

Tusculum Hills Baptist Church  
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## THE PROPHECIES OF JESUS

Various scriptures, starting with Matthew 16

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Today's sermon will cover these prophecies of Jesus:

- Jesus prophesied three things around his death.
- He prophesied that his words would be around forever.
- He foretold that Mary of Bethany would never be forgotten.
- He spoke of the abandonment by his disciples.
- He tells us he will return some day.

**INTRODUCTION:** As we come upon Resurrection Sunday in a few weeks, I was considering what messages to bring to you, and it struck me I've shared many prophecies about Jesus but I have never shared prophecies by Jesus. As I looked into it, I realized there are more than I thought. We think of Jesus the Savior more than we think of Jesus the rabbi or Jesus the prophet.

It is important to understand how I view the Bible. Secular people merely hearing my message could easily tear it apart if they don't accept the Bible as historically accurate. I view it as historically accurate and sequential. In other words, I believe it wasn't written like a person writes fiction. A person writing fiction comes up with a plot and delivers the plot through a literary process. A person writing non-fiction records the sequence of events as they happened. When Jesus made a prediction (or prophecy) it was either written down and later fulfilled, or it was written down after it was both prophesied and fulfilled. I do not believe the writers of the scripture took what had already happened and made up a prophecy to be entered earlier in order to make Jesus appear to be a prophet.

All that might have been unnecessary to say, but there are so many skeptics out there. So, in summary, I'll be preaching from the perspective that the Bible is

historically and sequentially accurate in the narrative about Jesus' prophecies and their fulfillment.

## **IN ONE SCRIPTURE JESUS PROPHESED THREE THINGS ABOUT HIS DEATH**

By the time we come to Matthew 16, Jesus had spent quite some time with his disciples who had buried John the Baptist, watched Jesus walk on water, saw him feed thousands of people, heard him teach parables and listened to him deal with the Pharisees and Sadducees. Now they heard something new:

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 16:21

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.*

**EXPLANATION:** When the disciples heard this, they must have wondered why? Why would religious people make Jesus suffer? It didn't make any sense to them. But we know it happened. As time passed, the religious leaders of the day felt threatened by Jesus. They harassed him and ridiculed him and we know they did indeed make him suffer.

- In verse 21 Jesus prophesied he'd die in Jerusalem. He did. Mark 15 and Luke 23 tell us he was in Jerusalem.
- He prophesied the religious leaders would make him suffer. They did. The night he was arrested, the religious leaders allowed him to be beaten. Luke 22:63-65 records the fulfillment of Jesus prophecy. <sup>63</sup> *The men who were guarding Jesus began mocking and beating him.* <sup>64</sup> *They blindfolded him and demanded, "Prophecy! Who hit you?"* <sup>65</sup> *And they said many other insulting things to him.*
- He prophesied he'd rise on the third day. He did. From John 2. <sup>19</sup> *Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days."* <sup>20</sup> *They replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and you are going to raise it in three days?"* <sup>21</sup> *But the temple he had spoken of*

was his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

- In First Corinthians 15, the Apostle Paul summed it up: <sup>3</sup>For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, <sup>4</sup>that He was buried, that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

## **JESUS PROPHESED HIS WORDS WOULD BE AROUND FOREVER**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 24:35

*“Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away.”*

**EXPLANATION:** And here we are 2000 years later discussing his words. This was a bold prophecy of Jesus...to prophesy something for all people for all of time.

When Jesus said this, the only ways to record someone's words were through a scribe, or through word of mouth. There were no printing presses and no way to store recorded words electronically. The likelihood of anyone's words from the first century AD being everlasting was about zero percent. Think about something you heard from a person many years ago. You may have been seriously impacted but the reality is that those words are in your mind and will probably die with you. If you've shared those words with others, they will eventually die with them. The words of the most important people of all time eventually are forgotten, or published in books that gather dust.

**ILLUSTRATION:** And look at today...with all the ways words can be recorded, what impact do they have? When I was a kid, the Watergate scandal consumed all media. Most of you are old enough to remember it. In all the mess, the President was accused of abusing his power, including secretly recording his opponents. At that time, words were of the utmost importance. Did you know now it's all online and you can listen to it? But those words aren't really important to us today. They are just archived words.

But the words of Jesus, according to Jesus, would never pass away. That was an incredible prophecy and I stand here testifying to you today that his words are still right here with us.

The early Jews tried to squelch the words of Jesus. Pagans tried as well. Governments have tried to stamp out the words of Jesus as have some so-called friends of the scripture. In the 1500s, there were several councils held which became known as the counter-reformation councils. The Fourth Council, held in Trent, Italy, declared that the indiscriminate circulation of the scripture in the common language of the people would do more harm than good, and those who possessed such scriptures would not have their sins forgiven unless they handed them over to the church.

How successful were those attempts to stop the spreading of the words of Jesus? Not very. I believe it is a very safe assumption that the words of Jesus have been heard more times by more people in history than the words of anyone, anywhere, at any time in history.

## **JESUS PROPHESED MARY OF BETHANY WOULD NEVER BE FORGOTTEN**

In Matthew 26 verses 11-13, The disciples ridiculed a woman for wasting valuable oil. Mary poured the oil on Jesus' body in anticipation of his coming death. Jesus said what she did was good.

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 26:11-13

*"Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for me. For the poor you have with you always; but you do not always have me. For when she poured this perfume upon my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her."*

The disciples would be astounded if they had known then that on this day almost two thousand years later, I'd talk about her. I am fulfilling prophecy by telling you about her this morning.

## **JESUS PROPHESED THE ABANDONMENT BY HIS DISCIPLES**

**JUDAS:** Look in Matthew 26:21-22: *And as they were eating, he said, "Truly I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me." And they were exceeding sorrowful, and began to say unto him every one, "Is it I, Lord?"*

Who fulfilled this prophecy? Judas Iscariot. In Luke 22:47-48 we read: *While he was still speaking a crowd came up, and the man who was called Judas, one of the Twelve, was leading them. He approached Jesus to kiss him, but Jesus asked him, "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"*

**THE DISCIPLES:** Matthew 26:31-32 *"This very night you will all fall away on account of me, for it is written: 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'..."*

Later Jesus was arrested and verse 56 tells us the disciples deserted him.

**PETER:** Matthew 26:33-34 *"Even if all fall away on account of you, I never will." "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "This very night, before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times."*

It was fulfilled in verses 74-75 When Peter was questioned if he was one of the disciples... *...he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!" Immediately a rooster crowed. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.*

There were other things Jesus prophesied: The downfall of the Jews, destruction of Jerusalem within one generation, the destruction of the temple, the persecution and scattering of the Jews, and the later coming together of the Jews to govern themselves.

There is one thing Jesus prophesied that hasn't yet happened:

## **JESUS PROPHESED HIS RETURN**

**SCRIPTURE:** Matthew 24:36-44

*"But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>37</sup>As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; <sup>39</sup>and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. <sup>40</sup>Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. <sup>41</sup>Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left.*

<sup>42</sup> “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. <sup>43</sup> But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. <sup>44</sup> So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

**CONCLUSION:** Jesus fulfilled his other prophecies and he’ll be sure to fulfill this one! Jesus is returning one day. Will you be ready for his return? It could happen any moment!

Jesus said to repent and believe...repent of sin and believe that he is the Savior!

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I use the NIV translation of scripture because of its conversational nature. Feel free to go to Bible Gateway and copy and paste whichever translation you want to use. This transcript has been edited to an outline format that improves readability and therefore may not exactly follow the video edition.

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