

Jesus is the Fulfillment of Prophecy

John 1:19-28¹⁹ And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.)²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know,²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

❖ Intro:

- **I have been asked by my children: How do we know we are right?**
 - How do we know what we believe is true?
- **Here is my answer... Jesus fulfilled words written about him sometimes over a thousand years before His birth**
 - I am not so foolish to say we have everything right...
 - Or that our local church is the only church that does things right...
 - That certainly isn't true...
- **But, we do have Jesus right!**
 - We do believe on Jesus as He is presented in the Bible...
 - Our Faith is in something not yet seen...
- **But, our faith is not a blind faith...**
 - Far from it... God has given us more proof than we would ever need...
- **And this is what we see in these verses tonight...**
 - There is a man out in the wilderness preaching about God...
 - And there are so many people coming to hear what he has to say
 - And many of them are just like you and me
 - But, some of them were religious leaders...
 - And they just wanted to know... "Are you the one we are expecting to come"
- **2000 years ago... there were so many people expecting the coming of the Christ...**
 - They were expecting a Messiah... they were expecting someone sent from God...
 - To save their people...
- **They were a little off on what saving meant...**
 - They were thinking small, local, national, and in that moment...
 - And God was thinking HUGE... Worldwide... and for Eternity...
- **But, isn't it amazing that they were expecting God to send someone?**
 - And they weren't the only ones expecting him...
 - Even Magi... or Wise Men from the East came looking for Him...
- **Jesus was expected then...**
 - And He is the fulfillment of hundred of prophecies now!...
- **So... I trust wholly in the truth of the gospel because God has not given me a blind faith**
 - Rather, He has proven it to me by the written word....

❖ Who John Was (Just briefly)

- **A Witness with a Testimony**
 - ¹⁹And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"

➤ **An OT prophet – A Bridge from OT to NT**

▪ **John was the Son of a Priest.**

- Luke 1 tells the promise of his birth
- He would be filled with Spirit of God even in the Womb...
- John grew up the son of a priest... (Remember this)

▪ **There had been no Prophet in Israel in over 400 years...**

- And the people were **eager** to hear from God.

▪ **Prophets would come along and God would speak through them to the people**

- He would reveal His plan to them, or let them know He is not pleased with something

▪ **John enters the scene as a Prophet...**

- And He identified himself in lifestyle... like the poor people... and like the prophets of old
- He dressed in poor clothes... And ate poor people food...
- But thousands were coming to hear him preach

▪ **People were flocking to him...**

- And He was preaching to them... Preaching a message of Repentance of Sins...
- Telling people to turn their hearts to God

➤ **They asked him who he was...**

- ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

- A lot of questions here... and you can ask them later if you wish...like... why these questions

▪ **But we see they are waiting for the Christ...**

- The people of Israel have been waiting for their Messiah to come...
- And all of these questions were related to their expectation of a King to come for them...

➤ **His Answer : A Voice**

- ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."

▪ **A Voice in the Wilderness....**

- A quote from **Isaiah 40:3** A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God."
 - ◆ Written over 700 years before John and Jesus were born

▪ **I'm only a Voice John says...**

- Think of the humility here.... I am not even a man... I am only a voice...

❖ **What was John's Purpose? To Point the World to Jesus**

- **I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."**

➤ **Make the way straight for God**

▪ **An Analogy, or Parable I guess....**

- The wilderness was a tough terrain to navigate...
- And travelers often found themselves following twists and turns...
- and working to get through the terrain...

▪ **From a spiritual aspect.... John the Baptist came along to begin to turn people's hearts to God.**

- The first prophet in 400 years came declaring a message of Repentance and Preparation
- The Spiritual ruin of the people was great...
- And the message of Jesus would prove to be a difficult one to hear...

▪ **The Way of the Lord –**

- If you notice... in Isaiah 40... LORD may be in all caps there...
- Meaning the writer is using the proper name for God... Yahweh...
- In Isaiah 40 the prophecy is concerning making a way for Yahweh...
- And in John 1... we see the Baptist making the way for Jesus, and He refers to Him as Yahweh

▪ **He Came Baptizing....**

- And His baptism was a baptism of repentance...
- As people would repent of their sins... John would baptize them...
- And there were many people in need of Repentance...

▪ **John is asked about his Baptism**

- ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

◆ **He points to Jesus... I am unworthy of the one who is coming after me**

- The people's need... was a spiritual washing... a renewal... John points to Jesus

◆ **John was an Amazing guy...**

- And people flocked to see him...
- But He said of Jesus... I am unworthy to untie his dirt covered sandal
- If I asked you to untie me shoe... would you feel unworthy to do so...
- Or would you feel too Worthy to untie my shoe....

▪ **John would also tell them that Jesus would come baptizing with the Holy Spirit and with fire...**

➢ **So, John... was preparing the hearts of the people for the coming of Jesus...**

- And people were expecting a coming Messiah... a King to Save the People...
- So many came asking...

➢ **Let's spend a little time this evening looking through the Bible to some places**

- Where it pointed specifically to Jesus, long before He came to this earth

❖ **They Should Have Recognized Jesus... and so should we!**

- So... let's imagine ourselves in the shoes of someone that lived in Jesus day
 - Imagine hearing Peter preach this...
- Acts 3:17-26 ¹⁷ "And now, brothers, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. ¹⁸ But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his Christ would suffer, he thus fulfilled. ¹⁹ Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out,
 - And imagine yourself beginning to look into these words from the prophets...

❖ **You Start in Genesis**

➢ **The very first Prophecy... this happened thousands of years before Jesus**

- Genesis 3:15 (ESV) ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."
- So you begin to wonder... what did God mean about bruising his heel (The way He was crucified?)
- And what is this about the offspring of the woman
 - Then there is this guy Paul who comes along and says:
 - ◆ Galatians 4:4 (ESV) ⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman...

❖ **Then you Go to Isaiah**

- Isaiah 7:14 "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.
 - And you remember hearing rumors about this girl Mary

- You heard she was a good girl so you were surprised to hear she was pregnant
- There was rumor that it was from God
- So you wonder... is it possible that God used Mary?
- **Matthew one of the disciples of Jesus had an account of Jesus and He said:**
 - **Matthew 1:25 (ESV) ²⁵ but knew her not until she had given birth to a son. And he called his name Jesus.**

❖ Then You Connect the Dots of Genealogy

- **Because... you know He has to come from the right house...**
 - There are places in the scripture that tells what family He would come from
- **You knew He would be of the:**
 - Seed of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, house of Jesse, and Family of David...
 - And When you check it out... you find that both Mary and Joseph were from the house of David

❖ Then You Look to Birth Place

- **Just like Herod and the Chief Priests and scribes**
 - You try to find out where He is supposed to be born
 - And you go to the Prophet Micah, just like they did
- **Micah 5:2 (ESV)² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.**
- And then you recall from Memory and from word of mouth
 - That this Jesus was born in Bethlehem
 - **Matt 2.1 "Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea**

❖ You start asking questions about Him...

- And you hear how men traveled from far off to give gifts to Him
 - **Matt 2.11 "And when they opened their treasures that presented gifts to Him.**
- Then you find that this was written in the Psalms
 - **Psalm 72:10 (ESV) ¹⁰ May the kings of Tarshish and of the coastlands render him tribute; may the kings of Sheba and Seba bring gifts!**

❖ You Remember this guy John the Baptist talking about Jesus

- **So you find that Isaiah spoke about this very thing**
 - **Isaiah 40:3 (ESV) ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.**
- Again you check out what Matthew and the disciples were saying about this
 - **Matthew 3:2-3 (ESV) ² "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." ³ For this is he who was spoken of by the prophet Isaiah when he said, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.' "**

❖ The List goes ON and ON

- Teach in parables, ministry to begin in galilee, ministry of miracles, a stone of stumbling. Also that He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey, a light to the gentiles,
- And after a little research, asking some questions...
 - There are multiple people who corroborate these prophecies to be true of one man: Jesus

❖ Then you get into your stumbling block: His Death

- You say...It makes no sense that the Christ, the Messiah, our King would die...

- Especially before He even took power
 - **You were there for what Matthew wrote about**
 - **Matthew 27:26 (ESV) ²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.**
 - You saw Him beaten and led off to be crucified...
 - And you agreed it was a good idea
 - You assumed He was a trouble maker
 - **But then you Read Isaiah 53**
 - **Isaiah 53:5 (ESV) ⁵ But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.**
 - So... now you are getting a little worried...
 - You ask yourself... how did we miss this?
 - **The Details are massive**
 - You read all of the chapter... and the details are amazing...
 - It certainly seems like what happened to this guy
- ❖ **Finally you tackle one of your biggest problems... His resurrection**
- **It is not that you did not believe in a resurrection like the Sadducees...**
 - It just seemed unlikely...
 - Besides... It never occurred to you that the Messiah would need to be raised
 - **But, you hear Peter quote from Psalms**
 - **Psalm 16:10 ¹⁰ For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.**
 - You had heard Peter tell you he had been resurrected...
 - **Acts 2:31 ³¹ he foresaw and spoke about the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption.**
 - **And it wasn't just Peter...**
 - ◆ There were hundreds that said they had seen Jesus after He had died...
 - ◆ They were all telling everyone
- ❖ **You are close to being convinced...**
- **So you look a little closer at the time right before His death**
 - **You see 29 PROPHCIES FULFILLED IN ONE DAY**
 - 1) Betrayed by a friend 2) for 30 pieces of silver 3) Money thrown into temple 4) Price given for the potters field
 - 5) Forsaken by disciples 6) Accused by False witnesses 7) Silent before accusers 8) bruised and wounded 9) Smitten and spit upon 10) Mocked
 - 11) Fell under the cross 12) Hands and feet pierced 13) crucified with thieves 14) Prayed for persecutors 15) rejected by His own people
 - 16) Hated without cause 17) Friends stood afar off 18) People shook their heads 19) Stared at Him 20) Lots cast for garments 21) Suffered thirsty 22) Gall and vinegar offered to Him
 - 23) Cry of being forsaken 24) committed himself to God 25) Bones not broken
 - 26) Heartbroken 27) Side pierced 28) Darkness of land 29) buried in rich man's tomb
 - **29? You are amazed at the number...**
 - Your amazed at how specific each prophecy was...
 - And you realize there would be no way to control these things...
 - Maybe one or two... But 29?
 - **There would be no way...**
 - He could control what the leaders would do

- What the captors would do to Him... How the executioner would kill Him
- And then make it go dark

❖ **So, You are Convinced...You missed it**

- But you want to look at one more thing
- The Book of Daniel
 - You hear was written somewhere in the 500 b.c. time
 - And you know it was translated into Greek before 270 b.c.
 - So, you remember something...
- **A Prophecy from Daniel...**
 - You remember hearing someone talk about 70 weeks or 490 years for Israel
 - And you want to look back at that a little closer
 - It seemed like there was something in there about Messiah...
- **Daniel 9:24-26²⁴ “Seventy weeks are decreed about your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to put an end to sin, and to atone for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal both vision and prophet, and to anoint a most holy place.²⁵ Know therefore and understand that from the going out of the word to restore and build Jerusalem to the coming of an anointed one, a prince, there shall be seven weeks. Then for sixty-two weeks it shall be built again with squares and moat, but in a troubled time.²⁶ And after the sixty-two weeks, an anointed one shall be cut off and shall have nothing.**
- **So You notice some very specific times here**
 - **There would be a command to rebuild Jerusalem and then there would be an anointed one**
 - The walls would be rebuilt then
 - The Messiah King would come
 - **You know that from Daniel’s writings a week refers to 7 years**
 - So you decide to break this down into days
 - And using a Jewish Calendar you calculate that from the decree
 - That Artaxerxes made (which is well documented...)
 - You get 173,880
 - **You realize... that is really close to the day Jesus died...**
 - But not exactly... So you start thinking through it...
 - **And you remember that day, not long before He is arrested**
 - That He rode into Jerusalem like He was a king
 - And all the people were praising Him
 - And they were wanting Him for King...
 - **And He calmly took it all in...**
 - He never corrected them
 - He never asked them to stop... even when the Pharisees asked Him to stop them...
- **You realize there were exactly 173,880 days from the decree of Artaxerxes**
 - To the day Jesus rode into Jerusalem like He was her King...
 - As the people were anointing Him as King

❖ **You wonder how you could have been such a fool**

- **You missed out on the Son of God**

❖ **A Choice**

- **Just like in those days... those listening to John the Baptist, had to make a choice...**
 - And those reading the words of John the Apostle...
 - Will I believe the things these men are telling me about Jesus... ?