



THE LIFE AND TIMES

*of*

JESUS OF NAZARETH

# The Questions We Want to Ask Jesus

## And the Questions Jesus Asks Us

Before we begin our study of the life of Jesus of Nazareth, it is worth acknowledging something honestly.

For two thousand years people have asked questions about Jesus. Some sincere. Some skeptical. Some hostile. Some deeply personal. Some arise from genuine curiosity. Others are objections disguised as questions.

But when we read the Gospels carefully, something striking emerges. The deeper issue is not the questions we ask of Jesus. The deeper issue is the questions Jesus asks of us.

Still, it is fitting to begin where many people begin. Let us consider some of the questions people ask Jesus.





## Question 1 Jesus, did You actually exist?

Did You actually exist as a real historical person in first-century Judea? Or are You merely a religious myth that developed over time, perhaps borrowing elements from other traditions?

The overwhelming historical consensus, including among many non-Christian scholars, affirms that Jesus of Nazareth was a real historical figure who lived in the first century and was crucified under the Roman governor Pontius Pilate.

This conclusion rests not only on Christian sources but also on references from non-Christian writers. The Roman historian Tacitus refers to “Christus,” who suffered execution during the reign of Tiberius under Pontius Pilate. The Jewish historian Josephus mentions “James, the brother of Jesus who is called Christ.” Even when scholars debate details within these texts, the broader conclusion remains unchanged: Jesus is firmly situated in history.

Archaeology further supports the historical framework of the Gospels. The well-known Pilate inscription discovered in Caesarea confirms the Roman official named in the Passion narratives.

Christian faith therefore does not begin with myth-making. It begins with claims about events that occurred in real places, among real people, within the recognizable setting of first-century Judea.





## Question 2 - Jesus, if You performed miracles, why do we not have secular records of them?

If You truly healed the blind, raised the dead, and fed thousands, why do we not find documentation in Roman or Jewish historical records?

Part of the answer lies in understanding the nature of the ancient world. Jesus conducted most of His ministry in Galilee, a rural region far removed from the political centers of the Roman Empire.

Ancient historians typically recorded wars, rulers, and major political developments. They rarely documented the activities of regional teachers or religious movements unless those movements later became historically significant.

Nevertheless, the Gospel accounts themselves preserve early traditions of Jesus' works. These accounts are not isolated stories but part of a broader narrative transmitted within the earliest Christian communities.

Interestingly, Jesus' opponents did not deny that unusual events were occurring. Instead, they attempted to explain them away.

Such accusations implicitly acknowledge that remarkable deeds were being done and reported.





### Question 3 - Jesus, did You actually claim to be God?

Some modern thinkers suggest that Jesus never claimed divinity and that later followers gradually elevated His status. The Gospel accounts, however, present Jesus speaking and acting in ways that carried profound implications. For example, Jesus forgave sins. “Son, your sins are forgiven you.” (Mark 2:5 NKJV)

The religious leaders immediately recognized the theological significance of this act: “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” (Mark 2:7 NKJV)

Jesus also made statements that indicated divinity and preexistence. “Before Abraham was, I AM.” (John 8:58 NKJV). This language echoes the divine name revealed in Exodus and signals more than ordinary human identity. Elsewhere He declared: “I and My Father are one.” (John 10:30 NKJV)

And His disciples responded with worship: “Truly You are the Son of God.” (Matthew 14:33 NKJV)

Taken together they form a pattern that early Christians found impossible to ignore. Jesus spoke with an authority that extended beyond moral teaching. He claimed the authority to forgive sins, redefine the meaning of the Sabbath, and stand as the final judge of humanity.

Such claims forced His listeners (and us today) to confront a decisive question about His identity.

#### **Question 4 - Jesus, what really happened after the crucifixion?**

Did You truly rise from the dead, or did Your followers merely experience visions or gradually construct a resurrection legend? The Christian claim of resurrection rests upon several historical observations widely discussed by scholars.





First, Jesus was executed by crucifixion. Roman execution practices were brutal and thorough, leaving no room for survival.

Second, the initial witnesses to his empty tomb were women; who were not accepted as legal witnesses at that time. If one were constructing a resurrection legend they would not use women as initial witnesses. This indicates the gospels are recording actual events. Other followers also soon proclaimed that His tomb was empty.

Third, numerous individuals and groups reported encounters with the risen Christ. Paul preserves one of the earliest summaries of this belief.

“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures... He was buried... He rose again the third day... and was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve... then by over five hundred brethren at once.” (1 Corinthians 15:3–6 NKJV)

And most scholars date this tradition to within only a few years of the crucifixion.

The resurrection appearances include not only disciples but also skeptics. James, the brother of Jesus, and Paul himself both became believers after encounters they experienced the risen Christ.

Finally, the early Christian movement emerged suddenly and proclaimed the resurrection publicly in the very city where Jesus had been executed.

Taken together, these factors explain why the resurrection quickly became the central claim of Christian preaching.





## Question 5 - Jesus, why do the Gospels contain differences?

Critics often point to variations in genealogies, resurrection details, or narrative order as evidence that the Gospel accounts cannot be reliable. Yet perfectly identical reports are not what historians normally expect from independent witnesses.

When several people describe the same event, each observer highlights different details depending on perspective, memory, and purpose. Variation can actually signal independence and accuracy rather than well rehearsed collaboration.

The Gospel writers function in this way. They are not producing court transcripts but ancient biographical narratives shaped by their intended audience and theological emphasis.

Matthew writes with particular attention to Jewish prophecy. Mark's focus is for the Gentile reader. Luke writes with careful historical structure. John emphasizes theological meaning.

Despite these differences, the central narrative remains stable. All four Gospels affirm that Jesus ministered publicly, was crucified under Roman authority, was buried, and that His followers later encountered Him alive. These shared claims form the foundation of the Christian proclamation.





## Question 6 - Jesus, if you are so good, then why is there still so much suffering and bad in the world?

If You came to save the world, why do violence, disease, injustice, and death still continue? The Bible addresses suffering by tracing its origin to the entrance of sin into human history.

“Through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin.” (Romans 5:12 NKJV)

From the biblical perspective, suffering is not evidence that Jesus has abandoned the world but evidence that the world has been deeply fractured by human rebellion.

Through His death and resurrection, Christ has decisively confronted sin and death. Yet the full restoration of creation awaits the final consummation of God's kingdom. The New Testament describes the present age as a time of expectation.

Paul writes that creation itself: "groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." (Romans 8:22 NKJV) This tension between present suffering and future renewal forms a central theme of Christian hope.





## Question 7 - Jesus, why are You so exclusive?

Jesus declared: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." (John 14:6 NKJV)

To many modern readers, this statement appears narrow or restrictive. Yet exclusivity is often inherent in matters of truth. In engineering, medicine, and science, multiple competing answers cannot all be correct simultaneously. The right solution excludes the wrong ones.

The claim of Christianity is not that it prefers its own tradition. Rather, it claims that God has acted uniquely in the person of Jesus Christ. The apostles expressed this conviction plainly: "Nor is there salvation in any other." (Acts 4:12 NKJV)

## Question 8 - Jesus, aren't You just another moral teacher?

Many people admire Jesus as a teacher of ethics while rejecting His divine claims. Yet the Gospel accounts portray Jesus making statements that reach far beyond moral instruction. He forgave sins, claimed authority over the Sabbath, predicted His resurrection, and spoke of Himself as the final judge of humanity. He also called people not merely to follow a philosophy but to follow Him personally.

Such claims force a decision about His identity. Either these statements were profoundly mistaken, or they point to something extraordinary about the person who made them.

For this reason, Jesus cannot easily be reduced to the role of a another moral teacher. His teachings are inseparable from His claims about Himself.





## The Questions Jesus Asks Us!

As the Gospels unfold, Jesus directs several questions toward us. These questions probe more than intellectual curiosity. They probe spiritual perception. In Mark's Gospel He asks: "Having eyes, do you not see? And having ears, do you not hear?" (Mark 8:18 NKJV)

And eventually Jesus brings every conversation to a single question that no one can avoid. Jesus first asked what others were saying about Him. The disciples reported the opinions of the crowd. Then Jesus pressed past the crowd and asked the question directly: "But who do you say that I am?" (Matthew 16:15 NKJV)

That question has echoed through every century and every mind since.

And that question does not allow us the luxury of remaining neutral. Even refusing to answer it is, in the end, an answer. Who do you say that He is?

That question stands before every observer, even those who have merely pondered the life of Jesus. And it stands before us as we begin our study of *The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth*.

Now it is true that the earlier questions we have just considered can, at times, unsettle the mind. But Christianity does not falter because of questions; it rests on a unified testimony.





And one of the most compelling strands of that testimony is that long before Jesus was born, the Scriptures not only spoke of Him, they clearly and specifically prophesied of Him; and He fulfilled those prophecies.

In the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, prophecies and promises were made. And in Jesus of Nazareth, those promises are not merely echoed; they are fulfilled.

So we now turn from questions... to fulfillment. From inquiry... to confirmation. From what may raise doubt... to what gives enduring confidence.

# Promised Through the Ages: The Lamb Foretold in the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms

Long before the cross or even the manger, the story of Jesus was being foretold. From the first promise in Eden to the voices of the prophets, Scripture points to a coming Redeemer, the Lamb who was *indeed foreordained before the foundation of the world* (1 Peter 1:20)

The Law speaks of His sacrifice, the Psalms present His suffering and glory, and the prophets announce His mission and kingdom. We'll trace all those and learn to read the Old Testament with a sharper focus, seeing how its prophecies ultimately point to the Lamb - Jesus of Nazareth.





25 Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He **expounded** to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.

30 Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. 31 Then their eyes were **opened** and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. 32 And they said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?”

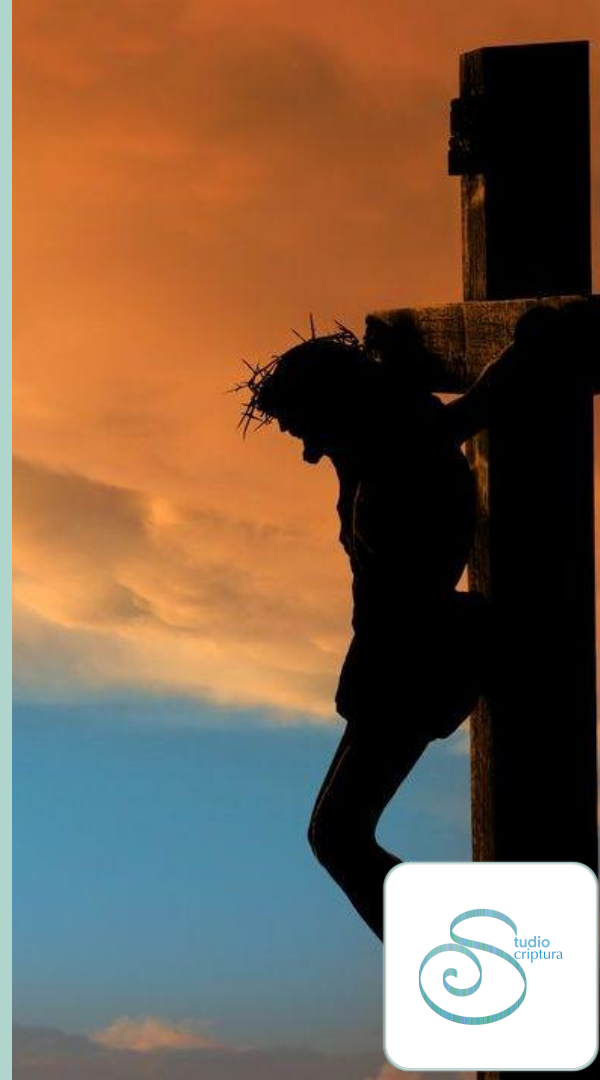
**Luke 24:25-27, 30-32**

## *Expounded* διερμήνευεν

- To interpret, explain, or translate the meaning of something that is unclear or requires interpretation
- Used for giving a careful explanation so the intended meaning becomes understandable
- Often applied to explaining sacred texts or divine messages
- Implies a step by step unfolding of meaning rather than a brief statement
- In Luke 24 Jesus' **expounding** of the Scripture shows that He is the hermeneutical key to the entire Bible

## *Opened* διήνοιγεν

- To open completely what was previously inaccessible
- Used literally for opening eyes or doors and figuratively for opening the mind or understanding
- Describes enabling perception where understanding was previously lacking
- Often used in Scripture for the removal of spiritual blindness
- In Luke 24 the **opening** of the Scriptures also reveals Christ as the hermeneutical key to the entire Bible



## “These Are They Which Testify of Me” Luke 24:44–47

As we open our study, we begin with the Lord’s own hermeneutics. By hermeneutic, we simply mean one’s method or framework for interpreting Scripture, how we understand what the Bible means and how its parts relate to one another, and to the whole.

Every serious student of Scripture has a hermeneutic, whether consciously articulated or not. Here, however, we are not left to construct our own. The risen Christ has given us His.

This is His sweeping and comprehensive claim. “The Law and the Prophets is a designation for the entire Hebrew canon. In other words, Jesus asserts that the whole of the Old Testament, its narrative, poetry, prophecy, covenantal structure, and redemptive movement, bears witness to Him.

He does not say merely that a few isolated predictions point forward. He declares that all things written concerning Him must be fulfilled, His suffering, His resurrection, and the proclamation of repentance and remission of sins to all nations. The Old Testament is therefore not incidental background to the life of Christ; it is foundational because *the life and times of Jesus of Nazareth* stand upon prior revelation. Without the Old Testament, the New becomes unintelligible; without the promise, fulfillment loses its force.

So when we trace messianic prophecy, we are not engaging in imaginative Christian rereading. We are following Christ's own interpretive key. He opens all the Scriptures, and the Scriptures, rightly understood, open Him to us.

When many sincere and diligent bible students approach the life of Christ, they begin, understandably, in Gospel of Luke they begin in Bethlehem, with shepherds, angels, and a manger. Yet in this study we are committed to the whole counsel of God. We ask not only, "Where was He born?" but "What had God been saying for centuries, since eternity past, before the babe in Bethlehem? We do not begin at the cradle; we begin at creation.

From Genesis to Malachi, the storyline advances with deliberate coherence and purposeful direction - pointing us to Christ.

In Genesis 3:15, immediately after the fall, we are given the promise of the seed of the woman who would bruise the serpent's head. The New Testament identifies this decisive victory over Satan in Christ's incarnation and redemptive work, Galatians 4:4, Hebrews 2:14, and 1 John 3:8. The conflict introduced in Eden runs like a scarlet thread through the entire canon.

The line begins to narrow. Through Abraham, “in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed” (Genesis 12:3; 22:18), a promise explicitly applied to Christ in Galatians 3:8 and 16. Through Isaac and Jacob, Genesis 17:19 and 28:14, reflected in the genealogies of Luke 3. Through Judah, from whom the scepter would not depart (Genesis 49:10), echoed in Hebrews 7:14. Through David, whose throne would endure forever (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Isaiah 9:7), fulfilled in Luke 1:32–33 and proclaimed in Acts 2:30.

Isaiah speaks of a shoot from Jesse (Isaiah 11:1), cited in Romans 15:12. A virgin conceiving and bearing Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14), fulfilled in Matthew 1:22–23. Micah names Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), fulfilled in Matthew 2:1–6. The trajectory is not vague or abstract; it is genealogically precise and geographically fixed.

His ministry is also anticipated. A forerunner crying in the wilderness (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1), fulfilled in John the Baptist, Matthew 3:1–3 and 11:10. Light dawning in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1–2), fulfilled in Matthew 4:12–16. The blind seeing and the lame walking (Isaiah 35:5–6), cited by Jesus in Matthew 11:4–5. The Servant who will not break a bruised reed (Isaiah 42:1–4), applied in Matthew 12:17–21. The anointed One proclaiming liberty (Isaiah 61:1–2), read and claimed in Luke 4:18–21.

Then, prophecies of suffering begin and intensify in striking detail. Betrayed by a familiar friend (Psalm 41:9; John 13:18). Sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13; Matthew 27:3–10). Silent before accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12–14). Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; John 19:37; 20:25). Garments divided by lot (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23–24). Vinegar for thirst (Psalm 69:21; John 19:28–30). No bones broken (Exodus 12:46; Psalm 34:20; John 19:33–36). Buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57–60). Bearing the sins of many (Isaiah 53:4–6, 10–12; 1 Peter 2:24).

The resurrection is not an afterthought - the Psalmist boldly proclaims it. Psalm 16:10 is expounded in Acts 2:31 and 13:35–37. Isaiah 53:10 declares that after making His soul an offering for sin, He would prolong His days. Isaiah 25:8 proclaims that death will be swallowed up, a victory celebrated in 1 Corinthians 15:54.

Nor does the prophetic horizon stop at the empty tomb. The Old Testament also speaks of His reign and final triumph. Daniel sees the Son of Man coming with the clouds to receive everlasting dominion (Daniel 7:13–14), referenced in Matthew 24:30 and Revelation 1:7. Psalm 110 places Him at God’s right hand until His enemies are subdued, fulfilled in His present exaltation, Acts 2:34–36 and Hebrews 1:13 - and awaiting final consummation. Isaiah 9 promises a government without end, fulfilled in His birth announcement in Luke 1:32–33 and brought to completion in His eternal reign.

What emerges is not a scattered collection of religious hopes but a unified pattern across centuries. Different biblical authors, different historical and geographic settings, one unfolding plan through one eternal Person. Earlier promises find their realization in the life of Christ. Patterns foreshadow greater realities. Shadows give way to substance.

The cumulative weight of these press upon us today as even a limited selection of these prophecies, fulfilled in detail, stretches the bounds of coincidence. Yet beyond probability stands something greater, the steady coherence of divine authorship.

Thus when Jesus says, “These are they which testify of Me” He is not offering devotional sentiment. He is declaring that the entire redemptive movement of the Old Testament reaches its appointed goal in Him.

And so we return to Luke 24. The risen Christ opens their understanding. He does not set aside Moses and the Prophets; He brings them to their intended fulfillment. The Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms speak with one voice concerning His suffering, His resurrection, and the proclamation of forgiveness to the nations through His Him.

What does all this mean for us?

It means Scripture is trustworthy. Not because it resonates with our preferences, but because it reveals a sovereign plan carried out across centuries with precision. Jesus is not who we might want Him to be, nor who culture reshapes Him to be. He is who God, through inspired authors, declared Him to be from the beginning - from the very beginning.

When the daily grind presses upon us, when temptation whispers, when anxiety rises, we rest not upon sentiment but upon revelation. The One who walked the roads of Galilee is the One promised in Genesis. The One who hung upon the cross was named by the prophets. The One who rose from the grave stands in continuity with every covenant promise. Our faith does not float upon private interpretation; it stands upon God's fulfilled Word.

This is not accidental alignment. It is His sovereign design. And it is to that design, anchored in the Scriptures and stretching from Genesis to glory, that we now turn in our next 20 classes as we study "The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth".

Prophecy		Fulfillment
Seed of the woman. <i>Protoevangelium</i> - derived from Greek and Latin meaning the <i>first gospel</i>		
<p>And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”Genesis 3:15)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="821 336 1676 464">❑ But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, Galatians 4:4</li> <li data-bbox="821 470 1690 732">❑ “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,” Hebrews 2:14;</li> <li data-bbox="821 739 1705 956">❑ “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” 1 John 3:8</li> </ul>

Prophecy		Fulfillment
Descent from Abraham - All nations will be blessed through Abraham's seed		
<p>Descent from Abraham "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." Genesis 12:3; "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." 22:18)</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="821 336 1682 459">❑ The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham" Matthew 1:1;</li> <li data-bbox="821 470 1676 685">❑ "And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." Galatians 3:8,</li> <li data-bbox="821 696 1657 869">❑ "Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "And to your Seed," who is Christ." Gal 3:16.</li> </ul>

## Prophecy

## Fulfillment

## Descent from Isaac and Jacob

- “Then God said: “No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.” Genesis 17:19;
- “Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” Genesis 28:14
- “I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult. Numbers 24:17.

- ❑ “the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,” Luke 3:34;
- ❑ “nor are they all children because they are the seed of Abraham; but, “In Isaac your seed shall be called.”” Romans 9:7.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
From the Tribe of Judah	
<p>➤ “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.” Genesis 49:10)</p>	<p>☐ “the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah” Luke 3:33; “For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.” Hebrews 7:14.</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Descendant of Jesse	
<p>➤ There shall come forth a Rod from the [b]stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall [c]grow out of his roots."Isaiah 11:1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ "Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli," "the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon," Luke 3:23,</li> <li>❑ "the son of Jesse, the son of Obed, the son of Boaz, the son of Salmon, the son of Nahshon," Luke 3:32;</li> <li>❑ "And again, Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope." Romans 15:12.</li> </ul>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Descendant of David	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ 12 “When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. 14 I will be his Father, and he shall be My son. If he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men and with the blows of the sons of men. 15 But My mercy shall not depart from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be established forever before you. Your throne shall be established forever.” ’ ’ 2 Samuel 7:12-16</li> <li>➤ “Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah” 9:7)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>☐ Matthew 1:1; Luke 1:32-33</li> </ul>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born in Bethlehem	
<p>➤ “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.” Micah 5:2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❑ “Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2 saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him.”<sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.<sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:<sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, Are not the least among the rulers of Judah; For out of you shall come a Ruler Who will shepherd My people Israel.’” Matthew 2:1-6; 4</li> <li>❑ Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5 to be registered with Mary, his betrothed [a]wife, who was with child. 6 So it was that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. 7 And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a [b]manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.” Luke 2:4-7.</li> </ul>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Born of a virgin	
<p>➤ “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="608 294 1854 562">❑ “Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not wanting to make her a public example, was minded to put her away secretly. 20 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:19-21</li> <li data-bbox="608 567 1854 758">❑ “Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And having come in, the angel said to her, “Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!” Luke 1:26-28.</li> </ul>

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Called out of Egypt

- “When Israel was a child, I loved him, And out of Egypt I called My son.” Hosea 11:1

- ☐ “Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, “Arise, take the young Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I bring you word; for Herod will seek the young Child to destroy Him.” 14 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, 15 and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, “Out of Egypt I called My Son.” Matthew 2:13-15

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Preceded by a forerunner

- The voice of one crying in the wilderness: “Prepare the way of the Lord; Make straight in the desert A highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, And all flesh shall see it together; For the mouth of the Lord has spoken.” Isaiah 40:3-5
- “Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” Says the Lord of hosts. Malachi 3:1.
- Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord. And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” Malachi 4:5-6

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Preceded by a forerunner *(continued)*

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In those days John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" 3 For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah, saying: 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.' "Matthew 3:1-3. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face Who will prepare Your way before You.'11 "Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; but he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to receive it, he is Elijah who is to come. Matthew 11:10-14.

"And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Highest; For you will go before the face of the Lord to prepare His ways, Luke 1:76.

The word of God came to John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, saying: "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled And every mountain and hill brought low; The crooked places shall be made straight And the rough ways smooth; 6 And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'" Luke 2a-6. 22.

Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Make straight the way of the Lord," ' as the prophet Isaiah said."John 1:22-23

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Ministry in Galilee	
<p>➤ Isaiah 9:1-2 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, As when at first He lightly esteemed The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, And afterward more heavily oppressed her, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, In Galilee of the Gentiles. 2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined. Isaiah 9:1-2– Light in Galilee for those in darkness. Fulfilled in Matthew 4:12-17.</p>	<p>12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 15 “The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, By the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: 16 The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, And upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned.” 17 From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” Matthew 4:12-17.</p>

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Performs Miracles

➤ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. 6 Then the lame shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert. Isaiah 35:5-6 Blind see, deaf hear, lame walk, mute speak. Fulfilled in Matthew 11:2-6; Luke 7:20-23.

➤ 4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: 5 The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. Matthew 11:4-5

➤ 20 When the men had come to Him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to You, saying, ‘Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?’ ” 21 And that very hour He cured many of infirmities, afflictions, and evil spirits; and to many blind He gave sight. 22 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. 23 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.” Luke 7:20-23.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Teaches in Parables

- Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. 2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, Psalm 78:1-2

- 34 All these things Jesus spoke to the multitude in parables; and without a parable He did not speak to them, 35 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things kept secret from the foundation of the world." Matthew 13:34-35.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Is a Gentle Servant

➤ “Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. 2 He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, Nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth. 4 He will not fail nor be discouraged, Till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.” Isaiah 42:1-4

15 But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. 16 Yet He warned them not to make Him known, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:  
 18 “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles.  
 19 He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.  
 20 A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory;  
 21 And in His name Gentiles will trust.”  
 Matthew 12:15-21.

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Entry into Jerusalem on a Donkey	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey. Zechariah 9:9</li> <li>➤ Save now, I pray, O Lord; O Lord, I pray, send now prosperity. 26 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!</li> <li>➤ We have blessed you from the house of the Lord. Psalm 118:25-26</li> </ul>	<p>Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, 2 saying to them, “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. 3 And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, ‘The Lord has need of them,’ and immediately he will send them.”</p> <p>4 All this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying: 5 “Tell the daughter of Zion, ‘Behold, your King is coming to you, Lowly, and sitting on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.’ ”</p> <p>6 So the disciples went and did as Jesus commanded them. 7 They brought the donkey and the colt, laid their clothes on them, and set Him on them. 8 And a very great multitude spread their clothes on the road; others cut down branches from the trees and spread them on the road. 9 Then the multitudes who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: “Hosanna to the Son of David! ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!’ Hosanna in the highest!” 10 And when He had come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, “Who is this?” 11 So the multitudes said, “This is Jesus, the prophet from Nazareth of Galilee.”— King comes lowly on donkey/colt. Matthew 21:1-11</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Rejected by People	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Isaiah 53:3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The governor answered and said to them, “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” They said, “Barabbas!” 22 Pilate said to them, “What then shall I do with Jesus who is called Christ?” They all said to him, “Let Him be crucified!” 23 Then the governor said, “Why, what evil has He done?” But they cried out all the more, saying, “Let Him be crucified!” Matthew 27:21-23.</li> <li>➤ 28 So all those in the synagogue, when they heard these things, were filled with wrath, 29 and rose up and thrust Him out of the city; and they led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city was built, that they might throw Him down over the cliff. Luke 4:28-29</li> </ul>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
<p>Crucifixion and Death of Christ - <i>Highly specific details make these among the strongest evidential prophecies.</i></p>	
<p>➤ Betrayed by a Friend Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, Who ate my bread, Has lifted up his heel against me. Psalm 41:9</p>	<p>➤ Fulfilled in John 13:18 (Judas).</p>

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Crucifixion and Death of Christ <i>(continued)</i>	
<p>➤ Sold for 30 Pieces of Silver, Potter's Field "Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver. 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. Zechariah 11:12-13 – Thirty silver pieces thrown to the potter.</p>	<p>➤ Fulfilled in Matthew 26:14-15; 27:3-10.</p>

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

➤ Silent Before Accusers “He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.” Isaiah 53:7

➤ – Like lamb to slaughter, no opening mouth. Fulfilled in Matthew 27:12-14.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

➤ Beaten, Spat Upon, Mocked “I gave My back to those who struck Me, And My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.” Isaiah 50:6; “All those who see Me ridicule Me; They [a]shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, 8 “He [b]trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; Let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!” Psalm 22:7-8 – Back to beatings, cheeks plucked, mocked (“Let Lord rescue him”).

➤ Fulfilled in Matthew 26:67; 27:27-31, 39-44.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

- Forsaken Cry and Darkness “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, And from the words of My groaning?” Psalm 22:1 – “My God, why have you forsaken me?”

- Fulfilled in Matthew 27:46; Mark 15:34.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

- Pierced Hands and Feet /  
Delivered to Gentiles (Psalm 22:16)  
– Pierced hands/feet; surrounded  
by “dogs” (Gentiles).

- Fulfilled in John 19:37; 20:25-27 (crucifixion by  
Romans).

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

➤ Given Vinegar/Call to Drink “They also gave me gall for my food, And for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.” Psalm 69:21

➤ – Vinegar for thirst. Fulfilled in Matthew 27:34; John 19:28-30.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ *(continued)*

- Lots Cast for Garments “They divide My garments among them,
- And for my clothing they cast lots.”  
Psalm 22:18

- – Divide clothes, cast lots. Fulfilled in John 19:23-24.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

- No Bones Broken “In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.” Exodus 12:46; “He guards all his bones; Not one of them is broken.” Psalm 34:20)

- – Passover lamb/no bones broken. Fulfilled in John 19:31-36.

Prophecy		Fulfillment
Crucifixion and Death of Christ ( <i>continued</i> )		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Side Pierced “10 “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” Zechariah 12:10)</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ – Look on the one pierced. Fulfilled in John 19:34-37.</li> </ul>

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Crucifixion and Death of Christ (*continued*)

➤ Buried with the Rich “And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.” Isaiah 53:9)

➤ – Grave with richness in death. Fulfilled in Matthew 27:57-60 (Joseph of Arimathea’s tomb).

Prophecy	Fulfillment
Crucifixion and Death of Christ <i>(continued)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Suffers for Others' Sins "Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded[e] for our transgressions, He was [f]bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes[g] we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord [h]has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6,</li> <li>➤ Yet it pleased the Lord to [a]bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. 11 [b]He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the [c]spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors. Isaiah 53:10-12)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ – Bears griefs, pierced for transgressions, offering for sin, numbered with transgressors. Fulfilled in Matthew 8:16-17; Mark 15:27-28; 1 Peter 2:24.</li> </ul>

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Resurrection of Christ *Victory over death, not remaining in the grave.*

- Not Abandoned to Decay “For You will not leave my soul in [a]Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to [b]see corruption.” Psalm 16:10)
- Prolonged Days After Suffering (See above Isaiah 53:10-12)

- – Holy one not see corruption. Fulfilled in Acts 2:31; 13:35-37.
- – See offspring, prolong days after sin offering. Fulfilled in Luke 24:5-7; Hebrews 9:28.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Resurrection of Christ *Victory over death, not remaining in the grave.*

➤ Swallows Up Death “And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations.<sup>8</sup> He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken. (Isaiah 25:7-8)

➤ – Death swallowed forever. Fulfilled in 1 Corinthians 15:54.

Prophecy

Fulfillment

Resurrection of Christ *Victory over death, not remaining in the grave.*

➤ Redeemer Lives “And He will destroy on this mountain The surface of the covering cast over all people, And the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever, And the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; The rebuke of His people He will take away from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken.” (Job 19:25-27)

➤ – Redeemer lives, seen after death. Fulfilled in John 5:24-29.

This class was prepared through personal study of Scripture and careful engagement with trusted scholarship on the Gospel of John. Generative AI tools were used to assist with research, organization, and the drafting of phrasing. All final interpretations, judgments, and content reflect the author's convictions.