

# PROVING THE BIBLE

## Lesson Five

### Prophecies – Jesus' Death

So far with prophecy (things people said that came true many years later), we have seen the fall of the city of Tyre, the fall of Babylon, the predictions concerning Cyrus the Persian, and the Jews being able to return to their homeland. Then, we looked at some prophecies of Jesus. We read that Jesus came from the seed of Mary, not Joseph. We also saw that Jesus was predicted to be born in Bethlehem.

Today we will look at Jesus' death.

#### **1. The Messiah (Chosen One) would die among the wicked and be buried in rich man's tomb**

In Isaiah 53, the entire chapter speaks of the events of Jesus' death on the cross written 700 years before Jesus was even born. Let's look at

#### **Isaiah 53:9**

*He had done no wrong to anyone. He had never even told a lie. But he was buried among the wicked. His tomb was with the rich.*

It says, "he was buried among the wicked. His tomb was with the rich."

So he would die with the wicked but in death, when buried, he would be with the rich. How does this relate to Jesus? Luke tells us how Jesus was put to death.

#### **Luke 23:32-33**

*There were also two others, criminals, led with Him to be put to death. <sup>33</sup>And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left.*

**Who was crucified with Jesus? Two criminals – "with the wicked".**

Remember also that Isaiah said Jesus would be buried with the rich? Further down in Luke, it tells us where Jesus was buried.

#### **Luke 23:50-53**

*A man named Joseph was there from the Jewish town of Arimathea. He was a good man, who lived the way God wanted. He was waiting for God's kingdom to come. Joseph was a member of the Jewish council. But he did not agree when the other Jewish leaders decided to kill Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus.*

*He took the body down from the cross and wrapped it in cloth. Then he put it in a tomb that was dug in a wall of rock. This tomb had never been used before.*

Joseph was a rich man, a member of the council, who had enough money to have a tomb all ready to place Jesus in. So as Isaiah stated, Jesus would be with the rich at his death.

## 2. Price of Betrayal

Some people have heard about the twelve apostles of Jesus: One of them was Judas. He was the apostle that betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver as we read in Matthew.

### **Matthew 26:14-16**

*Then one of the twelve followers went to talk to the leading priests. This was the follower named Judas Iscariot. <sup>15</sup> He said, “I will hand Jesus over to you. What will you pay me for doing this?” The priests gave him 30 silver coins. <sup>16</sup> After that Judas waited for the best time to hand Jesus over to them.*

But did you know that what Judas did was predicted hundreds of years earlier by Zechariah? Zechariah was given money for some sheep and the Lord told him what to do with the money.

### **Zechariah 11:13**

*And the LORD said to me, “Throw it to the potter”—that princely price they set on me. So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.*

**How much money was stated?** 30 pieces of silver

Notice what the Lord said it was the princely price that they set on him. That means it was the price they thought the Lord was worth – 30 pieces of silver.

**What did God say to do with the money?** It was thrown into the house of the Lord for the potter.

Now read what happened to Judas in Matthew 27.

### **Matthew 27:3-7**

*Judas saw that they had decided to kill Jesus. He was the one who had handed him over. When he saw what happened, he was very sorry for what he had done. So he took the 30 silver coins back to the priests and the older leaders. <sup>4</sup> Judas said, “I sinned. I handed over to you an innocent man to be killed.”*

*The Jewish leaders answered, “We don’t care! That’s a problem for you, not us.”*

*<sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the Temple. Then he went out from there and hanged himself.*

*<sup>6</sup> The leading priests picked up the silver coins in the Temple. They said, “Our law does not allow us to keep this money with the Temple money, because this money has paid for a man’s death.” <sup>7</sup> So they decided to use the money to buy a field called Potter’s Field. This field would be a place to bury people who died while visiting in Jerusalem.*

**What did Judas do with the money?** Threw it into the temple (the house of the Lord) as Zechariah did

**What did the priests do with the money?** Bought the potter’s field. This is exactly what Zechariah said: *“and threw them into the house of the LORD for the potter.”*

So we learn that Jesus was betrayed for 30 pieces of silver and that the money was used for a potter’s field. Exactly what was predicted.

### **3. The Messiah would be pierced, his clothes divided and cast lots for**

When Jesus was on the cross, he called out to God.

#### **Matthew 27:35-36, 46**

*Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: “They divided My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.” Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”*

\*Forsaken means left alone.

Why would Jesus say that? Jesus was quoting from Psalm 22. Old Testament Psalms were written about 1000 BC. We have a copy of the Old Testament written in Greek that was written in 250 BC, called the Septuagint. Why is this important? It means the Old Testament was written and verified in 250 BC. That is 250 years before Jesus lived. So anything written in the Old Testament could not be changed from 250 BC onward since there was a copy to compare it too. This includes Psalm 22.

Psalm 22 was a song the Jews sang before their worship service was to start. A very well-known song to all the Jews. Imagine, you are a Jew looking at Jesus die on the cross and you are wondering, could this really be the Christ that was promised? If he was, why would he die this way? But at that same time, Jesus begins to say, “My God, My God...” and you remember the song you’ve sung for years. And you start remembering the words in the Psalm.

Jesus was showing to the crowd that at that exact moment in history, he was fulfilling the prophecy made about him a thousand years ago. Psalm 22 tells the story of Jesus' crucifixion in very specific detail.

### **Psalm 22:1, 7-8, and 16-18**

*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?*

*<sup>7</sup> All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.*

*<sup>8</sup> "He trusts in the Lord," they say, "let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him."*

*<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet;*

*<sup>17</sup> I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.*

*<sup>18</sup> They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots.*

And you are watching the soldiers divide his clothes and cast lots that we read and you realize this Psalm was written 1000 years before Jesus was even born.

You hear the crowds say, "He trusts in the Lord, let God save Him" in Matthew 27:43 and you recall the Psalm that said the exact same thing...

**How many people do you think die having their hands and feet pierced? Not many!**

So this was a strange and very specific prophecy. And again, Jesus had no control over how He would die, especially considering it was done by the Romans and the Jews – two very separate and opposing nations who disliked each other very much. There would be no way to get everyone to agree on how to make it all work to fulfill a prophecy and not only that, none of these people believed Jesus so they would do everything to make sure He didn't fulfill prophecy! Yet this is exactly what happened.

**What happened to Jesus that the Psalms predicted?**

We know from the Bible that Jesus was nailed to the cross – hands and feet.

They all looked and stared at Him as He hung there.

The soldiers divided His garments and cast lots for His clothes.

What was predicted came true. Jesus was showing them that they were witnessing the prophecies of Psalm 22 being fulfilled right before their eyes.

### **Conclusion**

Jesus fulfilled these and every other Messianic prophecy perfectly. Why? Because he is the Messiah. We can trust the Bible.

**Questions:**

**Any questions?**

**What was the most interesting prophecy for you and why?  
How does this increase your trust in the Bible?**

We can know Jesus is the Son of God, we can know the Bible is 100% accurate, real and true. We can know for sure and have confidence in why we believe the Bible is real, and that Jesus is the Son of God. The Bible is filled with evidence, over 300 prophecies that came to pass perfectly.

May you find peace knowing Jesus and His Word are real!