

Christmas Study 1 – Prophecies concerning Jesus

Lets first consider – what is a prediction just to get things into context - A **prediction** or **forecast** is a statement about the way things will happen in the future, often but not always based on experience or knowledge

Lots of people make predictions, and often they are gambled upon. A few minutes on the internet gives some different things it is possible to bet on from longbets/predictions

- A commercial airliner will be destroyed by terrorists hacking the software of either the aircraft or an external system such as air traffic control. Within the next 10 years
- The spirit of the current Constitution of the United States will not be in force continuously for 1000 years. At some point at or before its millennium, it will have been suspended, revoked, superseded or otherwise have ceased to be considered in full legal force. Within the next 776 years
- Bitcoins will outperform the US Dollar, Gold, Silver, and the stock market by over 100 times over the next two years. Within the next 2 years
- By Dec 31, 2013 the total volume of payments denominated in Facebook Credits (or any replacement introduced by Facebook) will meet or exceed \$16 billion in a three month period. Within the next 3 years
- “By December 31, 2020, synthetic solar energy (fusion) will have been shown to be a technically feasible, by an experiment demonstrating a controlled fusion reaction producing more harnessable energy than was used to ignite it.” Within the next 9 years
etc. etc.

So how does a prophecy differ from a prediction – a divinely inspired prediction, instruction or exhortation.

So this study we are looking at Prophecies about Jesus and his life – Do a quick search on this and get a fantastic variation in the number that there are from three to several hundred

listed. We will look at a few of these

1. **First Prophecy - A Messenger will tell people that Jesus is coming**

1. Malachi – So who was Malachi – The bible dictionary says this about him -
 1. A messenger or angel, the last of the minor prophets, and the writer of the last book of the Old Testament Nothing is known of him beyond what is contained in his book of prophecies. Some have supposed that the name is simply a title descriptive of his character as a messenger of Jehovah, and not a proper name. There is reason, however, to conclude that Malachi was the ordinary name of the prophet.
 2. He was contemporary with Nehemiah . No allusion is made to him by Ezra, and he does not mention the restoration of the temple, and hence it is inferred that he prophesied after Haggai and Zechariah, and when the temple services were still in existence. It is probable that he delivered his prophecies about B.C. 420, after the second return of Nehemiah from Persia or possibly before his return.
2. So looking at ch3 V1-4 –
3. Now look at Mark 1 1-8 where the prophecy comes true
4. As we notice Mark refers back to Isaiah 40 v3 but look at 1-5
 1. Isaiah – So who was he? He lived around 700 BC. Some scholars question the prophecies given here saying how can they be true, given the time difference but Jesus read from the prophet Luke 4 – 16 -30 without questioning it. So if Jesus accepted that Isaiah was correct then we should to.

2. **Second Prophecy** - that Jesus will be **The Son of God**, (as compared to the Son of David) To call Christ the Son of God is to assert his true and proper divinity. The second Person of the Trinity,

1. Psalm 2 v7 - 4-7 then look at Matthew 3 v17 Mark 14 53-65

3. **Third Prophecy** - that Jesus will be **The son of David** – Jeremiah 23 5-6 Who was Jeremiah was a priest around 600 BC Then look at Luke 1:31-33 to see how fulfilled

4. **Fourth Prophecy** – that Jesus will be **Born from a virgin** – Isaiah 7 v14 & Isaiah 9 V6 Then look at Matthew 1 17-25 to see how fulfilled

5. **Fifth Prophecy** - Micah 5 V2 that Jesus will be **born in Bethlehem**

6. **Sixth Prophecy - Come whilst the temple is standing** - Haggai 2 6-9, Zechariah 11 v13 Fulfilled Matthew 21 v12 The temple was destroyed ad 70
 1. Haggi – So who was Haggi? - The book locates the date of Haggi's ministry in the second year of the reign of Darius, whose civil authority is recognized throughout the book.
 2. The opening statement of the sermon quotes the people concerning the task of building the temple. After the first return in 538 b.c. an abortive attempt had been made to rebuild. Due to the lack of economic resources, it was left unfinished. The people saw the continued economic plight as reason enough for the continued delay. Haggai had a contrasting point of view. The people thought that economics prohibited religious activity, whereas Haggai proclaimed that their economic plight was caused by their lack of religious commitment.
7. **Seventh Prophecy - Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey** Zechariah 9 v9 - Fulfilled Matthew 21 v5 1-11
 1. Who was Zechariah – A Minor prophet, contemporary of Haggi writing around 520-518 BC (but could have been three separate books merged together)
8. **Eighth Prophecy** - Describes what happens to Jesus during his trial
 1. Isaiah 50 v6 - Fulfilled Matthew 27 v27-31
9. **Next Prophecy** - How Jesus will die - Zechariah 12 V10 – Fulfilled John 19 31-37 v37 refers to Zechariah passage
10. Finally consider Isaiah 53 which is full of prophecies - We need to think of areas of Jesus' life that are fulfilled in
 1. Isaiah 53
 1. 1-3
 2. 4-6
 3. 7-9
 4. 10-12

Finally it would be good to remind ourselves about what Paul says about Prophecy in the first part of 1 Corinthians 12 and think about Prophecy now days.