



CHRISTMAS AT GRACE DEVOTIONAL

PROPHECIES OF JESUS' PURPOSE // DECEMBER 19, 2021

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter: It has been said that the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ are the most important events in human history. Do you agree or disagree? Why?

Key Passage: *“Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. ⁶ All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.” (Isaiah 53:4-6)*

The Bible tells us the story of human history—our origin, our purpose, why the world is a mess, how to fix it, and what happens after we die—and God’s work in our history. Everything in history and the Bible revolves around Jesus Christ: His deity, birth, life, death, resurrection, and second coming. We find all of these major events in the life of Jesus Christ prophesied in the Old Testament and fulfilled in the New Testament.

Thus far, in our series entitled “Christmas at Grace,” we’ve looked at the prophecies of Jesus’ birth (December 5) and the prophecies of Jesus’ birth titles (December 12). In this last lesson in the series, let’s study ten key Old Testament prophecies of Jesus’ purpose. In these prophecies, we’ll discover why Jesus came and why Christmas—the time of year we celebrate the birth of Christ—is so significant. A good way to approach this lesson is to look up in your Bible the Old Testament passage citing the prophecy and then the New Testament passage citing the fulfillment of the prophecy.

1. **Prophecy: Genesis 3:15** - The serpent and the “offspring” of Eve will have conflict; Eve’s offspring of the woman will crush the serpent.

Fulfillment: Hebrews 2:14 - Jesus is this offspring—He crushed Satan at the cross.

Discuss: How does Jesus’ power over death affect your view of death and eternity?

2. **Prophecy: Genesis 12:3** - God promised Abraham the whole world would be blessed through him and his family.

Fulfillment: Acts 3:25-26 - Jesus, Abraham’s descendant, is that blessing.

Discuss: It has been said that one of the strongest evidences that God exists is the perseverance of His chosen people, Israel. Do you agree? Why or why not?

The next three prophecies from Psalm 22 describe Jesus' torment on the cross:

3. **Prophecy: Psalm 22:7** – David's enemies mocked and insulted him.

Fulfillment: Matthew 27:38-44 – Jesus' enemies mocked and insulted Him.

4. **Prophecy: Psalm 22:15-17** – David was physically tormented—like a crucifixion (even though crucifixion was unheard of as a method of execution in David's day!).

Fulfillment: John 19:28 – Jesus was physically tormented by crucifixion.

5. **Prophecy: Psalm 22:18** – David's enemies divided his clothing.

Fulfillment: John 19:23-24 – Soldiers around the cross divided Jesus' clothing.

Discuss: Why do you think Jesus could not have simply died a peaceful death—why did He have to suffer such physical, emotional, mental, and emotional pain as a part of dying for our sin?

The next five Messianic prophecies from Isaiah 53 describe what Jesus would accomplish for us on the cross:

6. **Prophecy: Isaiah 53:3** – The Messiah would be despised and rejected by His own people.

Fulfillment: Luke 23:18 – Jesus was despised and rejected by His own people.

7. **Prophecy: Isaiah 53:4-5** – The Messiah would bear our griefs, sorrows, and sins for our spiritual and physical healing.

Fulfillment: Matthew 8:17 – Jesus bore our griefs, sorrows, and sins for our spiritual and physical healing.

8. **Prophecy: Isaiah 53:9** – The Messiah would be buried in the grave of a rich man.

Fulfillment: Matthew 27:57-60 – Jesus was buried in the grave of wealthy Joseph of Arimathea.

9. **Prophecy: Isaiah 53:10-11** – Messiah would offer forgiveness of sins through his death.

Fulfillment: Acts 10:43 – Jesus offered forgiveness of sins through His death.

10. **Prophecy: Isaiah 53:12** – the Messiah would intercede for his tormentors.

Fulfillment: Luke 23:24 – Jesus interceded for His tormentors.

Discuss: How would you summarize the real meaning of Christmas—why Jesus came—in one sentence?

For Further Study:

“What is the True Meaning of Christmas?” article at www.crosswalk.com

“Why Do We Celebrate Christmas?” article at www.gotquestions.org

The Purpose of Christmas by Rick Warren