

The Christ Foretold

Old Testament Prophecies Fulfilled in the Life of Christ, Lesson 4

Let's Review

There are three types of Old Testament prophecies relating to Christ:

- Typical
- Intermediate
- Direct

✓**Typical** prophecy is something that refers to all Christians. As a fellow Christian, it also refers to Jesus, but perhaps even more so. Think of an audience sitting in the “splash zone.” They all are going to get wet, but probably the ones in the center front row are going to get really wet.

➤**Intermediate** prophecy is something that refers to a historical figure and, even more, to Jesus. In a way, history pre-figures Jesus. Think of this as a “spitting image” thing. As the appearances of a great-grandson may be almost identical to great-grandpa Olaf, so the experience of Jesus is almost identical to someone in the Old Testament. And, yes, there is a lot of blood relations involved.

We will be spending this unit studying intermediate prophecies.

Direct prophecy is something that refers to no one except Jesus. It is as though the Holy Spirit made the prophetic writer time travel to the Holy Land of Jesus’ day and write what he saw. Think of this as a letter addressed to one and only one individual in the whole country.

We will be spending the final two units studying direct prophecy, starting with the end of Jesus’ life and moving to the front (with prophecies regarding his birth in the week before Christmas!)

That Reminds Me Of...

Let's get started. Remember, the prophecy is partially fulfilled in a historical figure, but comes to complete fulfillment with Jesus.

*I am a stranger to my brothers,
An alien to my own mother's sons;
For zeal for your house consumes me,
And the insults of those who insult you fall on me.*

Psalm 69.8-9

How does this Psalm refer to King David?

How does it refer to Jesus?

How do I know?

To those who sold doves he said, "Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a market!"

His disciples remembered that it is written: "Zeal for your house will consume me."

John 2.16-17

That is the important part---the Scripture will tell us!

The Bible has man déjà vu moments. Chief among them is King David, fleeing Jerusalem to spare it an attack from his rebel son, Absalom, and Absalom's huge army, goes east out the Kidron Valley.

The whole countryside wept aloud as all the people passed by. The king also crossed the Kidron Valley, and all the people moved on toward the desert. David continued up the Mount of Olives, weeping as he went; his head was covered and he was barefoot. All the people with him covered their heads too and were weeping as they went up.

2 Samuel 15.23, 30

That's the same route Jesus took on Maundy Thursday! History repeats itself! This is a "That Reminds Me" moment! But wait! No rebellion forced Jesus out of Jerusalem. This was the path he had been taking all week! The people weren't mourning with him. Jesus wasn't even weeping. He was spending his time giving last minute warnings to his disciples.

The Scripture never makes the connection. Don't "See What Isn't There!"

The life of David isn't the only life that mirrors events in Jesus' life. Look at poor Jeremiah. He is bound by geography. He goes outside the walls of Jerusalem and shatters a jar on a plot of land used as a dump (outside the Potsherd Gate). This valley will be called "the Valley of Slaughter." Later, when Jerusalem is under siege (as Jeremiah had predicted), the Lord tells Jeremiah to go out and buy a piece of property outside the city walls. This act will show the Jews that there will be a return and once again people will buy and sell land.

Here's Matthew's take, following Judas betraying Jesus for thirty pieces of silver:

The chief priests picked up the coins and said, "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money." So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled. "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

Matthew 26.7-10

How does this account refer to Jeremiah?

How does it refer to Jesus?

How do I know?

But Jeremiah bought the land from his uncle for 17 shekels of silver, not thirty pieces! (You have to wait until next week for that one!)

Let's go to John's Gospel. John composed his Gospel around the words and teachings of Jesus. Early in Jesus' ministry Nicodemus, a member of the ruling council, comes to Jesus at night for a secret interview.

Jesus tells him,

*Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,
that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

John 3.14-15

Do you recall the Old Testament account? Read Numbers 21.4-9.

Why were the Children of Israel suffering?

Why did the Lord give them relief?

What is remedy God prescribed to Moses?

How does this account refer to Jesus?

Would you ever imagine that was what Nehushtan predicted (they actually named it and preserved it as a religious relic; it was the source of such superstition that Hezekiah had to destroy it) all that?

How do I know?

Before recounting the events of Jesus' last two days, John summarizes Jesus' ministry.

Even after Jesus had done all these miraculous signs in their presence, they still would not believe in him. This was to fulfill the word of Isaiah the prophet

*"Lord, who has believed our message
and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?"*

For this reason they could not believe, because, as Isaiah says elsewhere:

*"He has blinded their eyes
and deadened their hearts,
so they can neither see with their eyes,
nor understand with their hearts,
nor turn—and I would heal them."*

Isaiah said this because he saw Jesus' glory and spoke about him.

John 12.37-41

How do these words refer to Jesus?

Can you guess how these words refer to Isaiah?

Trouble is, Isaiah lived these messages. When the Lord called Isaiah he told him his message would blind the short-sighted and make the hard of hearing stone deaf. After the Lord's great deliverance of Jerusalem, even the best of the people, King Hezekiah, goes astray. After a lifetime's work, Isaiah had little to show for it!

How do I know?

As we near the end of John's Gospel, the intermediate prophecies increase.

Jesus predicts his betrayal.

I am not referring to all of you; I know those I have chosen. But this is to fulfill the scripture: "He who shares my bread has lifted up his heel against me." I am telling you now before it happens, so that when it does happen you will believe that I am He.

John 13.18-29

He is quoting a psalm of David.

*Even my close friend, whom I trusted
He who shared my bread,
Has lifted up his heel against me.*

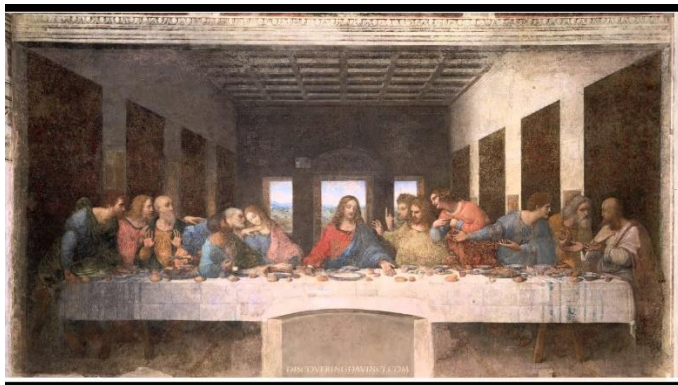
Psalm 41.9

We don't have to look far into David's life. Remember how he was evacuating Jerusalem to spare it from Absalom's wrath?

Now David had been told, "Ahithophel is among the conspirators with Absalom." So David prayed, "O Lord, turn Ahithophel's counsel into foolishness."

2 Samuel 15.31

How does this Psalm refer to King David?



How does it refer to Jesus?

How do I know?

Also in the Upper Room Jesus summarizes his own ministry and its effects on the Jews,

If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: "The hated me without reason."

John 15.24-25

Again, Jesus is quoting the Psalms!

*Let not those gloat over me
who are my enemies without cause;
let not those who hate me without reason
maliciously wink the eye.*

Psalm 35.19

*Those who hate me without reason
outnumber the hairs of my head;
many are my enemies without cause,
those who seek to destroy me.*

Psalm 69.4

How do these psalms refer to King David?

How do they refer to Jesus?

How do I know?

For intermediate prophecies, the "That Reminds Me Of..." variety, someone has to jog our memory! The Scriptures jog our memory and will tell us it is a prophecy. Don't "See What Isn't There!"