

**CTFW APRIL
2020**



**EASTER
MATERIAL**

KING OF KINGS

Week 1 – The Coming King

Bottom Line: Jesus fulfilled *all* the Old Testament prophecies to prove He was the Messiah.

Bible: Matthew 5:17; Isaiah 7:14, Matt. 1:20–23; Micah 5:2; Luke 2:3–7; Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:14–15; Isaiah 35:5–6a; Luke 7:20–22; Zech. 9:9, Matt. 21:1–5; Psalm 41:9; Luke 22:47–48; Zechariah 11:12–13, Matthew 27:3–10; Isaiah 53:7, Luke 23

STARTER ACTIVITY

1. What is *Prophecy*?

Supplies: Markers, Poster Board, Dictionary

Divide students into small groups and give each group markers and a poster board. Instruct the groups to discuss the question, “What is prophecy?” Then, have each group of students write their own definition of *prophecy* on the poster board. You might want to have them read the definition from a dictionary to get started, but encourage them to put it into their own words. Give each group an opportunity to share their definition in Large Group.

TEACH

This lesson covers a lot of Scripture in the teach time, but it should not take much longer than your normal teaching time. Be sure that you present the point behind each prophecy, but move through them quickly to keep attention of students. For each prophecy, students will be encouraged to write a question in their notes that will help them think through what they are learning.

Supplies: Paper and pen for each student to take notes, definition posters created in previous activity

Today, we begin a new series that will look at the King of Kings, Jesus Christ. In just a few weeks, we will celebrate Easter Sunday, the miraculous resurrection of the Messiah.

Before we get to that Sunday, we’re going to begin with this question, “How do we know Jesus really was the Messiah?” Think about that question. How did the disciples know Jesus was the Messiah? How did the people who were healed by Jesus know He was the Messiah? How do you know He really was the Messiah?

In Matthew 5:17, Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.”

We can know the Jesus is the Messiah because **Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies to prove He was the messiah.** What is prophecy? Let’s take a moment to let each group give us their definition for *prophecy*.

Allow each small group time to share their definition for prophecy.

Those are great definitions. Simply put, *Prophecy is the future told in advance by God through a prophet.* The Jewish people were waiting for a Messiah. For over a thousand years, they had been hearing the prophets talk about the day a Messiah would come and change the world. In fact, the Old Testament contains over 400 prophecies about the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled every single one.

To help us answer this question, “how do we know Jesus really was the Messiah,” we’re going to look at 8 Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and how Jesus fulfilled them. On your paper, number 1 through 8 and write down each of the 8 prophecies as we discuss them. Let’s start with His birth.

1. Born of a Virgin

The prophet Isaiah spoke of Jesus’ birth 700 years before it happened.

In Isaiah 7:14, he says, “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”

Some people will claim that Jesus *faked* the prophecies. They claim that He was just an ordinary man who knew what the Old Testament said, and so He would purposely cause those things to happen. How could that be with this prophecy? This prophecy is special because how could Jesus fake his own birth! That’s crazy!

We see how this prophecy is fulfilled word for word when the angel appears to Joseph to tell him that Mary is pregnant. Listen to this Scripture from the New Testament,

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”(which means “God with us”). (Matt. 1:20–23)

How does Jesus being born of a virgin help me to believe He is the Messiah?

2. Born in Bethlehem

The Old Testament prophet, Micah, spoke of Jesus 700 years before His birth. He foretold the exact city in which Jesus would be born. Micah 5:2 says, “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.”

The fulfillment of this prophecy is found in Luke 2:3–7:

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son.

Joseph and Mary lived in Nazareth, not Bethlehem. So what happened? The government was concerned that they weren't getting all the taxes that they thought they should be getting, so they made every man go back to the place of their ancestors to register. For Joseph, that place was Bethlehem. At the same time of the census, Mary was due to give birth to Jesus. And so it happened that she gave birth while they were in the town of Bethlehem, and the prophecy of Micah was fulfilled. Again, how could Jesus fake the place of His birth?

If Jesus was born in another city, could we believe He was the Messiah?

3. Jesus Spent Part of His Childhood in Egypt

The prophet Hosea spoke about Jesus' childhood in Hosea 11:1. The prophet says, “When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.” This is an interesting prophecy because it refers to two events: one in the past and one in the future. We know that God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, but this verse also speaks of a specific time in the life of Jesus.

After Jesus' birth, King Herod heard of His birth and was afraid that He would overthrow the Government. Herod ordered all boys in the kingdom to be killed. An angel of the Lord came to Joseph and told him of Herod's plan and to take Jesus south to Egypt. Joseph and Mary obeyed the angel and fled to Egypt. Matthew 2:14–15 shows how this fulfilled the prophecy of Hosea, “So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”

How do these three prophecies about Jesus birth and childhood help you believe that Jesus did not “fake” being the Messiah?

4. Jesus' Ministry Included Miraculous Healings

The prophet Isaiah foretold that Jesus' ministry would include miracles and healings. Isaiah said, "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy." (Isaiah 35:5–6a)

If you've heard any story of Jesus' ministry, you know this is true. Jesus performed many miracles and healed many people of their physical problems. Jesus gave sight to Bartimaeus, healed the crippled man who was brought through the ceiling by his friends, and so many other miraculous stories.

How do the miracles and healings of Jesus help you to believe He is the Messiah?

5. Jesus Entered Jerusalem on a Donkey

The prophet Zechariah spoke 500 years before Jesus was born. He said, "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." (Zech. 9:9)

This is exactly what happened in the life of Jesus. Jesus sent two disciples into the village and told them that they would find a donkey tied up there. They were instructed to bring it back to Jesus, and He rode into Jerusalem on that donkey (Matt. 21:1–5). It happened word for word as Zechariah had prophesied! Holy Cow...or in this case Holy Donkey!

What if the Disciples had not found the donkey or disobeyed and brought Jesus another animal? Would that change your faith that Jesus is the Messiah?

6. Jesus Was Betrayed By a Friend (Judas)

Many of the prophecies about Jesus relate to His last days. Many people, including the disciples did not understand everything that was happening to Jesus, but it all went down exactly as the Old Testament prophecies said it would. For instance, Psalm 41 was written 1,000 years before Jesus was born, and verse 9 says, "Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me."

Who is this prophecy referring to in Jesus' life? Judas Iscariot, of course. Judas spent 3 years with Jesus and broke bread with Him many times, and then he was the one who betrayed Jesus.

Why do you think Jesus chose Judas to be a disciple?

7. Jesus Was Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver

Not only was it prophesied that Judas would be the one to betray Jesus, but did you know that Old Testament prophecy actually foretold the exact price that

Judas would receive for betraying Jesus. How many pieces of silver did Judas receive for betraying Jesus? That's right, 30 pieces of silver. Zechariah foretold that exact amount. (Zechariah 11:12–13)

Five hundred years before Jesus was betrayed, Zechariah's prophecy told that the betrayal price would be 30 pieces of silver. He also foretold that Judas would throw that money into the Temple when he realized what he had done. Everything happened exactly as the Old Testament said it would happen.

How does this prophecy show that God has always had a plan to save the world through Jesus Christ?

8. Jesus Was Beaten and Crucified

The prophet Isaiah told of Jesus' suffering and death 700 years before it occurred. Isaiah 53:7 says, "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." The prophecy of Isaiah describes the trial, the beating, and the death of Jesus Christ in very vivid detail. Each of the Gospels gives the account of Jesus trial and crucifixion, and each of the Gospels shows how Jesus fulfilled the prophetic words of Isaiah.

How does Jesus' suffering and death prove that He is the Messiah?

Wrap-Up

So, how could these prophets, who lived 500, 700, and 1,000 years before Jesus, know so much about the life and death of Jesus Christ? The only explanation is that God gave them the words to speak. God has had a plan to send a Messiah ever since the beginning. He gave the prophets these signs, so that there would be no doubt when the Messiah came to earth.

We started with the question, "How do we know Jesus really was the Messiah?" There are hundreds of prophecies that Jesus fulfilled to prove that He was the Messiah. We looked at just 8. I don't know about you, but those 8 are pretty convincing to me.

Josh McDowell is a famous Christian author and speaker. He looked at all the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled and came up with a mathematical solution for believing Jesus is the Messiah.

[Slide 11—1 in 100,000,000,000,000 (100 Quadrillion)]

The probability of a man fulfilling just 8 of the Old Testament prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (100 Quadrillion). (*Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, McDowell, 1972)

This is equivalent to covering the entire state of Texas with silver dollars two feet deep, marking one of them, mixing them all up and having a blindfolded person select the marked one at random the first time.

*[Slide 12—Bottom Line: **Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies to prove He was the messiah.**]*

Jesus did not fulfill only eight prophecies, He fulfilled them all. **Jesus fulfilled all the Old Testament prophecies to prove He was the Messiah.** The mathematical probability of that is astronomical. Jesus left no room for doubt by fulfilling all the Old Testament prophecies. He wanted everyone, including you, to have faith and believe that He really is the Messiah.

End in prayer.

SMALL GROUP

Discuss the following questions in small groups:

- Which of these prophecies helped you the most to have faith in Jesus as the Messiah?
- How did the disciples and other early-church believers know Jesus was the Messiah? How did Scripture help them discover that?
- How have you personally experienced or seen God keep the promises He makes in Scripture?
- If there were one prophecy that was not fulfilled, how would that change your faith in Jesus Christ?
- How can you use Old Testament prophecies and their New Testament fulfillment to teach your friends about Jesus?
- Allow students to share their answers to the questions they wrote in their notes during Large Group.
- What is one thing you will do differently after studying this lesson?

SMALL GROUP ACTIVITY

Prophecy Timeline

Supplies: sheet of butcher paper, markers, Bibles, Large Group notes

Give each small group a set of supplies to create a timeline of the prophecies discussed in Large Group and their fulfillment. Instruct them to draw a horizontal

line from left to right, and place an “X” in the center marking the birth of Jesus Christ.

Have students look up Scriptures and read each prophecy and fulfillment. After discussing each, place them in the appropriate place on the timeline. Allow small groups to hang the timeline in their small group space or in the Large Group space. Keep the timelines up throughout the *King of Kings* series.

The small group may divide into pairs to discuss the prophecies or complete the activity as a group. Make sure that each of the 8 prophecies is included on the timeline. The following information can be used to help students create the timeline:

1. Born of a Virgin

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Isaiah 7:14; Approx. 750–700 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Matthew 1:20–23; Approx. 3–1 BC

2. Born in Bethlehem

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Micah 5:2; 700 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Luke 2:3–7; (Mark at the “X”)

3. Childhood in Egypt

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Hosea 11:1; 725 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Matthew 2:14–15; Approx. 2–3 AD

4. Healings and Miracles

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Isaiah 35:5–6; 750–700 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Luke 7:20–22; 30–33 AD

5. Entry into Jerusalem

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Zechariah 9:9; 500 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Matthew 21:1–5; 30–33 AD

6. Betrayed by Judas

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Psalm 41:9; Approx. 1,000 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Luke 22:47–48; 30–33 AD

7. Betrayed for 30 Pieces of Silver

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Zechariah 11:12–13; 500 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Matthew 27:3–10; 30–33 AD

8. Jesus Beaten and Crucified

Prophecy Scripture; Date: Isaiah 53:7; Approx. 750–700 BC

Fulfillment Scripture and Date: Luke 23; 33 AD