

PROPHECIES OF JESUS CHRIST'S DEATH

It is impossible to over-emphasise the supreme importance of the role of the birth and death of Jesus Christ in God's plan of salvation. The whole plan of God revolves around the amazing incarnation, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, which made it possible for us to be reconciled with God, and enter His very family ourselves.

Let's notice what Jesus Himself said about this:

Luke 24:27 "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself."

After Christ's death, He had the opportunity to give two sermons to His disciples, recorded in the book of Luke. Both were on the same subject – prophecies concerning Himself, and in both of them He went through scripture after scripture in the Old Testament that prophesied His coming to the earth.

Verses 44-45 "He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." ⁴⁵ Then He opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures."

Verse 45 shows there were things in these scriptures they hadn't understood.

Let's do what it says in Luke 24:45: look at some scriptures about Jesus, and ask God through His Spirit to open our understanding of them. Today we'll especially focus on the amazing scriptures pointing to the death of Jesus, showing how vitally important it was.

Where do you think the first prophecy of Jesus Christ's death would be? Well it happens to be on the second page of the Bible:

Genesis 2:21 "So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, He took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh."

Here the sleep of Adam is a type of the death of Jesus Christ, the second Adam. He died so that out of His side God could make the Church, a woman, spiritually, who could be His wife, typified by Eve. Christ's side was opened up by the spear to cause His death, and He couldn't have any bride until His blood was shed, because that's what forgives our sins, and makes us at one with Him.

Genesis 2:23 "The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

Christ looks on the Church as His body. In Ephesians 5:30-32, Paul quotes this scripture and says it refers in type to Jesus Christ and the Church. "This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the Church."

On the very next page in Genesis 3:15 we have a direct prophecy of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection!

"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."

Enmity between you (Satan) and the woman (picturing mankind, and also a type of the Church), your seed (followers of Satan) and her seed (representing Jesus Himself, and the members of His church). It shall bruise your head (we can make him flee if we resist him, Jesus Christ certainly resisted him and triumphed over him in the resurrection) and you shall bruise His heel – a reference to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

This was prophesied by Jesus Christ Himself – He was speaking here! He prophesied of His own death, 4,000 years later – because He was of course “*slain from the foundation of the world.*”

The next prophecy of Jesus Christ’s death is in Genesis 3:21 – do you see it there?

“The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.”

Adam and Eve had sinned. This made them feel naked, Verse 7, and they covered this by fig leaves. But that wasn’t good enough for God. He killed an animal to cover their nakedness – because that’s the way you get skins! So this killing of an animal to cover their sin is an interesting foreshadowing of Jesus Christ being killed to cover our sins.

For the next example, we need go no further than Genesis 4:2-5!

“Now Abel kept flocks, and Cain worked the soil. ³ In the course of time Cain brought some of the fruits of the soil as an offering to the LORD. ⁴ And Abel also brought an offering—fat portions from some of the firstborn of his flock. The LORD looked with favor on Abel and his offering, ⁵ but on Cain and his offering He did not look with favour. So Cain was very angry, and his face was downcast.”

Verse 4 Abel’s offering to God was of animals. He had to kill them to offer them to God. What type of animal did he offer?

Verse 2 He was a keeper of sheep. Verse 4 a firstling, i.e. a lamb. His offering of a lamb was accepted by God, but Cain’s offering of fruit and vegetables was not acceptable. (Verses 3, 5).

As Abel was accepted by God with the slaying of a lamb, so are we accepted by God through the death of Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb.

In Genesis 7 we read of Noah’s Ark. It is possible to consider the Ark as a type of Jesus Christ, who saved those elect ones who came to Him from the flood which destroyed the rest of humanity, the evildoers. Interestingly, the Ark was the shape of a coffin, and it has been considered that this pictured Jesus Christ’s death to make it possible for His people to be saved.

Genesis 14:18 “Then Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. He was priest of God Most High”

This is interesting, because it is a possible forerunner of the New Testament Passover symbols instituted by Jesus Christ – who of course was Melchizedek!

Genesis 17:23,26 (KJV) ²³ “And Abraham took Ishmael his son, and all that were born in his house, and all that were bought with his money, every male among the men of Abraham’s house; and circumcised the flesh of their foreskin in the selfsame day, as God had said unto him. ²⁶ In the selfsame day was Abraham circumcised, and Ishmael his son.”

This time of Abraham’s circumcision (Verse 24) aged 99, occurred on the Passover day. We can see that by noting the words “the selfsame day” and comparing them with some other scriptures (Exodus 12:41 – 430 years after something, on the selfsame day was the Passover. 430 years after what? (Galatians 3:16-17 after the circumcision covenant of Abraham – Genesis 17:10.)

So Genesis 17 occurred at Passover time. Interestingly, in Chapter 18:6 they had bread and killed a calf (Verses 7-8) prepared it in haste (Verse 7) and ate with Jesus Christ.

Genesis 19:2 (KJV) goes on to mention footwashing.

²“And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night.”

Verse 3 – Unleavened Bread – a fitting time for the destruction of Sodom – representing destroying and wiping out sin! (Verse 13).

³“And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him, and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.¹³ For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.”

Verse 15 We need to come out of sin.

¹⁵“And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.”

Genesis 22 is an incident rich in typology. Isaac was a type of Jesus Christ as the much-beloved, only son of the Father that spared him not, but was willing to see him die.

Verse 6 Abraham laid the wood on Isaac; the stake was laid on Jesus Christ, who had to carry it up to the crucifixion site. “They went, both of them together” describes the harmony of Jesus Christ and God the Father, who had to go through this sacrifice together.

Verse 13 The ram was killed in his stead – the ram is a type of Jesus Christ dying in our stead; Isaac is a type of Jesus Christ being offered by His Father.

Genesis 37:31-32 (NIV) ³¹“Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. ³²They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe.”

The killing of the goat and use of the blood to cover his coat in place of his death, is certainly a type of the use of the blood of the lamb by the Israelites to smear on their doorposts in place of the death of their firstborn, and Christ's blood, shed in our place.

The life of Joseph is full of typology for us.

One aspect that ties in with Jesus Christ's death is that Joseph was with 2 evildoers in prison, the baker and the butler. One died and one received his life, as you know from the dreams. Interestingly, the New Testament talks of 2 malefactors dying with Christ, and Jesus told one of them He was going to have an afterlife.

Genesis 50:20 “You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.”

Though Jesus Christ was put to death, God meant it for good – to be the Saviour of all humanity! Just as Joseph wasn't known to his brothers the first time they came to Egypt, but he clearly made himself known the second time to their amazement, so Jesus Christ will let the world really know who He is at His second coming!

Acts 7:13 (KJV) “And at the second time Joseph was made known to his brethren; and Joseph's kindred was made known unto Pharaoh.”

Exodus 12:5-11 (NKJV) – The Passover lamb was a type of Jesus Christ in every minute detail!

⁵ “Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take *it* from the sheep or from the goats. ⁶ Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight. ⁷ And they shall take *some* of the blood and put *it* on the two doorposts and on the lintel of the houses where they eat it. ⁸ Then they shall eat the flesh on that night; roasted in fire, with unleavened bread *and* with bitter *herbs* they shall eat it. ⁹ Do not eat it raw, nor boiled at all with water, but roasted in fire—its head with its legs and its entrails. ¹⁰ You shall let none of it remain until morning, and what remains of it until morning you shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus you shall eat it: *with* a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in haste. It *is* the LORD's Passover.”

Obviously this lamb is a type of Christ. Let's see in how many details the typology works out.

- * Verse 5 “Your lamb”. There's the first thing. It was a lamb. So was Christ – John the Baptist called Him “the lamb who takes away the sin of the world.” In the book of Revelation He is often described as the lamb.
- * “Without blemish” – Christ was perfect, flawless.
- * “A male”
- * “of first year”. It was killed when just a year old, signifying the way Christ was put to death when in His full vigour and strength.
- * “Taken out” – Christ was amongst the flock of mankind, but was brutally taken out of it, singled out in the garden of Gethsemane, and led away to His death.
- * “14th day” – Christ died at Passover time.
- * “Whole assembly” – Everyone is responsible for Christ's death – “all have sinned”
- * Blood struck on doorposts. Christ's blood was not only shed, it has to be applied to us and by us – it has to be used. We don't just accept it, we make use of it, we sprinkle it on our hearts by earnest repentant prayer for forgiveness and application of that sacrifice.
- * Verse 8 “eat the flesh” – we must spiritually feed on Jesus Christ, take Him right inside us, into our very person as we become like Him in character.
- * “in that night” – it is spiritual darkness in this world around us.
- * “roast with fire” – a type of the fiery trials Christ endured.
- * “unleavened bread” – no leaven was found in Christ – no sin. His life was spiritually unleavened.
- * “bitter herbs” – a type of the bitter trials and sufferings Christ endured – also typifies our attitude of hatred of sin when we take the Passover.
- * Verse 9 – not to be raw or boiled – boiling leads to dismembering and watering down. It had to be whole and complete.
- * Verse 46 – Not one bone to be broken “In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones.” (Numbers 9:12; Psalm 34:20) – that's why Christ had to die of a spear wound rather than having His legs broken as with the thieves who were crucified with Him.
- * Verse 10 – Nothing to be left over – burn the lot. Christ didn't keep anything back – He gave Himself as a complete total sacrifice in every way. This is also a type of the fact that we can eat of Christ – develop His nature and character in us. But there is a time limit, a deadline, spiritually there will in the future come a time when this opportunity of becoming like Christ will no longer be available to mankind. It will end with a lake of fire.
- * Verse 11 “with loins girded and shoes on” – symbolises our attitude of girding up the loins of our mind and having the gospel of peace on our feet.
- * “staff in hand – eat in haste” – we need to have the staff and rod of faith and God's word. – “in haste” – we are but strangers and pilgrims here, ready to leave at any time. “*Thy Kingdom come*” – sense of urgency.
- * Verse 11 also refers to the way Christ was taken in the garden of Gethsemane. Staff in hand.

- * Matthew 26:55 – the mob came with staves, in haste, shoes on their feet ready to catch Him if He fled. This was in order to fulfil prophecy (Verse 56). The prophecy of Exodus 12!
- * The Israelites had the task of representing the mob killing Christ because really they did kill Him – all human beings are part of the mob who killed Him – because of our sins.

Exodus 15:23-25 (NKJV) ²³“Now when they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter. Therefore the name of it was called Marah. ²⁴And the people complained against Moses, saying, “What shall we drink?” ²⁵So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them.”

Our lives are bitter, the tree pictures Jesus Christ, cut down and cast into the waters, to bring healing. Jesus Christ is called “the branch,” and through His death we are healed spiritually.

Exodus 16 – the manna is a type of Jesus Christ, who Himself said He was the living bread from heaven, and we have to eat this bread to have life – to partake of the Passover, representing His death to cover our sins, to have eternal life.

Exodus 24:7-8 ⁷“Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has said we will do, and be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood, sprinkled *it* on the people, and said, “This is the blood of the covenant which the LORD has made with you according to all these words.”

Blood had to be shed to seal the covenant. So Jesus Christ’s blood seals our baptismal covenant.

Exodus 25–40 The Tabernacle contains many types of Jesus Christ and His death – that’s the subject of another sermon!

Leviticus 1–7 The sacrifices and offerings all picture Jesus Christ and His death for us – another series of sermons!

Leviticus 16 The Day of Atonement ceremonies contain more prophecies (by way of types) of Jesus Christ’s death to atone for our sins – one of the goats sacrificed there, represented Jesus Christ of course.

Numbers 20:8 God told Moses to speak to the rock to bring forth water. Moses disobeyed and struck it, and indeed struck it twice (verse 11). “That rock was Christ” says the New Testament. Smiting it twice was like saying that Jesus Christ had to be smitten twice. But putting Jesus Christ to death twice is impossible – and this is where the unpardonable sin comes in! (Hebrews 6:6). So Moses (only in type) committed the unpardonable sin – therefore he couldn’t go into the reward which was a type of the spiritual reward unable to be entered by those who commit the unpardonable sin. That’s why God looked on that sin so severely!

Numbers 21:8 Jesus Christ was made sin for us (in the form of Satan) – and that’s how we’re healed – He was identified with sin. We read in the New Testament that this was a type of Jesus Christ. If we have been bitten by Satan, the serpent, causing us to sin; then we look upon Jesus Christ (who was set up on a pole for us), and we thereby can live.

John 3:14 “As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up.”

Joshua 2:18 The scarlet thread at Rahab’s house, pictures the blood of Jesus Christ, which gave life to all in the house identified by that thread! (Just like the Passover blood on the doorposts.) Rahab was a *woman* saved, who had been into *harlotry* – pictures the Church of God!

Joshua 3:14 (KJV) “And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people;”

The Priests taking the Ark through the Jordan River to the Promised Land is a type of Jesus Christ going down into the river of death for us, and by His death making a way for us into all the blessings God has promised His people! Notice the words “pass over” in this verse! The people passed over a river of death into the Promised Land.

Joshua 5:2-9 They were circumcised, cleaned themselves up and examined themselves and then (verse 10) kept the Passover.

2 Kings 6:5 “As one of them was cutting down a tree, the iron axehead fell into the water. “Oh no, my lord!” he cried out. “It was borrowed!”

Isn't this fallen axehead a type of a helpless sinner sunk in the mire and clay of sin and death, our weaknesses and problems of the flesh, unable to lift ourselves, lying there useless? What was the answer, the only thing that could help? The cutting down of a stick – the branch is Jesus Christ (Zechariah 3:8; 6:12) – which had to be thrown into the river Jordan, a type of the river of death. However deeply in sin we have sunk, Jesus Christ's power can lift us up, and then we can be used as tools in the work of building His house!

These books of history and the law contain many references to the sacrifice of Jesus Christ; often by means of typology. Then we get into the books of the prophets, where the references to Jesus Christ's death are more literal prophecies and predictions of that event. And the prophets are full of them – starting in the book of Psalms, where we have very vivid descriptions of Jesus Christ's suffering and death, e.g. Psalm 22, Psalms 129:3 etc.

Isaiah 7:14 – A virgin shall conceive.

Isaiah 9:6-7 – Unto us a Son is given.

Isaiah 11:1 – Prophecy of Jesus Christ.

Isaiah 50:6; Isaiah 53 – Christ's suffering and death in great detail. Verse 5 – He died for our sins.

Dan 9:26 – Cut off in the midst of week.

Jonah 1:17 – His time in the big fish was a type of Christ's time in the grave.

Micah 5:2 – Jesus Christ to be born in Bethlehem.

Zech. 11:12-13 – Jesus Christ was sold for 30 pieces of silver.

Zech. 12:10 – Jesus Christ to be pierced.

Zech. 13:6-7 – The wounds in His hands and flight of disciples.

There are many other scriptures in the prophets that point to the life and death of Jesus Christ, both at His first and second comings. Some books outline lists of prophecies pointing to His crucifixion.

I'm sure the passages above would be some of the scriptures Jesus Christ explained to His disciples in Luke 24. Later on, Paul went through these scriptures in a sermon in Acts 28:23. No wonder it took “from morning till evening.”!

This, the death of Jesus Christ, is the most important event in history. That's why the Old Testament is so full of it, and that is the main message of the Bible.

Notice Luke 24:31 “Then their eyes were opened and they recognised Him, and He disappeared from their sight.”

That was the core of His message – the Kingdom of God, and things concerning Jesus Christ.

In other words, Christ's first coming and death to cover our sins, and then His second coming when we will enter His Kingdom of God. But it wouldn't be possible for us to be in the Kingdom if it wasn't for His first coming and His death in our stead.

Notice Romans 1:1 (CEB) "From Paul, a slave of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for God's good news."

Then he goes on to define what the gospel is:

Romans 1:2-6 (NIV) ² "the gospel He promised beforehand through His prophets in the Holy Scriptures ³ regarding His Son, who as to His earthly life was a descendant of David, ⁴ and who through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by His resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord. ⁵ Through Him we received grace and apostleship to call all the Gentiles to the obedience that comes from faith for His name's sake. ⁶ And you also are among those Gentiles who are called to belong to Jesus Christ."

It's all about Jesus Christ, His death and resurrection. It's only because of that we can be reconciled to Him, and are called to a wonderful purpose, rulership in the Kingdom of God at Christ's second coming of course.

What was the gospel Paul preached?

Romans 1:9A "God, whom I serve in my spirit in preaching the gospel of His Son"

Verse 16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile."

The gospel of Christ, is the gospel of the Kingdom of God – but not just of the world ruling Government of Christ – it also includes the first coming of Jesus Christ and His death which made it possible for us to gain salvation and therefore have a part in the Kingdom. As well as being our coming KING, Jesus is our personal SAVIOUR!

Romans 3:23-25 ²³ "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ and all are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵ God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of His blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished"

All have sinned, but we are redeemed thanks to Jesus Christ's death for us!

Romans 5:8-10 ⁸ "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. ⁹ Since we have now been justified by His blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through Him! ¹⁰ For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!"

We've looked at the tremendous number of Old Testament references to Christ's death – now we see that the New Testament is full of verses on this too!

It is so important, so crucial, that the whole plan of God revolves around it. The purpose of this sermon has been to try to show the incredible importance of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to cover our sins. Each of us needs to deeply contemplate that sacrifice and apply it to ourselves individually, realising our great need for it, and humbly and repentantly showing appreciation for it.

Let's close with Romans 6: 22-23: "But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."