

# What on Earth is going on?

Seminar handout 4b Prophecies about Jesus: from the past and into the future

Look at this comment by Jesus to a couple of followers after his resurrection:

“O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?”

‘And **beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.**’ Luke 24: 25-27 ESV

What Bible passages might Jesus have referred to, when explaining prophecies about himself? Take a look at the following for some of the many he could have referred to:

|  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| Moses’ message to the children of Israel c 1300 BCE: | Deuteronomy 18:15             |
| Promises made by God to Abraham c 2000 BCE:          | Genesis 12-22, Galatians 3:16 |
| The prophet Nathan to King David c 1000 BCE:         | 2 Samuel 7:12-16              |
| The Angel Gabriel to Mary c 4 BCE:                   | Luke 1:31-33                  |

Consider the following predictions about Jesus in the Old Testament and note their fulfilment later, in the New Testament...

|                          | OT Prophecy              | Prophecy Fulfilled in NT |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| God his Father           | Psalms 2:7, Isaiah 9:6,7 | Acts 13:33/ Luke 1:32    |
| Virgin birth             | Isaiah 7:14              | Matthew 1:21             |
| Birth at Bethlehem       | Micah 5:2                | Matthew 2:6              |
| Ministry of John Baptist | Isaiah 40:3              | Matthew 3:3              |
| Ministry of Jesus        | Isaiah 9:1               | Matthew 4:15             |
| Entry to Jerusalem       | Zech 9:9                 | Matthew 21:5             |
| Rejection of Jesus       | Psalms 118:22            | Luke 18:32               |
| Betrayal of Jesus        | Psalms 41:9              | John 17:12               |
| Suffering of Jesus       | Isaiah 53:3              | Luke 23                  |
| Counted a transgressor   | Isaiah 53:12             | Luke 22:37               |
| Casting lots for clothes | Psalms 22:18             | John 19:24               |
| Death of Jesus           | Isaiah 53:7              | Luke 23                  |
| Resurrection of Jesus    | Psalms 16:8/10           | Acts 2:25                |
| Ascension of Jesus       | Psalms 110:1             | Acts 2:32                |

## Using the 'test of a prophet' in Deuteronomy 18:20-22 can the prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament be trusted?

'When a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word that the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously.'

## Has the following prophecy in Isaiah 9:6-7 happened yet and if not, can I have confidence that it will happen in the future?

'For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and the government will be upon His shoulders.

And He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish and sustain it  
with justice and righteousness from that time and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of Hosts will accomplish this.'

## To think about

- How real is the resurrection of Jesus to me?
- Do the fulfilled prophecies about the life of Jesus make it easier to believe this?
- If Jesus rose from the dead do I believe his return a second time will really happen?

## My questions...

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