"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel" (Isaiah 7:14).**

Fulfillment:

**"The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God" (Luke 1:35).**

7. The Messiah will end up in Egypt Prophecy:

**"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son" (Hosea 11:1).**

Fulfillment:

**"So he [Joseph] got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: 'Out of Egypt I called my son'" (Matthew 2:14–15).**

8. The Christ will be born in Bethlehem Prophecy:

**"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." (Micah 5:2).**

Fulfillment:

**"When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written: "'But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" (Matthew 2:4–6).**

### **Prophecies about Jesus's ministry**

It was God's plan that Jesus would have a profound ministry during his time on earth. This collection of prophecies focuses on particularly specific elements of Christ's earthly ministry. We will look at about half of them, then resume next week.

9. Christ's ministry will destroy the devil's work Prophecy:

**"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel" (Genesis 3:15).**

Fulfillment:

**"The one who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work" (1 John 3:8).**

10. Jesus will have a sinless, blemish-free life and ministry Prophecy:

**"The animals you choose must be year-old males without defect, and you may take them from the sheep or the goats" (Exodus 12:5).**

Fulfillment:

**"How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!" (Hebrews 9:14)**

11. The Messiah will be humbled in order to serve mankind Prophecy:

**"You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet" (Psalm 8:5–6)**

Fulfillment:

**"It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: 'What is mankind that you are mindful of them, a son of man that you care for him? You made them a little lower than the angels; you crowned them with glory and honor and put everything under their feet.'**

**"In putting everything under them, God left nothing that is not subject to them. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to them. But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death,**

**so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone" (Hebrews 2:5–9).**

12. Jesus would become the perfect sacrifice Prophecy:

**"Sacrifice and offering you did not desire - but my ears you have opened - burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not require. Then I said, "Here I am, I have come - it is written about me in the scroll. I desire to do your will, my God; your law is within my heart" (Psalm 40:6–8).**

Fulfillment:

**"Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: 'Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased.' "Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll - I have come to do your will, my God.'"**

**"First he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them'— though they were offered in accordance with the law. Then he said, 'Here I am, I have come to do your will.' He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all" (Hebrews 10:5–10).**

13. Jesus would preach righteousness to Israel Prophecy:

**"I proclaim your saving acts in the great assembly; I do not seal my lips, Lord, as you know" (Psalm 40:9).**

Fulfillment:

**"From that time on Jesus began to preach, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near'" (Matthew 4:17).**

14. Jesus would teach in parables Prophecy:

**"My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old" (Psalm 78:1–2)**

Fulfillment:

**"Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet: I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world" (Matthew 13:34–35).**

15. Christ's parables would fall on deaf ears Prophecy:

**"He said, 'Go and tell this people: "Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.' Make the heart of this people calloused; make their ears dull and close their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed"'" (Isaiah 6:9–10).**

Fulfillment:

**"This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: "'You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. For this people's heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them"'" (Matthew 13:13–15).**

OK, we're going to pause here and pick up the rest of the prophecies concerning Jesus' ministry next week. I get such a blessing seeing how meticulous God has been in providing proofs of His plan. It goes a long way in bolstering our faith when we look at the more mysterious elements around Jesus' second coming. Until next week...

**Lord Jesus, you are the beginning, the middle and the end. We ask your Holy Spirit to give us understanding and to strengthen our faith. We pray for those whose ears are stopped up when they encounter your Gospel. We pray for those who have not yet heard the Gospel. We especially pray for those who carry your Word to those who have not heard.**

**Amen**