



Magnolia Bible Church Men's Group - Prophecy Series

Lesson #12: Jesus' Fulfillment of the Messianic Prophecies

Thursday, December 1, 2016

This is a very special lesson in prophecy because it deals specifically with Jesus' fulfillment of the Messianic Prophecies found in the Old Testament. In all of my studies associated with prophecy, this is my favorite because of the statistical impossibility that one man could fulfill even a small portion of all the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus. I will admit that I have never personally counted all of the prophecies fulfilled by Jesus, so I am relying on the work (and word) of others. There is no way we can explore all of the prophecies in this particular lesson; however, we will hit enough of the prophecies to make the point that Jesus was indeed the Messiah!

There have been described in the Old Testament 300 prophecies regarding the First Coming of the Messiah and 500 of the Second Coming. All of these prophecies were made hundreds of years (some thousands) before the birth of Jesus and He fulfilled them *to the letter*.¹ Consider the following points regarding the mathematical likelihood that one man could fulfill a given number of prophecies.

George Heron, a French mathematician, calculated that the odds of one man fulfilling only 40 prophecies are 1 in 10 to the power of 157 (i.e., 1×10^{157}). That is a 1 followed by 157 zeros. Compare this to the odds of winning a 6-digit lottery to be on the order of 14 followed by 6 zeros.² Another mathematician, Dr. Peter S. Ruckman, claims the odds of one person fulfilling only 60 of them by the only person who claimed to be the Son of God, who died on a "tree" on Calvary, and who rose the 3rd day are astronomical!... not just one in one trillion, but one out of ten to the 895th power (1×10^{895}); that is a one over a one followed by 895 zeros.

One of the most compelling and astounding aspects of Jesus being the Messiah is His genealogy. See the artwork provided in **Figure 1** that shows the family tree, or "Genealogy of Jesus Christ". You will note that the lines of both Mary and Joseph are provided in Luke and Matthew, respectively. Since Luke was writing for a largely Gentile audience, he wanted to trace Jesus' physical descent (which had to be through Mary), showing that He was not only the son of David, but also son of Abraham (through whose descendants God promised to bless the nations), and son of Adam (which relates Jesus to the entire human race). Matthew, on the other hand, writing for primarily a Jewish readership, wanted to authenticate Jesus as the legal heir of the throne of David through Solomon, who was Joseph's ancestor. Since Jesus was Joseph's adopted son, Matthew traces the legal right to the throne through him.³

Here is another *very interesting* observation. In Jeremiah 22:30, the Lord curses the disobedient King Jeconiah (also called Coniah and Jehoiachin) by saying that **none of his descendants** would sit on David's throne. On the surface, this curse would seem to contradict God's covenant with David that one of his sons would rule forever (as the Messiah). Since Jeconiah is in the line of David through Solomon that goes down to Joseph, Jesus would have fallen under this curse if he had been the natural descendant of Joseph through Solomon (in fact, Jeconiah died in captivity in Babylon and none of his descendants ruled after him). However, Jesus was only the adopted son of Joseph, not his natural descendant. Thus, He was not under the curse, but was qualified to be heir to David's throne legally through Joseph back through Solomon. However, Jesus was David's natural descendant through Mary back through Nathan; more importantly, this was

¹ Text taken from *Prophecy Unveiled: Understanding the Past, Predicting the Future* by John W. Buckley, Ph.D.

² In a lottery in which you pick 6 numbers from a possible pool of 49 numbers, your chances of winning the jackpot (correctly choosing all 6 numbers drawn) are 1 in 13,983,816. That's 1 shot in almost 14 million.

³ <https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-14-genealogy-jesus-luke-323-38>

achieved through the bloodline as Jesus was born of Mary. The bottom line is that when God makes a promise, He makes a promise! Even when man messes up, God finds a way for His will to be carried out.

The prophecies in the Old Testament were critically important to validate that Jesus was indeed the Messiah. At times it is hard for us to believe that the Jewish Leaders of Jesus' time who had spent so much time studying the Old Testament could not recognize that Jesus was indeed the promised Messiah. However, their blindness was a testimony to their own agenda, as we are all prone to do as humans. As Paul stated in Romans 11:11, it is for our benefit (as Gentiles) that the Jews rejected Jesus.

Spend a few minutes reviewing the prophecies presented in **Figure 2**. Note on the right hand side of the chart the Old Testament prophetic passage, while on the left hand side is the corresponding fulfillment as presented in the New Testament.

We are nearing the end of our Prophecy Series. I hope you have enjoyed this study and learned a few new things! All prophecy hinges on Jesus; both in terms of His First Coming and the Second Coming for which we are eagerly awaiting. The fact that God has allowed us through the study of His Word to get a small glimpse of His-story for mankind communicates the love He has for us and the plans He has for us, especially if we choose to submit our will to His!

Questions for Consideration

1. In reviewing the contents in **Figure 2**, identify three prophecies that mean the most to you.

Prophecy #1:

Prophecy #2:

Prophecy #3:

2. Psalm 22, called the *Song of David*, is one of the most powerful passages in the entire Old Testament (and one of my favorites) regarding the suffering Messiah. Read this chapter and identify at least 5 events that were fulfilled by Jesus during the Crucifixion experience.
3. To see if you are paying attention to the material in this lesson, according to Jeremiah 22:30 what curse was issued by God and what plan did He have for working around the curse to ensure that the Messiah would still come though the line of David?
4. As we are prone to consider in the Men's Group at Magnolia Bible Church – *life is about Divine Opportunities to share the Gospel!* Considering what you have learned this week, develop several questions you could ask a non-believer in order to open up a dialogue for sharing the Gospel.

EXAMPLE: *Did you know that Psalm 22, written by King David 1,000 year before the Messiah, actually predicted that Jesus' hands and feet would be pierced?*

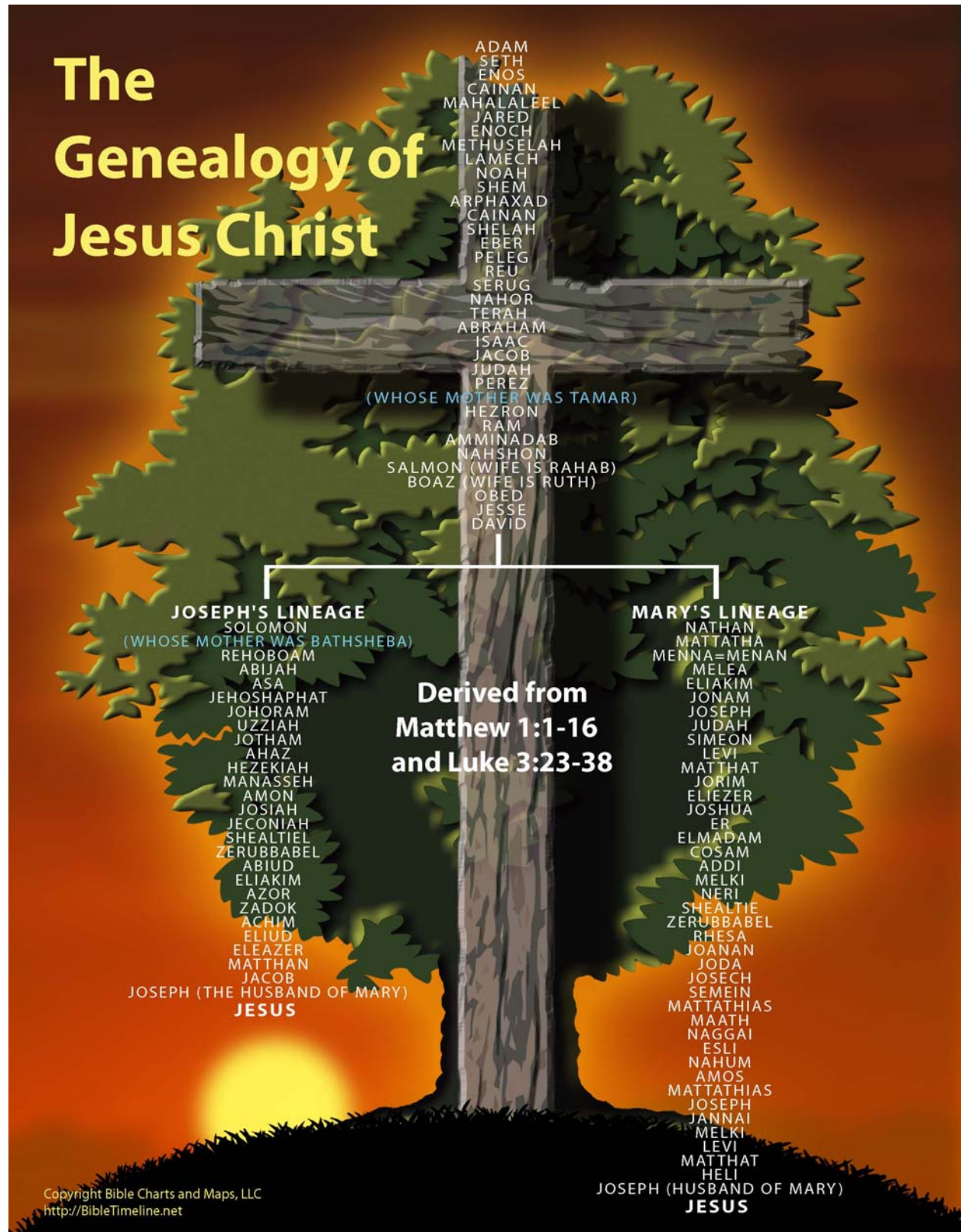


Figure 1: The Family Tree of Jesus according to Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-28

FULFILLED MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S LIFE		
PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel (Isaiah 7:14).	BORN OF A VIRGIN	After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 1:18).
Out of you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, shall come forth the One to be Ruler in Israel (Micah 5:2).	BORN IN BETHLEHEM	Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea (Matthew 2:1).
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding (Isaiah 11:2).	FAMED FOR WISDOM	Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men (Luke 2:52).
He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth (Isaiah 53:9).	LIVED A SINLESS LIFE	Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth (1 Peter 2:22).
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. The lame shall leap like a deer (Isaiah 35:5-6).	HEALED THE NEEDY	The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear (Matthew 11:5).
The Lord has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor (Isaiah 61:1).	PREACHED GOOD NEWS	The poor have the gospel preached to them (Matthew 11:5).
Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey (Zechariah 9:9).	ENTERED JERUSALEM IN TRIUMPH	They brought the colt to Jesus, and He sat on it . . . Then those who followed, cried, saying, "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Mark 11:7-9).

PROPHECIES ABOUT CHRIST'S DEATH AND RESURRECTION		
PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT
My own familiar friend in whom I trusted has lifted up his heel against me (Psalm 41:9).	BETRAYED BY A FRIEND	Judas Iscariot, one of the twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Him (Mark 14:10).
They weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12).	SOLD FOR THIRTY PIECES OF SILVER	And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver (Matthew 26:15).
He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth (Isaiah 53:7).	SILENT WHEN ACCUSED	Pilate asked, "See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing (Mark 15:4-5).
I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting (Isaiah 50:6).	BEATEN AND SPAT UPON	Then some began to spit on Him, and the officers struck Him with the palms of their hands (Mark 14:65).
He was numbered with the transgressors (Isaiah 53:12).	CRUCIFIED WITH SINNERS	With Him they also crucified two robbers (Mark 15:27).
They will look on Me whom they pierced (Zechariah 12:10).	HIS SIDE PIERCED	But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear (John 19:34).
He made His grave with the rich at His death (Isaiah 53:9).	BURIED WITH THE RICH	A rich man from Arimathaea, named Joseph, asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph laid it in his own new tomb (Matthew 27:57-60).
You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption (Psalm 16:10).	ROSE FROM THE DEAD	The angel said to them, "You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen!" (Mark 16:6).
You have ascended on high (Psalm 68:18).	ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN	He was received up into heaven (Mark 16:19).
The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand" (Psalm 110:1).	EXALTED AT GOD'S RIGHT HAND	Jesus Christ has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God (1 Peter 3:22).

Figure 2: Selected Old Testament prophecies fulfilled by Jesus