

Christ As A Prophet

No. 195

Introduction.

I. Approximately 1500 years before the birth of Christ, God made this promise to Moses found in Deuteronomy 18:18, 19.

18 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him.

A. In Acts 3:22, 23 Peter quotes this prophecy and affirms that Jesus was the great, illustrious prophet God promised to raise up like unto Moses.

B. Jesus and Moses were similar in many respects.

1. Both were **born while Israel was in bondage** to a foreign power.

2. The lives of **both were in jeopardy** at the time of their births.

3. **Moses was hidden** by his parents and **Jesus was hidden** by His parents..

4. Both were **provisionally spared** by God.

5. Both were **rejected** by their own people.

6. In regard to their operations as prophets, **both spoke the very words of God** as God gave them to speak.

7. There was a **time when men were listen to Moses**, but not now. Today we are to hear Christ.
(Matt. 17:5; Heb. 1:1)

II. When most people hear the word "prophet" today they think of someone that foretells the future.

A. To predict was not, however, the exclusive the work of the prophet. The word "prophet" comes from a word that means "to speak for."

B. A prophet was a "spokesman" or "forth-teller" of God. He could speak in regard to the past, the present or the future.

III. I would like for us to consider the power of Christ to foretell the future. This is one of the greatest testimonies of the Divine nature of Christ.

I. **Prophecies Jesus Gave Concerning Things And Individuals** - Jesus gave many prophecies concerning individuals.

A. **Relate Luke 5:1-10.**

B. When Jesus was in the **house of Simon the leper**, a woman poured some expensive ointment on His

head.

1. Some criticized her extravagant action. But Jesus defended her and prophesied that what she had done would be told wherever the gospel was preached.
2. This prophecy is still being fulfilled wherever the gospel is being preached throughout the world. The story of the sinful woman and her love for Jesus has been told millions of times and will be repeated until the end of time.

C. On another occasion Jesus told His disciples that **he was going to Bethany** to raise Lazarus from the dead.

1. He uttered this prediction even before they had heard of the death of this man. (Jn. 11:11, 14).
2. When He came to Bethany, to the amazement of all, he raised Lazarus from the dead. (Jn. 11:35, 39, 43).

D. Still on another occasion Jesus foretold the **fate of one of the disciples**.

1. He said, as He ate the Passover supper with His disciples, "He that dippeth His hand with me in the dish, the same shall betray me." (Matt. 26:23). Judas replied, "Is it I, Rabbi?" And Jesus said, "Thou hast said" which was an expression of affirmation.
2. Later, according to the foreknowledge of Christ, Judas betrayed the Lord. He betrayed the Lord for 30 pieces of silver, and lost his soul because of his greed.

II. **Prophecies Of Jesus Concerning His Death, Burial, And Resurrection, And Ascension** - Jesus gave prophecies concerning his death, burial, resurrection, and ascension.

A. John 2:18-21; Matt. 12:39, 40; 16:21. 28:1-6.

MAT 28:1 Now after the Sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to look at the grave. 2 And behold, a severe earthquake had occurred, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled away the stone and sat upon it. 3 And his appearance was like lightning, and his garment as white as snow; 4 and the guards shook for fear of him, and became like dead men. 5 And the angel answered and said to the women, "Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified. 6 "He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.

B. Christ also foretold **His ascension**. (Jn. 20:16, 17).

1. He was saying, "Do not cling to me as though you will never see me again. I am going to abide on the earth with you for a time."
2. Forty days later Jesus ascended into heaven in the presence of His disciples. (Acts 1:8,9,11).

III. **Prophecies Of Jesus Concerning The Kingdom Or Church** - Christ gave prophecies concerning His kingdom or church.

A. At Caesarea Philippi he said. (Matt. 16:18,19).

1. Later Jesus said. (Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:5).

2. These prophecies were fulfilled on the day of Pentecost in 33 A.D.. (Acts 2:4, 33).

B. **In Matthew 13**, Jesus gave another remarkable prophecy concerning His kingdom. (Matt. 13:31, 32).

1. Jesus foretold here that the kingdom would have a small beginning, but it would experience tremendous growth.

2. The church has grown from a few to several million today and is still growing.

C. Jesus also foretold the fact that the **kingdom would include Gentiles as well as Jews**. (Jn. 10:16).

1. Gal. 3:28.

2. This prophecy was fulfilled when Christ reconciled Jews and Gentiles into one body by His death on the cross. (Eph. 2:16).

IV. **Prophecies Concerning The Destruction Of Jerusalem** - Jesus gave some striking prophecies concerning the destruction of Jerusalem.

A. One day Jesus said in regard to the temple. (Matt. 24:2).

1. Later His disciples asked Him. (Matt. 24:3).

2. They wanted to know when the temple and Jerusalem would be destroyed. They also wanted to know when Christ would come again.

3. In response to their question Jesus gave this prophecy concerning Jerusalem. (Matt. 24:4-22).

4. And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man lead you astray. 5. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am the Christ; and shall lead many astray. 6. And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that ye be not troubled: for these things must needs come to pass; but the end is not yet. 7. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines and earthquakes in divers places. 8. But all these things are the beginning of travail. 9. Then shall they deliver you up unto tribulation, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all the nations for my name's sake. 10. And then shall many stumble, and shall deliver up one another, and shall hate one another. 11. And many false prophets shall arise, and shall lead many astray. 12. And because iniquity shall be multiplied, the love of the many shall wax cold. 13. But he that endureth to the end, the same shall be saved. 14. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a testimony unto all the nations; and then shall the end come. 15. When therefore ye see the abomination of desolation, which was spoken of through Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place (let him that readeth

understand), **16. then let them that are in Judaea flee unto the mountains: 17. let him that is on the housetop not go down to take out things that are in his house: 18. and let him that is in the field not return back to take his cloak. 19. But woe unto them that are with child and to them that give suck in those days! 20. And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on a sabbath: 21. for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, nor ever shall be. 22. And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened.**

B. History records that there were false prophets, false Christs, famines, earthquakes, wars, and rumors of wars, persecution, desertion of many disciples before Jerusalem was destroyed.

1. History also records that in 70 A.D. Titus, the Roman general, surrounded Jerusalem with 30,000 men. He planned to conquer the city by starvation, but after 5 months he attacked the city killing thousands of people. The temple was also destroyed. It was so completely destroyed that literally not one stone was left on top of another and its location is not absolutely certain today.

2. **Josephus**, the Jewish historian, tells us that when one was outside of the city for food during the siege, he was caught, beaten and crucified. He tells us also that starvation was so great that mothers would cook and eat their own babies. Here we have an amazing demonstration of Christ's power to foretell the future.

V. **Prophecies Concerning The End Of The World** - Christ also gave prophecies concerning the end of the world.

A. Jesus said **He would come again.** (Jn. 14:2b-3).

B. Jesus said that **all the dead would be raised at His coming.** (Jn. 5:28, 29).

C. Jesus said that **all men will be judged when He comes.** (Matt. 25:31, 32, 34, 41).

Conclusion.

I. Although these prophecies, concerning the last day, have not yet been fulfilled, we know they will come to pass since the prophecies of Jesus, the Omniscient One, have never failed. Jesus is able and committed to do what He said He would do.

II. There was a **time when Italy was struggling under the iron heel of its enemies.** The people looked to **Geribaldi** as their only hope. They waited for him to return to Italy and throw off the yoke of the oppressor. When prisoners were being carried to the dungeon, their friends would whisper in their ears, "Courage, Garibaldi is coming." Men would sneak out at night and write on the walls and pavements, "Garibaldi is coming." And when he approached the city the people broke out in a rapturous shout, "Garibaldi is coming." He came and overthrew the enemy and set the people free.

A. **Today we are prisoners of a sinful world.** Sin and sorrow press in upon us on every side. But a greater than Garibaldi is coming. Jesus is coming. He is coming to take His followers to the eternal home and to cast the unrighteous into the lake of fire.

B. Are you ready to meet Him? Are you ready to stand before Him and give account of your life. You are not ready to meet Him until you put your trust in Christ, repent of your sins and are buried with Him in baptism and are living at your best for Him. Make preparation while there is time! Come as we stand and sing.

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