

# Jesus in the Old Testament

Old Testament prophecies foretold the life and mission of Jesus Christ hundreds of years before He was born

There are many Old Testament Bible prophecies that foretold and foreshadowed the life of Jesus Christ. Below, we list 12 Old Testament passages and compare them to New Testament passages. The New Testament, which records the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, was written hundreds of years after the Old Testament had been written. Much of what you'll see below was taken from a book written by Grant Jeffrey, called "Armageddon, Appointment with Destiny."

If you want to learn more about prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ, we have related pages at:

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## 1. The Messiah would be preceded by a messenger

**Old Testament (Isaiah 40:3) says:**

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."

**New Testament (Matthew 3:1-2) says:**

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

## 2. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

**Old Testament (Micah 5:2) says:**

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

**New Testament (Matthew 2:1) says:**

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod...

### 3. The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah

**Old Testament (Genesis 49:10) says:**

*This passage talks about a ruler coming from the Tribe of Judah, one whose rule will be all-powerful:*

"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."

**New Testament (Luke 3:23-34 and Matthew 1:1-16):**

*Here you'll find a list of Jesus' ancestors, going back to Judah, who was one of the 12 sons of Jacob. (Jacob's 12 sons were the fathers of the 12 Tribes of Israel).*

### 4. The Messiah would enter Jerusalem on a colt

**Old Testament (Zechariah 9:9) says:**

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

**New Testament (Luke 19:35-37) says:**

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. As he went along, people spread their cloaks on the road. When he came near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of disciples began joyfully to praise God in loud voices for all the miracles they had seen

### 5. The Messiah would be betrayed by a friend

**Old Testament (Psalms 41:9) says:**

Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

**New Testament (Matthew 26:47-50) says:**

While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and

the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. Jesus replied, "Friend, do what you came for." Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him.

## 6. The Messiah would be sold for 30 pieces of silver

**Old Testament (Zechariah 11:12) says:**

I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver.

**New Testament (Matthew 26:14-15) says:**

Then one of the Twelve--the one called Judas Iscariot--went to the chief priests and asked, "What are you willing to give me if I hand him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty silver coins.

## 7. The Messiah would be spit upon and beaten

**Old Testament (Isaiah 50:6) says:**

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

**New Testament (Matthew 26:67-68) says:**

Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

## 8. The Messiah would be wounded by His enemies

**Old Testament (Isaiah 53:5) says:**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

**New Testament (Matthew 27:26) says:**

Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified

## 9. The Messiah would be silent before His accusers

**Old Testament (Isaiah 53:7) says:**

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

**New Testament (Matthew 27:12-14) says:**

When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge--to the great amazement of the governor.

## **10. The betrayal money thrown in the temple and given for a potters field**

**Old Testament (Zechariah 11:13) says:**

And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter.

**New Testament (Matthew 27:5-7) says:**

So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. 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.

## **11. The Messiah would have his hands and feet pierced**

**Old Testament (Psalm 22:16) says:**

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.

**New Testament (Luke 23:33) says:**

When they came to the place called the Skull, there they crucified him, along with the criminals--one on his right, the other on his left.

## **12. The Messiah would be crucified with thieves**

**Old Testament (Isaiah 53:12) says:**

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

**New Testament (Matthew 27:38) says:**

Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left.

Now what do you suppose the odds are for these twelve prophecies being fulfilled in one man's life? What are the odds of Jesus being born in Bethlehem, a little town in the midst of hundreds of towns and cities in Israel?

The prophecy of Jesus having his hands and feet pierced was written hundreds of years before the Roman Empire invented crucifixion as a form of execution.

Who would believe a King would ride into a great city on the back of an donkey? Who else would be silent and not speak a word in his own defense, after being beaten, spit upon, and having the hairs of his beard plucked from his cheeks?

The prophecy that Jesus would be born into a family from the tribe of Judah is a 12-to-1 shot because there are 12 tribes of Israel. But, as Christian scholar Grant Jeffrey figured out, for all these prophecies to come true in one man's life would be 1 chance in 10 billion times a billion. And, there are many more Bible prophecies about a Messiah that have been fulfilled by Jesus, and we have only listed 12 of those prophecies here.

Now are you starting to feel the Bible is telling the truth? Or do you think that these Old Testament Prophets just got "lucky?"

Does the accuracy of the "12 prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ" convince that Jesus truly is the son of God?

If so, then it is time to change your life, it is time to become a member of God's family, it is time to get your name in God's Book Of Life. Turn your life over to Jesus Christ. Confess to Jesus that you are a sinner and that you want Him in your life.

You can do this by walking off into a private area and speaking from the heart. Find the words that are right for you. For me, the words were: "Jesus, I know I am a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins, please come into my life and guide me - I need you, Jesus."

If you want to learn more about prophecies fulfilled by Jesus Christ, we have related pages at:

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## 10 fulfilled by Jesus

*These 10 Old Testament passages were written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus. They foreshadowed and foretold many events of the life of Jesus, including that He would be born in Bethlehem and that he would bring salvation to people throughout the world.*

### 1. God's salvation would reach the ends of the earth

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 49:6

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 49:6, the prophet speaks of a servant of God who would be a light to Gentiles (non-Jews) so that God's salvation could reach the ends of the earth. Christians believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of this promise. The followers of Jesus helped spread Christianity about 2000 years ago. Christianity is unique in that it is among the first evangelical religions in history, and the first to be taken to people all over the world. Christians believe that salvation, forgiveness of sins and eternal life in heaven are available to anyone who accepts Jesus Christ as their savior: "That if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord,' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved." - Romans 10:9-10 (NIV translation).

#### **Isaiah 49:6**

"It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth."

### 2. God promised another prophet like Moses

**Bible passage:** Deuteronomy 18:15-18

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** about 5 BC to 30 AD

In Deuteronomy 18:15-18, Moses told the Jews that God would raise up another prophet like Moses. After Moses, there was a succession of prophets, including Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel, and finally Jesus Christ. Jesus was very much like Moses: Both were delivered from death as infants. Both were prophets. Both performed miracles. Both were leaders. And both were intermediaries between God and man. No other prophet is as much like Moses than Jesus. Moses led the Jews out of the bonds of slavery in Egypt into the Promised Land of Israel. Moses died shortly before the Jews entered Israel. Jesus leads people - anyone who accepts Jesus as their Savior - out of the bonds of sin and into the Promised Land of Heaven. Moses offered to die, if necessary, if God would forgive the sins of the people that Moses was leading (see Exodus 32:30-33). Jesus did die for our sins, so that people could enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

### **Deuteronomy 18:15-18**

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me (Moses) from among your own brothers. You must listen to him. ... The Lord said to me ... "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him."

## **3. Isaiah foreshadowed the virgin birth of Jesus**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 7:14

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** 5 BC

In Isaiah 7:14, the prophet delivers what many Christians consider to be a dual prophecy, one that was fulfilled symbolically 2700 years ago, and one that was fulfilled literally with the birth of Jesus about 2000 years ago. The symbolic part of the prophecy correctly stated that a political alliance that threatened Jewish sovereignty about 2700 years ago would fail in a short amount of time. That amount of time was defined as the amount of time that it takes for a child to learn right from wrong. But, Christians believe that this prophecy has a second meaning, that there would be someone born of a virgin, who would be referred to as "Immanuel," which means, "God with

us." According to the New Testament, Jesus was born of the virgin Mary and is the Son of God. Because He is the Son of God, Jesus literally can be referred to as "God with us."

Non-Christian scholars have challenged this interpretation. They say that the Hebrew word "almah," which is the word that Christian Bibles often translate as "virgin," actually means "young woman." It is true that "almah" means "young woman," however, the Bible never uses the word to refer specifically to a married woman. And the Bible makes it clear that unmarried women are to be virgins.

### **Isaiah 7:14**

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and [\*] will call him Immanuel.

*\* either "he" or "they"*

## **4. The Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah**

**Bible passage:** Genesis 49:10

**Written:** perhaps 1400 BC

**Fulfilled:** 5 BC

In Genesis 49:10, Jacob is blessing his 12 sons. This blessing was also a prophecy. Jacob told his son Judah that his descendants will be rulers and that one of his descendants will be an ultimate ruler. According to the NIV translation: "The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his." Christians believe that this is a reference to Jesus Christ who will establish an everlasting kingdom in the future. Jesus was born about 2000 years after Jacob died. Jesus' ancestry is traced back to Jacob's son, Judah, in Luke 3:23-34 and in Matthew 1:1-16. Today, some estimates claim that there are as many as 2 billion Christians worldwide follow the teachings of Jesus.

### **Genesis 49:10**

The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is

his.

## 5. The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem

**Bible passage:** Micah 5:2

**Written:** sometime between 750-686 BC

**Fulfilled:** 5 BC

In Micah 5:2, there is a prophecy that many Christians point to as evidence that Jesus is the Messiah. In this Bible passage, Micah said that a great ruler would be born in Bethlehem, a small town in southern Israel. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as recorded in Matthew 2:1, about 2000 years ago. Aside from being the spiritual leader of Christians around the world, Christians believe that Jesus will return in the future to rule over an everlasting kingdom.

There is disagreement regarding the translation of Micah 5:2. Some people say that the reference to "Bethlehem" is simply a reference to the bloodline of King David. Other people say that it is a reference to the town of Bethlehem. However, as explained in the book of Matthew, Jesus meets both criteria - He is a descendant of King David and He was born in Bethlehem.

### **Micah 5:2**

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

## 6. The Messiah would be preceded by a messenger

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 40:3

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 27 AD

In Isaiah 40:3, the prophet writes about a person in the desert who prepares the way for the Lord. Christians historically have believed that this passage foreshadowed the life of John the Baptist, who played an important role in preparing the groundwork for the ministry of Jesus Christ. Jesus was born shortly after John the Baptist about 2000 years ago. The book of

Matthew records many events of the life of Jesus and of John the Baptist. In Matthew 3:1-2, it says: "In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea, and saying, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."

### **Isaiah 40:3**

A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the Lord; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God. Every valley shall be raised up, every mountain and hill made low; the rough ground shall become level, the rugged places a plain. And the glory of the Lord will be revealed, and all mankind together will see it. For the mouth of the Lord has spoken."

## **7. Daniel predicted when an anointed one would be rejected**

**Bible passage:** Daniel 9:24-26

**Written:** about 530 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 33 AD

The prophet Daniel was a Jew who lived during the time of the Babylonian Captivity, about 500 years before the birth of Jesus. During Daniel's lifetime, the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple and had taken many Jews as captives to Babylon. Daniel, while in Babylon, delivered a prophecy of what would happen during the centuries that followed. Here is our summary of Daniel 9:24-26:

- 1.** There would be a decree to rebuild Jerusalem.
- 2.** Jerusalem and the Temple would be rebuilt.
- 3.** Then an anointed one (messiah) would be "cut off" (an idiom for "rejected" or "killed").
- 4.** Then Jerusalem and the Temple would be destroyed again.

All of these events later happened, in the same order in which they are described in Daniel 9:24-26:

- 1.** After the Medo-Persians had conquered the neo-Babylonian empire about 2500 years ago, they ruled a vast empire that included the land of Israel. About 2400 years ago (about 445 BC), Persian king Artaxerxes gave

permission to the Jews to rebuild Jerusalem, which was still in ruins after having been destroyed earlier by the Babylonians.

2. The Jews rebuilt the Temple and the city of Jerusalem.

3. Then, about 2000 years ago, Jesus entered Jerusalem as the Messiah who had been promised by Old Testament prophets. But, many people rejected Jesus as the Messiah and He was crucified by the Romans.

4. About 40 years after Jesus was crucified, the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and the Temple. (The Temple has not been rebuilt since then).

### **Daniel 9:24-26**

"Seventy `sevens' are decreed for your people and your holy city to finish transgression, to put an end to sin, to atone for wickedness, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy and to anoint the most holy.

"Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven `sevens,' and sixty-two `sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble.

After the sixty-two `sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

[Click here](#) for more details about Daniel 9:24-27.

## **8. The Messiah would enter Jerusalem while riding on a donkey**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 9:9

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Zechariah 9:9, the prophet speaks of a future king presenting himself to Jerusalem while riding on a humble donkey. This foreshadowed something

that happened about 500 years later: As explained in Luke 19:35-37, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and presented Himself as the Messiah, the King.

Alfred Edersheim, a Christian Jew who lived during the 1800s, studied ancient Rabbinical writings, and said that Zechariah 9:9 was often interpreted as being about a Messiah. In the book, "The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah," Edersheim wrote: "The Messianic application of this verse in all its parts has already been repeatedly indicated. We may here add that there are many traditions about this donkey on which the Messiah is to ride; and so firm was the belief in it, that, according to the Talmud, 'if anyone saw a donkey in his dreams, he will see salvation' (Ber 56 b)."

The name "Jesus," means "salvation" in Hebrew.

### **Zechariah 9:9**

Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

## **9. Jesus was betrayed by a friend**

**Bible passage:** Psalm 41:9

**Written:** about 1000 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Psalm 41:9, King David wrote a prayer asking for mercy in his last days. In this prayer, which Jews and Christians believe was inspired by God, David wrote about a betrayal at the hand of a close friend with whom he had shared bread. This foreshadowed something that happened years later with Jesus. As explained in Matthew 26:47-50, Jesus was betrayed by Judas, one of the 12 apostles, shortly after Jesus and the apostles had shared bread during the Last Supper. Jesus was crucified by the Romans a short time later.

### **Psalm 41:9**

Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

## 10. Zechariah foreshadowed the betrayal of Jesus for 30 pieces of silver

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 11:12-13

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Zechariah 11:12-13, the prophet spoke of a person being paid 30 pieces of silver to betray someone. This foreshadowed something that happened to Jesus about 500 years later. As explained in Matthew 26:15, Judas was paid 30 silver coins for his betrayal of Jesus. Judas told the Romans when and where they could arrest Jesus without being surrounded by a large crowd of Jesus' followers. But, as explained in Matthew 27:5-7, Judas later tossed the money into the Temple (the house of the Lord) and the money was used to buy a potter's field as a burial place for foreigners.

### **Zechariah 11:12-13**

I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter"--the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the Lord to the potter

## 10 more fulfilled by Jesus

*These 10 Old Testament passages were written hundreds of years before Jesus was born. They foreshadowed and foretold details about the persecution, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. ("Resurrection" means to be "brought back to life.")*

### 1. The Messiah would suffer and be rejected

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:3

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 52:13-53:12, the prophet foreshadowed the life and mission of Jesus, who was born about 700 years later. In Isaiah 53:3, the prophet said that a servant of God would be rejected and despised. Jesus was indeed rejected by many people living in the land of Israel, and He was later crucified by the Romans.

It has been claimed by some scholars that Isaiah 52:13-53:12 actually refers to Israel as a nation and not to an individual Messiah. But, at least some of the ancient Rabbis believed that this passage from Isaiah is indeed about an individual Messiah. Hal Lindsey, in his book, "The Promise of Bible Prophecy," wrote the following: *Rabbi Moshe Alshekh, one of the great seventeenth-century expositors from Safed, Israel, said "Our Rabbis with one voice accept and affirm the opinion that the prophet is speaking of the King Messiah, and we shall ourselves also adhere to the same view.*

#### **Isaiah 53:3**

He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

### 2. God's servant would be wounded and whipped

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:5

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:5, prophet described a servant as being punished for the sins of others, and that others would be healed by the wounds of this person. As explained in the Gospel - the four New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John - Jesus was crucified for our sins, even though He was sinless. Christians believe that this ultimate sacrifice redeemed us all from sin in the same way that lambs were once sacrificed as a symbolic way of cleansing people from sin. And so, all of us can be accepted into the Kingdom of God, as though we were sinless, if we accept Jesus as our Savior. Christians believe that we are healed through the wounds that Jesus suffered.

### **Isaiah 53:5**

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

## **3. God's servant would be silent before His accusers**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:7

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 53, Isaiah the prophet wrote about a servant of God. Many people believe this was a prophecy about the life of Jesus Christ, who lived about 700 years later. In Isaiah 53:7, the prophet said that the servant would be afflicted and accused, but like a lamb being led to slaughter, he would remain silent. As explained in Matthew 27:12-14, which was recorded about 700 years after the time of Isaiah, this is what happened to Jesus. He was falsely accused but remained silent and did not protest the accusations. Jesus was crucified by the Romans a short time later.

### **Isaiah 53:7**

He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.

## 4. God's servant would be buried in a rich man's tomb

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:9

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:9, the prophet wrote about a sinless servant being put to death with the wicked and buried with the rich. About 700 years after this was believed to have been written, Jesus was put to death along with two criminals and was buried in a tomb owned by a wealthy man, as explained in the New Testament. The New Testament says that Jesus was resurrected three days later and ascended into Heaven.

### Isaiah 53:9

He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.

## 5. God's servant would be crucified with criminals

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 53:12

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 53:12, the prophet wrote about a servant who would bear the sins of many people and be punished side-by-side with criminals. Christians believe that Isaiah's description of this servant was a prophecy that was fulfilled during the life of Jesus Christ. As explained in the book of Matthew, Jesus, though sinless, was "numbered with the transgressors" and crucified along with two criminals.

### Isaiah 53:12

Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

## 6. Jesus was spat upon and beaten

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 50:6

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Isaiah 50:6, the prophet writes about a servant of God who endures abuse at the hands of sinful people. This servant offers his back to those who beat him, his face to those who rip out his beard, and himself to those who mock and taunt him. Christians historically have believed that this Old Testament passage foreshadowed the life of Jesus Christ, who lived about 700 years after Isaiah. Jesus, as explained in the New Testament, was beaten, mocked and taunted shortly before His crucifixion by the Romans. In Matthew 26:67 NIV, for example, it says: *Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"*

### Isaiah 50:6

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.

## 7. Psalm 22 foreshadowed the crucifixion of Jesus

**Bible passage:** Psalm 22: 1,7,8,16,17,18

**Written:** about 1000 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

People are sometimes curious, when they read Matthew 27:46 or Mark 15:34, why Jesus, while dying on the cross, said "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Those words are actually the first line of Psalm 22, which according to Jewish tradition was written by King David about 1,000 years before Jesus was crucified.

Psalm 22 speaks of a man who cries out to God for deliverance from intense persecution. There are parallels between the details in Psalm 22 and the details written in the New Testament about Jesus' crucifixion, such as:

In Psalm 22: 7, it speaks of a man surrounded by others who scorn and despise him. This is what happened to Jesus in Matthew 27: 39 and Mark 15:29.

In Psalm 22: 7, it speaks of a man being mocked, which is similar in the descriptions of Jesus' crucifixion given in Matthew 27: 31, Mark 15:20 and Luke 22:63; 23:36.

In Psalm 22:8, it says, "He trusts in the LORD; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." In Matthew 27: 43, Jesus' enemies taunted him by saying, "He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him."

In Psalm 22: 16, it speaks of a man who was numbered with the transgressors, meaning an innocent man being regarded as being one of a group of criminals. Jesus too was numbered with the transgressors when he was crucified next to two criminals, as described in Matthew 27:38, Mark 15:27, Luke 23: 32 and John 19: 18.

In Psalm 22: 16, it speaks of a man whose hands and feet are either pierced, or mauled, or disfigured, depending on which is truly the best English translation of the original verse. In John 19:23,34,37 - Jesus' hands and feet were pierced with nails during the crucifixion process.

In Psalm 22: 17, it speaks of a man who would be surrounded by others who stared and gloated at him. This too was the situation for Jesus during the crucifixion, according to Matthew 27:36 and Luke 23: 35.

In Psalm 22: 18, onlookers gamble for pieces of clothing that belonged to the person being persecuted. As explained in Matthew 27: 35, Roman soldiers gambled (cast lots) for articles of Jesus' clothing while he was being crucified.

There are other descriptions in Psalm 22 that sound like an accurate

description of what would happen to a person being crucified, such as the disjointing of bones, the drying up of a person's strength, an intense sense of thirst, a heart melting like wax (Jesus was stabbed in the heart with a sword during his crucifixion), and being "poured out" of one's body. When Jesus was stabbed in the heart with a sword, blood and water poured out from the wound.

Many Christian scholars have written about their views of the significance of Psalm 22 and the crucifixion of Jesus. The late Charles Briggs, who had been a professor at the Union Theological Seminary, said "These sufferings [of Psalm 22] transcend those of any historical sufferer, with the single exception of Jesus Christ. They find their exact counterpart in the sufferings of the cross.... This ideal is a Messianic ideal, and finds its only historical realization in Jesus Christ."

### **Psalm 22:1,7,8,16,17,18**

**1** My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning? **7** All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads: **8** "He trusts in the LORD ; let the LORD rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him." **16** Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. **17** I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me. **18** They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

## **8. Zechariah foreshadowed the crucifixion of Jesus**

**Bible passage:** Zechariah 12:10

**Written:** between 520 and 518 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Zechariah, chapter 12, the Bible said that there will be a time when the world's nations attack Jerusalem. In Zechariah 12:10, the Bible says that after this attack fails, the people will lament over the one who was "pierced," as one mourns for the loss of a first-born son. Christians traditionally have interpreted this passage as a reference to the return of Jesus Christ, the Son

of God, who was pierced when He was crucified by the Romans about 2000 years ago. Christians believe that Jesus will return in the future to establish an everlasting kingdom.

### **Zechariah 12:10**

"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.

## **9. Isaiah foreshadows the ministry of Jesus**

**Bible passage:** Isaiah 61:1-2

**Written:** perhaps between 701-681 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 27 AD

In Isaiah 61, there are passages that speak of an anointed one who preaches the good news to the poor, frees the people who are imprisoned, heals the blind and releases the oppressed. About 700 years after the time of Isaiah, Jesus relates these Bible passages to Himself:

### **Luke 4:15-20 (NIV translation):**

**14** Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.

**15** He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.

**16** He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. And he stood up to read.

**17** The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

**18** "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed,

**19** to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

**20** Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him,

**21** and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

At this point during the ministry of Jesus, he had already been preaching the good news to the poor and he had already healed many people of various afflictions, including blindness, both in a physical sense and in a spiritual sense.

But Jesus had not yet begun the other part of his mission, which includes a "day of vengeance," which Bible scholar John Gill explains as "the day of vengeance of our God; when vengeance was taken on sin, in the person of Christ; when he destroyed the works of the devil, ... and who will take vengeance on antichrist at his spiritual coming, and upon all the wicked at the day of judgment."

With this in mind, it is interesting that Jesus stopped reading Isaiah 61 mid way through verse 2, immediately before the mention of a "day of vengeance."

### **Isaiah 61:1-2**

**1** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,[1] **2** to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

**NIV Footnote:** [1] Instead of "prisoners," the Greek Septuagint renders the word as "blind."

## **10. Jesus' resurrection was foreshadowed in Old Testament**

**Bible passage:** Psalm 16:10-11

**Written:** about 1000 BC

**Fulfilled:** About 32 AD

In Psalm 16:10-11, the Bible talks of God's refusal to let His "Holy One" remain in a grave after death. This Psalm is believed to have been written

about 1000 years before Jesus was born. New Testament writers believed that this Psalm foreshadowed the death and resurrection of Jesus. Resurrection means "brought back to life." There are several reports in the New Testament that say that Jesus was killed and placed in a tomb, but that God brought Jesus back to life a few days later. (See Matthew 28:5-8, Mark 16:5-6, Luke 24:1-7, or John 20:1-18)

**Psalm 16:10-11**

because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.