

FULFILLMENT

Have you ever gone to a scary movie or a thriller with a bunch of friends? Do you remember sitting there, and if a girl you were scared to death and if a boy you were scared to death but trying not to show it? Do you recall always trying to guess who the killer was? As the movie started you would say, usually out loud, "Oh, he's definitely the killer." Well, the next thing you know, he ends up dead. Then you move on to another girl. "She is the killer, no doubt about it." And then she dies. Finally, at the end of the movie everyone finds out who the "real" villain is. And what do you say as you are walking out of the theatre? "I knew it was him the whole time, I just didn't want to say it!" We are so funny in that we cannot stand uncertainty! We get all fired up even for something as simple as the NCAA tournament. More people fill out a bracket for that, than any other thing known to man. Everyone, whether they know basketball or not, wants to be the person who gets the most games correct and knows who the eventual champion will be. We really do hate uncertainty.

What if you went to a movie and the guy sitting next to you knew that the killer would be the brown headed, blue-eyed guy and it was? The guy even knew how he would get rid of the other characters and in what order. First of all you would punch him for ruining the movie for you and secondly, you would think that he had seen the movie before. Or what if your friend got every single game correct on the NCAA bracket, even the upsets? Wouldn't that be weird? We would be amazed if someone correctly predicted every game and every movie ending, but why aren't we amazed at other fulfillment?

Did you know that Jesus Christ fulfilled nearly 300 prophecies in the Old Testament from His birth to His death? That means in our terminology today, the Old Testament prophets predicted every bracket correctly and Jesus was the Grand Champion. Jesus Christ fulfilled prophecy through His birth, the events of His life, and especially His death. How can people realize the divine appointment He fulfilled and not trust in Him as the Savior of the world? Today we are going to look at some of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled through His birth, life, and death.

This is the first Bible study in a series of lessons defining who Jesus really is. In order to realize how Jesus became our Messiah, Teacher, Healer, Redeemer and more, we must understand that He was the Son of God and fulfilled numerous accounts of prophecy to provide evidence for that. Jesus ensured to us that He was the Son of God through the prophecy He fulfilled during His birth, life, death and resurrection.

PROPHECY FULFILLED BY HIS BIRTH

Isaiah 7:14-"Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

Matthew 1:22-23—"Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

Luke 2:6-7—"And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn."

Micah 5:2—"But thou, Beth-lehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting."

Matthew 2:1—"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem."

Jesus Christ was the only person ever to be born of a virgin. It was told that the Christ would be born of a virgin and Mary was the woman chosen by God to be the Christ's mother. Not only was prophecy fulfilled through the type of birth that Jesus experienced, but also through the place of His birth. There were numerous accounts describing the place that the Christ child would be born. Through Jesus' birth alone there is enough evidence to ensure that He was the child of God, the Messiah.

PROPHECY FULFILLED BY HIS LIFE

Isaiah 11:2—"And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."

John 1:32—"And John bare record, saying I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him."

Psalms 78:2—"I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old."

Matthew 13:34-35—"All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world."

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

Matthew 21: 2, 6-7—"Saying unto them, "Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find a donkey tied, and a colt, with her; loose them and bring them unto me. And the disciples went, and did as Jesus commanded them, and brought the donkey, and the colt, and put on them their clothes, and they set him thereon."

Jesus Christ not only fulfilled prophecy through His birth, but also through His life. He committed no sin and lived a life of holiness. He was completely God and completely man. He lived in humble circumstances and grew up in a house of a carpenter. He spoke in parables to the people so that they might understand

heavenly things and He loved the sinners. He was despised by His own people and brought love and hope to those who were unlovable.

PROPHECY FULFILLED THROUGH HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

Psalm 22: 1-2-“My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why are thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring? O my God, I cry in the daytime, but thou hearest me not; and in the night season, and am not silent.”

Matthew 27:46-“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? That is to say, My God, my God, why has thou forsaken me?”

Psalm 69:21-“They gave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”

Matthew 27:34, 48-“They gave Him vinegar to drink mingled with gall; and when he had tasted thereof, he would not drink...and straightway one of them ran, and took a sponge, and filled it with vinegar, and put it on a reed, and gave him drink.”

Psalm 16:10-“For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine **Holy** One to see corruption.”

Acts 2:22-32-“(24) Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death; because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

Psalm 110:1-“The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.”

Mark 16:19-“So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

As Christ died for the sins of the world He fulfilled numerous prophecies that lined His death distinctly with the long awaited Messiah. Not only did He die the death predicted, but he was raised on the third day, just as He had said He would. He conquered death and paid our sin debt. Once Jesus Christ came out of the grave alive, there was, and still is, no denying the fact that He was the Messiah, the chosen one of God.

If you could predict the future, how would you like to see your life in ten years?

Twenty years?_____

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