

Notes for the Ones Called-Out to Meet

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Converging Prophecies Point to Jesus

by Dan Trygg

“O foolish people and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and to enter into His glory? ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”

Luke 24:25-27

While soothsayers, mediums, astrologers and spiritists may *claim* to know the future, and while many have *claimed* to have received special knowledge of future events, **only the Bible actually has numerous examples of very specific prophetic words which have been fulfilled in great detail.** Only the scriptures actually *possess* multiple written examples of them which were fulfilled centuries later. Many *claim* to be able to see into the future, but they do not demonstrate the clarity and accuracy over long periods of time that the Bible does. **Prophecy is a true gifting from God, which the enemy has often attempted to counterfeit. Only God truly knows the future. He makes this a clear mark of distinction between Himself and other, so-called “gods”.** Speaking of vain idols, He says, “Tell us what is to come hereafter, that we may know that you are gods...” (Isa 41:23; cf. 44:6,7; 46:9-11). **One of the marks of a true prophet of God, is that he or she will never be wrong** when speaking in God’s name and by His Spirit (Deut. 18:21,22). No one else can claim this kind of an accurate and clear track record.

Another important use of the gift of prophecy was to lay out a foundation describing God’s plan for saving the world, especially to describe and identify who the Messiah would be. Not only do we have information given that narrows down the Messiah’s ethnic and family background, we are also given information regarding where He would be born, what He would do, how He would die, and that He would be raised from the dead. We are told that He would reign over a Kingdom that will fill the earth, and that countless millions from every heritage and family background would be blessed through Him. **The scope and detail of these prophecies are truly amazing, and can only conceivably point to one person, who fulfilled them in detail, Jesus of Nazareth.**

We are not talking about predicting trends or extrapolating probabilities from data or current events to anticipate future events a few decades in the future. **We are talking about information given to people by God (that was their claim) that speaks of events happening centuries in the future,** events certainly far beyond their ability to predict, control or manipulate. The fact that the Bible was written by over 40 authors, most of whom were widely separated by distance and centuries of time, **excludes any possibility of collusion or conspiracy** in the reception and recording of these prophecies. As you read the Bible, you find this prophetic information sprinkled throughout, but there seems to have been no one clinging to these prophecies as something they were to try to bring about. God was telling His people what *would happen*, not encouraging them to try to *make it happen*. In fact, **much of this information was not even fully recognized as being about the Messiah, until after He came.** Although there are a great number of prophetic clues given, it took the risen Jesus Himself to open the minds of His followers to see the extent and significance of these passages. “He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.”

There is no easy way to list all of these passages in a short space. I will state what the prophecy is about, followed by the OT reference and then the NT fulfillment in parentheses. To get the full impact, you should look up each reference. First, we are told that ¹the one who would crush the head of the serpent would be “the seed of the woman” (Gen. 3:15 1400+ BC; Gal.4:4). He would be ²“the seed of Abraham” (Gen.12:3; 22:18; Matt. 1:1; Gal. 3:16), ³descended through Isaac (Gen. 17:19; Lk. 3:34), ⁴a king descended from Jacob (Num. 24:17 1400+ BC; Matt. 1:2) and ⁵Judah (Gen. 49:10; Lk. 3:33). These statements narrow the scope. The unfolding of God’s redemptive plan has narrowed to one ethnic group on the planet, the Jews, and a king will arise from one tribe of that larger nation, the tribe of Judah. These statements were written by Moses, well over a thousand years before Christ. These five statements already exclude over 99% of those who ever have lived. Beyond being from Judah, however, we are told that ⁶God would establish a descendant of David on an eternal throne (2 Sam. 6:12-16 1000 BC; Isa. 9:7 700 BC; Lk. 1:32,33; 3:31). ⁷This ruler would be born in Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2 700 BC; Lk.2:4), yet ⁸His origin is from long ago, from the days of eternity (Mic. 5:2; Jn. 8:56-58). He would be ⁹born of a virgin (Remember “seed of the woman?”), and ¹⁰would be called “Immanuel” (meaning, “God with us”) (Isa. 7:14; Lk. 1:26-35; Matt. 1:18-23). These additional statements were all written before 700 BC, seven centuries before the events would take place. ¹¹The weeping near Bethlehem (site of Rachel’s tomb – Gen. 35:19) over the loss of children was prophesied in Jer. 31:15 (586 BC), and fulfilled in Matt. 2:16-18, as Herod ordered Bethlehem’s infant boys to be killed in an attempt to cut off the young Messiah. God warned Joseph to flee, so ¹²He went to Egypt, until an angel told him to return, since Herod was dead, unknowingly fulfilling another prophecy, “Out of Egypt I called My Son” (Hos.11:1 720 BC; Matt. 2:14,15). The family relocated to Nazareth in

Galilee. Nazareth is from the Hebrew “netser”, which means “branch” or “sprout”, a common Messianic title from the OT (Isa. 11:1; Cf. Isa. 4:2; 11:10; Jer. 23:5; 33:15; Zech. 3:8; 6:12 520 BC). Because He grew up there, ¹³throughout His life Jesus was literally called “Jesus the Nazarene”, or “Jesus the Sprout/Branch” (Matt. 2:22,23). Even His first name, Jesus, was prophecy being fulfilled. It means “Yahweh saves” or “the salvation of Yahweh”. Thus, the name “Jesus of Nazareth” literally meant “Yahweh’s salvation, the Sprout/Branch”. Jesus was the Messiah hidden in plain sight! Even His enemies repeatedly said these words, but had no understanding of what they were calling Him.

It was prophesied that ¹⁴God would send a forerunner before Him (Mal. 3:1 430 BC; Lk. 7:24,27). Isaiah had spoken that ¹⁵a voice would cry out in the wilderness, calling people to prepare the way for the Lord (Isa. 40:3-5; Lk. 3:3-6). After the appearance of this forerunner, ¹⁶“the glory of the Lord will be revealed” (Isa. 40:5; Jn. 1:14-18). It was also said that ¹⁷Elijah would come before the coming of the Lord (Mal. 4:5,6; Lk.1:17; Matt. 11:13,14). ¹⁸God even revealed that the Messiah would show up 483 years after a decree to rebuild Jerusalem. This works out to be 26 A.D. from the time that the Persian King, Artaxerxes, commissioned Ezra’s return (457 B.C.), which is also the date that Luke documents as the beginning of Jesus’ ministry (Dan. 9:24-26 530 BC; Ezr. 7:8; Lk.3:1; cf. Jn. 2:20). What other possible explanation could there be for this, that would take seriously that this is an actual prophecy? How many decrees to rebuild and restore Jerusalem have there been? What other historical figures 483 years after *any* of these decrees have ever been thought by *anyone* to be the Messiah? Could this just be coincidental, or “rigged”? No way! The Dead Sea scrolls prove that Daniel’s prophecy existed long before Jesus was born. It defies the imagination that someone could simply dismiss such a clear, powerful indicator of when God’s Messiah would show up on the scene! ¹⁹God would even call Him “the Son of God” (Psa. 2:7 970 BC; Matt. 3:17).

²⁰Isaiah said that the people of the spiritually darkened area of Galilee would see a great light, and that “He will make it glorious” along “the way of the sea” (the name of the caravan route along the sea of Galilee). Jesus concentrated much of His ministry in *this very region* and displayed the glory of God through signs and wonders, preaching the good news of the Kingdom of God (Isa. 9:1,2; Matt. 4:13-16). ²¹It was said that He would speak in parables (Psa. 78:2-4 700 BC; Matt. 13:34,35). ²²He would preach good news to the afflicted, and bind up the brokenhearted (Isa. 61:1,2; Lk. 4:18,19). ²³As the introducer of the Messianic age, He will open the eyes of the blind, heal the lame, restore hearing to the deaf, enable the dumb to speak (Isa. 29:18,19; 35:5,6; Matt. 11:2-5). ²⁴He will be a light to the nations (Isa. 49:6; Jn. 8:12). ²⁵He is to bring salvation to the ends of the earth (Isa. 49:6; Jn. 12:32; Matt. 28:18-20). ²⁶Moses prophesied that God would raise up a prophet like him, one who would speak God’s words with authority (Deut. 18:15; Matt. 21:11; Lk. 7:16; Jn. 7:16; 12:47-49; Acts 3:19-26). ²⁷He would be a priest according to the order of Melchizedek (Psa. 110:4 970 BC; Heb. 5:5,6). ²⁸He would come into Jerusalem as a King, riding on a donkey (Zech. 9:9; Mk. 11:7-11). ²⁹He would be honored and praised by infants and small children (Psa. 8:2 970 BC; Matt. 21:15,16).

³⁰He would not be believed (Isa. 53:1; Jn. 12:37,38). ³¹He would be despised and rejected (Isa. 49:7; 53:3; Jn. 1:11; Lk. 23:18). ³²He would be betrayed by a close friend (Psa. 41:9 970 BC; Jn. 13:21-26). ³³He would be sold out for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; Matt. 26:15). ³⁴His disciples would scatter upon His arrest (Zech. 13:7; Matt. 26:31,56). ³⁵He would be hated without reason (Psa. 35:19 970 BC; Jn. 15:24). ³⁶He would be accused by false witnesses (Psa. 35:11; Mk. 14:57,58). ³⁷He would be silent before His accusers (Isa. 53:7; Mk. 15:4,5). ³⁸He would be considered as a criminal (Isa. 53:12; Mk. 15:27,28). ³⁹He would be spat on and beaten (Isa. 50:6; Matt. 26:67). ⁴⁰He would be whipped (Isa. 53:5; Jn. 19:1). ⁴¹They would pierce Him (His hands and His feet -- Psa. 22:16 970 BC; Act 2:33; Jn. 20:19-35; His side -- Zech. 12:10; Jn. 19:34). ⁴²They would sneer at Him and mock Him (Psa. 22:7,8; Lk. 23:35). ⁴³He would be insulted (Psa. 69:9 970 BC; Rom. 15:3). ⁴⁴They would gamble for His clothing (Psa. 22:17; Matt. 27:46). ⁴⁵He would suffer as a sacrifice for the sins of others (Isa. 53:5; Rom. 5:6,8). ⁴⁶He would be forsaken by God (Psa. 22:1; Matt. 27:35,36). ⁴⁷None of His bones would be broken (Psa. 34:20 970 BC; Jn. 19:32,33,36). ⁴⁸He would be buried in a rich man’s tomb (Isa. 53:9; Matt. 27:57-60). ⁴⁹He would rise from the dead (Psa. 16:10 970 BC; 49:15; Mk. 16:6,7). ⁵⁰He would ascend into heaven (Psa. 68:18 970 BC; Acts 1:3-11). He will sit at God’s right hand, until all His enemies are subjected to Him (Psa. 110:1; Rom. 8:34; Eph. 1:20).

Again, all of these prophecies were made *hundreds* of years before Jesus’ birth. There is not even the slightest question that some of them could have been written after the fact. Copies of the entire OT, except the book of Esther, have been found among the Dead Sea scrolls, many of which predate Christ. The original prophecies *themselves* had been written 430-1450 years earlier. How can you possibly account for the incredible detail of these prophecies? **As far as helping to identify who the Messiah would be, can you possibly think that all of these examples apply to any other person who ever lived on this planet? Only Jesus can possibly fit all of these God-given clues!** Do we have anything like *this* in *any* other religion? Is there any other person set apart and identified by any god, anywhere, marked out in such a way, in any other religious tradition? I know of none. Nothing comes even *remotely* close! These are only 50 of more than 300 prophecies about Jesus in the Bible. This paper is compelling in itself. *Another five pages of specific examples* like these, would be truly mind-boggling! **Can you honestly doubt that this is the handiwork of God? Can you doubt that Jesus is the person referred to in these prophecies?**