

Prophecy fulfilled

Seeing Jesus in the future (Christmas)

Sometimes God gives messages to a person for that person to share with others. The person to whom God gives this message is called a prophet. His message is called a prophecy. Usually, a prophecy is mainly for the people of that time and place. But sometimes God enables a prophet to predict the future.

Long before Jesus was born, many prophets predicted the future by telling people that Jesus was coming. For example, more than 700 years before Christ, the prophet

Micah wrote:

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, are only a small village among all the people of Judah. Yet a ruler of Israel will come from you.” (Micah 5:2)

“And he will stand to lead his flock with the Lord’s strength.” (verse 4)

“And he will be the source of peace.” (verse 5)

Many years later some wise men came to Jerusalem looking for the baby Jesus.

Herod asked the Law where the Christ would be born.

They answered, “In the town of Bethlehem in Judah. The prophet wrote about this in the Scriptures.” (Matthew 2:5)

So those familiar with the Scriptures knew that Jesus would be born in Bethlehem.

They just didn’t know when. But when the wise men saw his star, they knew the time had come. So they went to Bethlehem as the Scripture had said, and of course, he was there.

Isaiah’s prophecies:

Wouldn’t it be amazing if someone could tell fifteen facts about a person before the person was born? Well, that’s what the Old Testament prophet Isaiah did. His description of Jesus was so detailed that it could not have described anyone else.

Here are fourteen of Isaiah’s predictions about Jesus:

Description	Fulfilled
Hated (Isaiah 53:3)	Matt. 27:39-43
A man of sorrows (Is. 53:3)	Matt. 26:38
Familiar with suffering (Is. 53:3)	Heb 4:15
Rejected by his people (Is. 53:3)	John 1:10-11
Taking our suffering for us (Is. 53:4)	Matt. 8:16-17
Without sin (Is. 53:9)	1 Pet. 2:22

Silent to his accusers (Is. 53:7)	Matt. 26:63; 27:12
Taking our sins on himself (Is. 53:5)	1 Cor. 15:3
Taking our punishment (Is 52:5)	1 Peter 2:24-25
Treated like a criminal (Is. 53:12)	Luke 22:37
Treated unjustly (Is 53:8)	Matt. 27:24
Buried with rich people (Is. 53:9)	Matt. 27:57-60
Raised from death (Is. 53:10)	Luke 24:6-8
Honoured (Is. 53:12)	Phil, 2:9-11

Early Christians used Isaiah's prophecies as a starting place to tell people who Jesus was and what He did. For example, in Acts chapter 8, a man from the African country of Ethiopia was reading Isaiah 53. He was curious about who Isaiah was describing. When the man asked Phillip that question, Phillip started with this same Scripture and told the man the good news about Jesus, (Acts 8:35). And that Scripture about Jesus was written 800 years before His birth.

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