

Week Eleven reading: Matthew 27 | Mark 15 | Luke 23 | John 18 – 19

PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN THE CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

THE DAY JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED	PROPHESIED	FULFILLED
Betrayed by a friend	Psalms 41:9	John 13:18-27
Sold for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12	Matthew 26:14-15
30 pieces thrown in Temple	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:3-5
30 pieces buys potters field	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:6-10
Forsaken by His disciples	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:27+50
Accused by false witnesses	Psalms 35:11+20-21	Matthew 26:59-61
Silent before accusers	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12-14
Wounded and bruised	Isaiah 53:4-6	1 Pet 2:21-25
Beaten and spit upon	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67-68
Mocked	Psalms 22:6-8	Matthew 27:27-31
Fell under the cross	Psalms 109:24-25	John 19:17; Luke 23:26
Hands and feet pierced	Psalms 22:16	John 20:24-28
Crucified with thieves	Isaiah 53:12	Matthew 27:38
Prayed for enemies	Isaiah 53:12	Luke 23:34
Rejected by His own people	Isaiah 53:3	John 19:14-15
Hated without cause	Psalms 69:4	John 15:25
Friends stood aloof	Psalms 38:11	Luke 22:54; 23:49
People wag their heads	Psalms 22:7; 109:25	Matthew 27:39
People stared at Him	Psalms 22:17	Luke 23:35
Clothes divided and gambled for	Psalms 22:18	John 19:23-24

We study Him to know Him, and by knowing Him, learn how to better live for Him.

Became very thirsty	Psalms 22:15	John 19:28
Gall and vinegar offered Him	Psalms 69:21	Matthew 27:34
His forsaken cry	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46
Committed Himself to God	Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46
Bones not broken	Psalms 34:20	John 19:32-36
Heart broken	Psalms 69:20;22:14	John 19:34
His side pierced	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34+37
Darkness over the land	Amos 8:9	Luke 23:44-45
Buried in rich man's tomb	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60

What is a “Messianic” Prophecy?

The Old Testament books in the Bible (all of them written between 1450 BC and 430 BC) contained hundreds of prophecies about an “anointed one” (“Messiah” in Hebrew) who would arrive in their future. The Messiah would “deliver” or “save” all the Jewish people, bringing them to paradise or heaven. These prophecies also stated that the Messiah would save all the other people in the world “through the Jews.”

A Special Note on Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53

Even a casual reader of the Bible will notice something “different” about Psalm 22 and Isaiah 52:13 to 53:12. They tell stories that perfectly parallel events in the life of Christ that took place much later. Psalm 22 is especially amazing since it predicted 11 separate things about Jesus’ crucifixion about a thousand years before they happened. We know that David (the author of Psalm 22) lived about 1043-973 BC and Isaiah lived about 740-680 BC. Both passages, written far ahead of the time of Christ, are strong proof that the Bible was literally inspired by God.

The breadth of what Jesus endured for our salvation is beyond our full comprehension. But He does invite us to know Him deeper through the accounts of His ministry and suffering. What speaks to you of what He endured on the cross?

WHAT IS THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLE PROPHECY?

There are three significant reasons why prophecy is important for the believer:

1. It provides **authentication** of the Bible
2. It provides assistance in **spreading the Gospel**
3. It provides encouragement for **Holy Living**

We study Him to know Him, and by knowing Him, learn how to better live for Him.

For the grace of God has appeared with salvation for all people, instructing us to deny godlessness and worldly lusts and to live in a sensible, righteous, and godly way in the present age, while we wait for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Titus 2:11-13 (HCSB)

Almost every one of the promises Christians hold near and dear are based on prophecy: the promise of heaven; the hope of salvation; the joy of eternity with Christ. Each of these is a promise from God guaranteeing our future. And what is a prophecy, if not a guaranteed future event?

Does deeper revelation of His word attract you to further study in the prophecies? _____

Does the study of the prophecies stir up a greater hope in His plan for mankind? _____

SEVEN FINAL PHRASES FROM JESUS ON THE CROSS

1) Jesus Speaks to **the Father** - Luke 23:34: Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (NIV)

In the midst of His excruciating suffering, the heart of Jesus was focused on others rather than Himself. Here we see **the nature of his love**—unconditional and divine.

2) Jesus Speaks to **the Criminal on the Cross** - Luke 23:43: "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise." (NIV)

One of the criminals who was crucified with Christ, had recognized who Jesus was and expressed faith in Him as Savior. Here we see **grace poured out through faith**, as Jesus assured the dying man of his forgiveness and eternal salvation.

3) Jesus Speaks to **Mary and John** - John 19:26-27: When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." (NIV)

Jesus, looking down from the cross, was still filled with the concerns of a son for the earthly needs of His mother. None of his brothers were there to care for her, so He gave this task to the Apostle John. Here we clearly see **Christ's humanity**.

4) Jesus Cries Out to **the Father** - Matthew 27:46 (also Mark 15:34): 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?" (NKJV)

In the darkest hours of His suffering, Jesus cried out the opening words of Psalm 22. And although much has been suggested regarding the meaning of this phrase, it was quite apparent the agony Christ felt as He expressed separation from God. Here we see **the Father turning away** from the Son as Jesus bore the full weight of our sin.

5) Jesus is **Thirsty** - John 19:28: Jesus knew that everything was now finished, and to fulfill the Scriptures he said, "I am thirsty." (NLT)

Jesus refused the initial drink of vinegar, gall and myrrh (Matthew 27:34 and Mark 15:23) offered to alleviate His suffering. But here, several hours later, we see Jesus **fulfilling the messianic prophecy** found in Psalm 69:21.

6) **It is Finished** - John 19:30: ...he said, "It is finished!" (NLT)

Jesus knew He was suffering the crucifixion for a purpose. Earlier He had said in John 10:18 of His life, "No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father." (NIV) These three words were packed with meaning, for what was finished here was not only Christ's earthly life, not only His suffering and dying, not only the payment for sin and the redemption of the world—but the very reason and purpose He came to earth was finished. His final act of obedience was complete. Here we see that **the Scriptures had been fulfilled**.

7) Jesus' Last Words of **Surrender and Trust** - Luke 23:46: Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. (NIV)

Here Jesus closes with the words of Psalm 31:5, speaking to the Father. We see **His complete trust** in the Father. Jesus entered death in the same way He lived each day of His life, offering up His life as the perfect sacrifice and placing Himself in God's hands.

Jesus had you and me on His mind during His final moments on the cross. In light of studying the intricacies of His sacrifice and our approach toward Holy Week, how can you set your heart more toward Him for all that He did for you?

APPLICATION FOR WEEK ELEVEN

Jesus demonstrated forgiveness, His concern for others and a resignation of His own will through His death on the cross. How do you struggle with those character traits (forgiveness, concern for others, resignation of your own will) in your daily walk? _____

What is God revealing to you as a way to surrender your struggle in the week ahead? _____

Thank you is not even enough for Your sacrifice, Jesus. May our lives reflect more of You because of all we gained from that sacrifice!

Memory/meditation verse: He has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began. 2 Timothy 1:9, HCSB

Week Twelve reading: Matthew 28 | Mark 16 | Luke 24 | John 20 – 21