

PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE DEATH OF JESUS CHRIST

Prophecies have been called God's photographs of facts fulfilled in flawless detail. Seldom does the Scripture show that as much as in the verses that pertain to the suffering servanthood of Jesus during the events of Holy Week. Consider these as we worship our Savior:

PROPHECY	ISSUE	FULFILLMENT
Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me — David, Psalm 41:9	He was betrayed by a friend.	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 — Matthew 26:47-49.
If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were rising against me, I could hide. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship at the house of God, as we walked about among the worshipers — David, Psalm 55:12-14.		After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "Very truly I tell you, one of you is going to betray me." . . . "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. As soon as Judas took the bread, Satan entered into him — John 13:21, 26-27a.
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 — Zechariah 11:12.	He was to be sold for thirty pieces of silver.	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 deliver him over to you?" So they counted out for him thirty pieces of silver — Matthew 26:14-15.
And the Lord said to me, "Throw it to the potter" — the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the Lord — Zechariah 11:13.		When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. "I have sinned," he said, "for I have betrayed innocent blood." "What is that to us?" they replied. "That's your responsibility." 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. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day — Matthew 27:3-8.
"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered" — God speaking, Zechariah 13:7b.	He was to be forsaken by his disciples.	[A]ll the disciples deserted him and fled — Matthew 26:56b.

Ruthless witnesses come forward; they question me on things I know nothing about — David, Psalm 35:11.	He was to be accused by false witnesses.	The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward — Matthew 26:59-60a.
[P]eople who are wicked and deceitful have opened their mouths against me; they have spoken against me with lying tongues — David, Psalm 109:2.		
I am like the deaf, who cannot hear, like the mute, who cannot speak; I have become like one who does not hear, whose mouth can offer no reply. . . . So I remained utterly silent, not even saying anything good — David, Psalm 38:13-14, 39:2a.	He was to be silent before his accusers.	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 — Matthew 27:12-14.
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 its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth — Isaiah 53:7.		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 — 1 Peter 2:23.
They will strike Israel’s ruler on the cheek with a rod — Micah 5:1b.	He was to be mocked, beaten and spit upon.	[T]hey spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him — Matthew 26:67.
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 — Isaiah 50:6.		They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again — Matthew 27:30.
[T]here were many who were appalled at him — his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being and his form marred beyond human likeness — Isaiah 52:14.		[Pilate] had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified — Matthew 27:26b.
[T]hey pierce my hands and my feet — David, Psalm 22:16b	He was to be pierced in hands and feet.	[Thomas] said to them, “Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, . . . I will not believe.” . . . Then [Jesus] said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. . . . Stop doubting and believe — John 20:25b, 27.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked . . . and was numbered with the transgressors — Isaiah 53:9a, 12a.	He was to be crucified with thieves.	They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left — Mark 15:27.
[H]e bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors — Isaiah 53:12b.	He was to pray for his persecutors.	“Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing” — Jesus Christ, Luke 23:34a.

<p>I am a worm and not a man, scorned by everyone, despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads. “He trusts in the Lord,” they say, “let the Lord rescue him. Let him deliver him, since he delights in him” — David, Psalm 22:6-8.</p>	<p>He was to be the object of ridicule.</p>	<p>Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!” In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. “He saved others,” they said, “but he can’t save himself! He’s the king of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, ‘I am the Son of God’” — Matthew 27:39-43.</p>
<p>They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment — David, Psalm 22:18.</p>	<p>His garments were to be gambled for.</p>	<p>When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. “Let’s not tear it,” they said to one another. “Let’s decide by lot who will get it.” This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled . . . So this is what the soldiers did — John 19:23-24.</p>
<p>My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from my cries of anguish? — David, Psalm 22:1.</p>	<p>He was to be deserted by God.</p>	<p>About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” (which means “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”) — Matthew 27:46.</p>
<p>“My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth . . . I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. . . . They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst — David, Psalm 22:15a; 69:3a, 21.</p>	<p>He was to agonize with thirst.</p>	<p>[K]nowing that everything had now been finished, and so that Scripture would be fulfilled, Jesus said, “I am thirsty.” A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus’ lips — John 19:28-29.</p>
<p>[Y]ou are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit; deliver me, Lord, my faithful God — David, Psalm 31:4b-5.</p>	<p>He was to commit himself to God.</p>	<p>Jesus called out with a loud voice, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.” When he had said this, he breathed his last — Luke 23:46.</p>
<p>My friends and companions avoid me because of my wounds; my neighbors stay far away — David, Psalm 38:11.</p>	<p>He was to have his friends stand far off.</p>	<p>[A]ll those who knew him, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things — Luke 23:49.</p>
<p>You have taken from me my closest friends — Psalm 88:8a.</p>		
<p>“I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me” — God speaking, Isaiah 63:3a.</p>		

[H]e protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken — David, Psalm 34:20.	He was to be spared having his bones broken.	The soldiers therefore came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with Jesus, and then those of the other. But when they came to Jesus and found that he was already dead, they did not break his legs — John 19:32-33.
“They will look on me, the one they have pierced” — God speaking, Zechariah 12:10b	He was to be pierced.	[O]ne of the soldiers pierced Jesus’ side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water — John 19:34.
“In that day,” declares the Sovereign Lord, “I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth in broad daylight” — Amos 8:9.	He was to be hidden from the crowd by darkness.	From noon until three in the afternoon darkness came over all the land — Matthew 27:45.
He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death — Isaiah 53:9a.	He was to be buried with the rich.	[T]here came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus’ body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away — Matthew 27:57-60.
Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all — Isaiah 53:4-6.	He was to die a voluntary, substitutionary death.	“[T]he Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” — Jesus Christ, Mark 10:45.
		“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep” — Jesus Christ, John 10:11.
		Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures — Paul, I Corinthians 15:3b.
		I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me — Paul, Galatians 2:20.

Some dates to keep in mind (very broad approximations):

Zechariah: 500 years before the events described

Micah: 700 years before the events described

Psalms: 1,000 years before the events described

Isaiah: 700 years before the events described

Amos: 700 years before the events described

~ [U]nderstand that no prophecy ever had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit — II Peter 1:20-21.

~ As for God, His way is perfect: The Lord’s word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him — David, Psalm 18:30.

~ “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away” — Jesus Christ, Matthew 24:35.