

## 5. The Mission and Work of Jesus Fulfilled the Prophecies

As stated in the previous lesson, Christ made more certain the word of prophecy, as he fulfilled each prophecy by the events of his birth and life. Heb 11:1-2 states: "11 Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." When Jesus fulfilled everything, it made us "certain of what we do not see." Thus far, these lessons have shown Christ as the son of David and Abraham, born of the Virgin Mary, in Bethlehem in the day of the Roman kings. He also lived in Nazareth, following a childhood where Herod killed all the boys under two years old. As an adult, John the Baptist was his forerunner, also fulfilling the prophecies.

This lesson will further strengthen the faith of Christians by showing Jesus made more certain the word of prophecies by fulfilling them in his teaching and work, proving himself to be the son of God.

### ***Jesus Power to Heal the Sick Fulfilled Isa 53:4-7***

The Messiah was to come to take up the infirmities and sorrows of humankind. Isa 53:4-7 prophesied:

4 Surely he took up our infirmities  
and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God,  
smitten by him, and afflicted.  
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.  
6 We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to his own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

Two points of note stand out in this prophecy: Jesus would take up our infirmities and carry our sorrows, and those to whom he came would pierce him and crush him, but this punishment of the Lord would bring us peace and healing. The miracles of healing in their own right attest to the divinity of Christ. However, his promised healing and peace fulfill the prophecies. The Psalmist wrote in Ps 103:1-5:

1 Praise the Lord, O my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.  
2 Praise the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits —  
**3 who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases,**  
4 who redeems your life from the pit  
and crowns you with love and compassion,

5 who satisfies your desires with good things  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. [Emphasis added.]

His suffering, piercing, and wounding made possible all that he blessed us with physically and spiritually. Therefore, both his wounding and our healing fulfilled the prophecies as Matt 8:16-17 told us clearly:

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

"He took up our infirmities  
and carried our diseases."

That Christ was forecast to suffer and be wounded shows that the outcome of the cross was in God's plan from the very beginning, making God's plan certain and true, and not an after-thought or substitute as premillennialists claim.

### ***The Nature of Christ's Kingdom Fulfilled Mic 7:6***

Micah prophesied that the spiritual kingdom of Christ would destroy the harmony existing in human relationships of this present world. Mic 7:6 teaches:

6 For a son dishonors his father,  
a daughter rises up against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law —  
a man's enemies are the members of his own household.

In Matt 10:34-36, Jesus used this passage to confirm the nature of his kingdom, thus fulfilling the prophecy:

34 "Do not suppose that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I did not come to bring peace, but a sword. 35 For I have come to turn  
"a man against his father,  
a daughter against her mother,  
a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law —  
36 a man's enemies will be the members of his own household."

This passage makes the word of the prophet more certain by fulfilling it in Christ and the nature of his kingdom.

### ***Jesus Received the Spirit of God and Fulfilled Isa 42:1-4***

Isaiah described in prophecy how God would put his Spirit on Jesus and how he will bring hope and justice to the nations. The prophecy is recorded in Isa 42:1-4:

1 "Here is my servant, whom I uphold,  
my chosen one in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him  
and he will bring justice to the nations.  
2 He will not shout or cry out,  
or raise his voice in the streets.

3 A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out.  
In faithfulness he will bring forth justice;  
4 he will not falter or be discouraged  
till he establishes justice on earth.  
In his law the islands will put their hope."

Matthew said that Jesus fulfilled this prophecy in Matt 12:15-21:

15 Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, 16 warning them not to tell who he was. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

18 "Here is my servant whom I have chosen,  
the one I love, in whom I delight;  
I will put my Spirit on him,  
and he will proclaim justice to the nations.  
19 He will not quarrel or cry out;  
no one will hear his voice in the streets.  
20 A bruised reed he will not break,  
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,  
till he leads justice to victory.  
21 In his name the nations will put their hope."

In addition to making the prophecy more certain by its fulfillment, the Old and New Testaments both teach, "He will proclaim justice to the nations." And "He leads justice to victory." The reed [Christ] though bruised will stand and the wick [Christ] though smoldering will burn brightly. Once again, the nature of Christ's victory on the cross leaves no room for a premillennial teaching. In a retrospect, Peter described our victory in his despair in 1 Peter 2:23-25:

23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. 25 For you were like sheep going astray, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.

### ***Jesus Spoke in Parables and Fulfilled Isa 6:9-10***

Isaiah prophesied about the very nature and substance of the teaching of Christ and his hearers response in Isa 6:9-10:

9 He said, "Go and tell this people:  
"Be ever hearing, but never understanding;  
be ever seeing, but never perceiving."  
10 Make the heart of this people calloused;  
make their ears dull  
and close their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts,  
and turn and be healed."

To this description the Psalmist added the method of teaching – parables – in Ps 78:2-3:

2 I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will utter hidden things, things from of old –  
3 what we have heard and known,  
what our fathers have told us.

In Matt 13:11-15, Jesus, confirmed the prophecy of Isaiah asserting that the secrets of heaven were revealed in his parables:

11 He replied, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. 12 Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 13 This is why I speak to them in parables:

"Though seeing, they do not see;  
though hearing, they do not hear or understand.

14 In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah:

"You will be ever hearing but never understanding;  
you will be ever seeing but never perceiving.

15 For this people's heart has become calloused;  
they hardly hear with their ears,  
and they have closed their eyes.

Otherwise they might see with their eyes,  
hear with their ears,  
understand with their hearts  
and turn, and I would heal them.'

That the parables were foretold and fulfilled is reiterated in Matt 13:34-35:

34 Jesus spoke all these things to the crowd in parables; he did not say anything to them without using a parable. 35 So was fulfilled what was spoken through the prophet:

"I will open my mouth in parables,  
I will utter things hidden since the creation of the world."

### ***The Nature of the Generation to Whom Jesus Preached Fulfilled Isa 29:13***

In Isa 29:13, Isaiah had described the nature of the generation to whom Jesus would preach:

13 The Lord says:

"These people come near to me with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

Their worship of me  
is made up only of rules taught by men.

In Matt 15:7-9, Matthew records Jesus affirming this prophecy and directing its teaching to contemporary Jews:

7 You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:

8 "These people honor me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me.

9 They worship me in vain;  
their teachings are but rules taught by men."

### ***The Triumphal Entry Fulfilled Zech 9:9***

The triumphal entry to Jerusalem, an event no one could imagine, forecast this unusual appearance of a triumphant Lord and King in Zech 9:9:

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,

Matt 21:2-5 records the exact happening of the Lord's entry:

"Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. 3 If anyone says anything to you, tell him that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away."

4 This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

5 "Say to the Daughter of Zion,  
'See, your king comes to you,  
gentle and riding on a donkey,  
on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'"

Matthew, the Lord, by inclusion, and Isaiah saw and testified to what the Jews could not accept and what premillennialists of today cannot accept: "See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey."

The rejection of the Jews of old and the Zionists of today, who look for the worldly might and power of David, mirrors itself in the materialistic views of contemporary premillennialists, who also look for an earthly kingdom of material might to occupy the land of David. Paul described the dilemma that applies to all three groups in 1 Cor 1:18-25:

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written:

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise;  
the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate."

20 Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not know him, God was pleased through the

foolishness of what was preached to save those who believe. 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength.

### ***Jesus Rejection by the Jews Fulfilled Ps 118:22-24***

A fundamental principle of prophecy and one basic to the New Testament gospel is that the Jews would reject the Christ. Premillennialists, in contrast, argue that this rejection was unexpected; for in their mind the Christ was to re-establish David's earthly kingdom. In their minds, God's plan failed and resulted in the church, established in an interim period until Christ could come yet again at sometime future to 2010. Yet, prophecy foretells the rejection of Jesus as the Christ, and the gospel writers testify that Jesus, the Christ, fulfilled this prophecy. The fulfillment of the prophecy makes certain that Christ is the capstone [cornerstone] of the kingdom of God. In Christ's rejection, the kingdom was born "in the day the Lord has made."

Ps 118:22-24 reads:

22 The stone the builders rejected  
has become the capstone [cornerstone];  
23 the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes.  
24 This is the day the Lord has made;  
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Prospectively, Jesus applied the prophecy to himself and to his kingdom in Matt 21:42-44:

42 Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures:  
"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the capstone [cornerstone];  
the Lord has done this,  
and it is marvelous in our eyes'?"

43 "Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit. 44 He who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed."

Retrospectively, Peter in Peter 2:4-10, applied the prophetic teaching of David and Isaiah to the building of the kingdom on the foundation of Christ, the chief cornerstone. In 1 Peter 2: 4-5, the spiritual house of God is being built:

4 As you come to him, the living Stone — rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him— 5 you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:6 quotes Isa 28:16 as fulfilled:

6 For in Scripture it says:  
"See, I lay a stone in Zion,

a chosen and precious cornerstone,  
and the one who trusts in him  
will never be put to shame."

Peter repeats the teaching of the Lord that the Jews would reject him by quoting Ps 118:22 in 1Peter 2:7:

7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe,  
"The stone the builders rejected  
has become the capstone,"

Thus, the Jews and the premillennialists reject Jesus as the victorious Christ, and they fall, stumbling on Jesus the resurrected and victorious King, according to Isa 8:14, quoted in 1 Peter 2:8:

8 and,  
"A stone that causes men to stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the message – which is also what they were destined for.

One must ask, when did Christ become King? Was it at the cross? Or was it at some time distant in the future. Peter answered the question, looking back to the cross, just as Christ answered the question looking forward to the cross. In 1 Peter 2:9, we are that kingdom that makes the prophecy more certain:

9 But you are **a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God**, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are **the people of God**; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

### ***Christ Exalted to the Right Hand of God Fulfilled Ps 110:10***

When Christ died, he was exalted to the right hand of God where he reigns now as King of kings and Lord of lords. As with the other facts of Jesus' life, mission, and work, the prophets foretold the specific nature of his exaltation. In Ps 110:10, the Psalmist wrote:

10 The Lord says to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand  
until I make your enemies  
a footstool for your feet."

When did Christ sit at the right hand of God. He answered this question when talking to the Pharisees in Matt 22:41-46:

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, 42 "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?"

"The son of David," they replied.

43 He said to them, "How is it then that David, speaking by the Spirit, calls him 'Lord'? For he says,

44 "'The Lord said to my Lord:  
"Sit at my right hand

until I put your enemies  
under your feet." ' 1

45 If then David calls him 'Lord,' how can he be his son?" 46 No one could say a word in reply, and from that day on no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Therefore, prior to his death Jesus claimed to be the one who fulfilled David's prophecy. Following his death the apostles clearly stated that he was at the right hand of the father and exalted above heaven and earth. Peter preached this prophecy by David in Acts 2:32-36:

32 God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. 33 Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. 34 For David did not ascend to heaven, and yet he said,

"The Lord said to my Lord:

"Sit at my right hand

35 until I make your enemies

a footstool for your feet." ' 1

36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."

Paul wrote of what happened at the resurrection of Christ in Eph 1:19-23:

That power is like the working of his mighty strength, 20 which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Finally, John described the present status of Christ and our present relationship with the Lord in Rev 1:5-6:

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the **ruler of the kings of the earth.**

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, 6 and has made **us to be a kingdom** and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

### ***Study Questions from the Scriptures***

1. Heb 11:1-2: For what do we hope? Of what are we certain?
2. Isa 53:4-7: Who takes up our infirmities? Who would be pierced and crushed for us?
3. Ps 103:1-5: Who forgives all our sins? Who heals all our diseases?
4. Matt 8:16-17: What fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah?
5. Mic 7:6: What conflicts did Micah predict? From where do the enemies of God's people sometime come?
6. Matt 10:34-36: What did Jesus bring to the earth?
7. Isa 42:1-4: What different qualities of the Holy Spirit were to come in the prophesied Messiah?



8. Matt 12:15-21: What did God promise to put on Jesus? What does a bruised reed and a smoldering wick mean?
9. 1 Peter 2:23-25: How did Jesus respond to abuse? What did Jesus do for us? To whom must lost sheep return?
10. Isa 6:9-10: What was to be the nature of those who would hear Jesus?
11. Ps 78:2-3: What teaching device was he to use to make things clear to them?
12. Matt 13:11-15: Why did Jesus say that he spoke in parables? To whom were the secrets of the kingdom of heaven given?
13. Matt 13:34-35: What was the exclusive teaching method of Jesus to the crowd?
14. Isa 29:13: How did Isaiah describe those who would listen to Jesus?
15. Matt 15:7-9: What kind of worship did Jesus call this?
16. Zech 9:9: How would the Messiah come?
17. Matt 21:2-5: Who came riding on a donkey?
18. 1 Cor 1:18-25: Why did the Jews refuse Jesus? What is the wisdom of God?
19. Ps 118:22-24: What happened to the stone that the builders rejected? What day did the Lord make?
20. Matt 21:42-44: When the Jews rejected the capstone, to whom did the kingdom go?
21. 1 Peter 2: 4-5: How does Peter describe Christians? Into what are they built?
22. 1 Peter 2:9: What are the terms used by Peter to describe Christians?
23. Ps 110:10: Where was the Lord to sit?
24. Matt 22:41-46: Where did Jesus say that he would sit?
25. Acts 2:32-36: Where did Peter say that Jesus was sitting?
26. Eph 1:19-23: Where did Paul say Jesus was sitting?
27. Rev 1:5-6: Who is the ruler of the kings of the earth? What did Jesus make us to be?