

# How Did People Know Jesus Was Coming?

## Vintage Jesus, week 9

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Pastor Mark Driscoll

*"Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."*

— Jesus (Luke 24:44)

Roughly a quarter of the Bible was prophetic at the time it was written. Many of those prophecies were specifically pointing to the coming of Jesus Christ as the Messiah (or "anointed one"). Jesus Himself repeatedly said that He was the thread that wove together the entire Old Testament (e.g., Matthew 5:17–18; Luke 24:27, 44–49; John 5:37–40). We will examine twenty-five of the more than sixty Old Testament prophecies about Jesus. They reveal how God clearly prepared His people for the coming of Jesus.

1. 1400 B.C. Moses prophesied that Jesus would be born of a woman.
  - **Genesis 3:15** *"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*
2. 1400 B.C. Moses prophesied that Jesus would descend from Abraham, through his son Isaac (not Ishmael), Isaac's son Jacob (not Esau), and Jacob's son Judah (not any of the other eleven brothers)
  - **Genesis 12:3** *"all peoples on earth will be blessed through you [Abraham]."*
  - **Genesis 17:19** *Then God said, "Yes, but your wife Sarah will bear you a son, and you will call him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him."*
  - **Numbers 24:17** *"I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near. A star will come out of Jacob; a scepter will rise out of Israel."*
  - **Genesis 49:10** *"The scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."*
3. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus' mother would be a virgin who conceived by a miracle and that Jesus would be God who became a man.
  - **Isaiah 7:14** *"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."*
4. 700 B.C. Micah prophesied that Jesus would be born in the town of Bethlehem.
  - **Micah 5:2** *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times [eternity]."*
5. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would live His life without committing any sins.

- **Isaiah 53:9** . . . *he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*
6. 700 B.C. Hosea prophesied that Jesus' family would flee as refugees to Egypt to save His young life.
    - **Hosea 11:1** *"When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son."*
  7. 400 B.C. Malachi prophesied that Jesus would enter the Temple. This is important because the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 and no longer exists; subsequently, the prophecy could not have been fulfilled anytime after A.D. 70.
    - **Malachi 3:1** *"See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.*
  8. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that John the Baptist would prepare the way for Jesus.
    - **Isaiah 40:3** *A voice of one calling: "In the desert prepare the way for the LORD; make straight in the wilderness a highway for our God."*
  9. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would perform many miracles.
    - **Isaiah 35:5–6** *Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy.*
  10. 500 B.C. Zechariah prophesied that Jesus would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey.
    - **Zechariah 9:9** *Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.*
  11. 1000 B.C. The Psalmist prophesied that Jesus would be betrayed by a friend.
    - **Psalm 41:9** *Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.*
  12. 500 B.C. Zechariah prophesied that Jesus' betraying friend would be paid thirty pieces of silver for handing Him over to the authorities and that the payment would be thrown in the Temple in disgust (again, the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70).
    - **Zechariah 11:12–13** *I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"—the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.*
  13. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be beaten, would have His beard plucked out, and would be mocked and spit upon.

- **Isaiah 50:6** *I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.*
14. 1000 B.C. The Psalmist prophesied that lots would be cast for Jesus' clothing.
- **Psalm 22:18** *They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.*
15. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be hated and rejected.
- **Isaiah 53:3** *He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not*
16. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that, though hated and rejected, Jesus would not defend Himself.
- **Isaiah 53:7** *He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.*
17. 1000 B.C. David prophesied that Jesus would be crucified (this was also hundreds of years before the invention of crucifixion).
- **Psalm 22:16** *Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet.*
18. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be killed with sinners.
- **Isaiah 53:12** *Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors.*
19. 1400 B.C. Moses prophesied (and in 1000 B.C. the Psalmist likewise prophesied) that none of Jesus' bones would be broken.
- **Exodus 12:46** *"Do not break any of the [Passover lamb's] bones."*
  - **Psalm 34:20** *. . . he protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken.*
20. 1000 B.C. The Psalmist prophesied that Jesus would be forsaken by God.
- **Psalm 22:1** *My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?*
21. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would die.
- **Isaiah 53:8b** *For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was stricken.*
22. 700 B.C. Isaiah prophesied that Jesus would be killed with sinners and buried in a tomb given to Him by a rich man.
- **Isaiah 53:9** *He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.*

23. 1000 B.C. David prophesied (and in 700 B.C. Isaiah likewise prophesied) that Jesus would resurrect from death.

- **Psalm 16:10** *Because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay.*
- **Isaiah 53:10–11** *Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. After the suffering of his soul, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.*

24. 1000 B.C. The Psalmist prophesied that Jesus would ascend into heaven.

- **Psalm 68:18** *When you ascended on high, you led captives in your train.*

25. 1000 B.C. The Psalmist prophesied that Jesus would sit at the right hand of God.

- **Psalm 110:1** *The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet."*

In conclusion, God's people knew their Savior Messiah Jesus was coming because they carefully and prayerfully read the Old Testament Scriptures. The Scriptures promised His coming in great detail because the central purpose of Scripture is to reveal to us Jesus in all of His glory. Today, Jesus is alive, seated in heaven, and the Scriptures further declare what He will accomplish upon His Second Coming.

**Next week:** Why did Jesus come to earth?