

Christology 101

Lesson 8

Old Testament Prophecies of Christ in the Old Testament

²⁵ And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ **Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.** ²⁸ And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. ²⁹ But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight. ³² They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"
Luke 24:25-32

Imagine having Jesus personally explain the many Old Testament references to the Messiah that specifically pertained to Him. Those two disciples on the Road to Emmaus had a true "eye-opening" experience when Messianic prophecy was explained to them and they were able to see Christ in the Old Testament.

There are not just a few, vague, isolated references. There are many and it is clear that the Old Testament written over a period of 1,000 years by dozens of authors has a central theme that the Messiah is coming. The New Testament has a central theme that Jesus is the Messiah.

"The existence on such a wide scale of prophecy concerning Christ before he was born is of great significance as no other person in all the world ever was predicted in this way nor had such detailed prophecies ascribing to him the power and attributes of God. Such prophecy in itself was a miracle and bore testimony to a supernatural Person whose claims demand that we worship and obey Him." (Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord*, 80)

Josh McDowell in his classic book, *Evidence that Demands a Verdict*, relates that the Old Testament has more than 300 references to the Messiah that were fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

An Illustration

Jesus came in literal fulfillment of 60 specific Old Testament prophecies. Josh McDowell in his book, *More Than a Carpenter*, considered just 8 of those prophecies to show that their fulfillment was no coincidence. He says that by using the modern science of probability in reference to those 8 prophecies, we find that the chance that any man might have lived down to the present time and fulfilled all eight prophecies is 1 in 10⁽¹⁷⁾ power. That is a 1 followed by 17 zeroes, or 100 quadrillion. (McDowell, *More Than a Carpenter*, 108) In order to help us comprehend this staggering probability, Professor Peter W. Stoner illustrates it by supposing that we take that many silver dollars and lay them on

the face of Texas. They will cover all of the state two feet deep. Now mark one of these silver dollars and stir the whole mass thoroughly, all over the state. Blindfold a man and tell him that he can travel as far as he wishes, but he must pick up one silver dollar and say that this is the right one. What chance would he have of getting the right one? Just the same chance that the prophets would have had of writing these eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man, from their day to the present time, providing they wrote them in their own wisdom." (Stoner, 106-112)