

100 BIBLE LESSONS

These lessons were originally given at Manila, Philippines, in 1958 and 1959 by former missionary to China, Alban Douglas. Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 77 – PROPHECIES AND LIFE OF CHRIST

INTRODUCTION

Long before Jesus was born it was prophesied that He would come (Genesis 3:15). Jesus did not come to earth unannounced. He came in the “fullness of times.” (Galatians 4:4).

A study of the fulfillment of minute details encourages our faith in a God that not only draws up master plans but the intricate details of the blueprints.

Also, to see that these details are fulfilled exactly as prophesied, strengthens our faith in the inspiration of the Scriptures and shows that the Bible is not an assortment of books by various authors, but one Book with one author – God.

To assume that all these things just accidentally happened is an accident too great even for the imagination of an evolutionist!

The child of God prompted by the Holy Spirit gladly accepts their testimony with joy and cries out with Thomas, “My Lord and my God.”

Our faith undergirded by the witness of fulfilled prophecy stands firm and unmovable.

I. PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST'S ORIGIN

1. Christ would come out of Israel. Numbers 24:17-19, “There shall come a Star out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel.”

Christ was born a Jew, a descendent of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and David. Matthew 1:1-17.

2. Christ would be born of the family of David and of the tribe of Judah.

Genesis 49:10, “The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah... until Shiloh come.”

Isaiah 11:1, “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.”

These prophecies were fulfilled in our Savior Jesus Christ (Luke 1:31-33).

3. Christ would be born in Bethlehem. Micah 5:2, “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall He come forth unto Me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Christ was born in Bethlehem (Luke 2:4-7).

4. Christ would be born of a virgin. Isaiah 7:14, “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son, and shall call His Name Immanuel.”

Christ was born of a virgin (Matthew 1:18, 22, 23).

5. The time of Christ's coming was specified. Daniel 9:24-26, "Seventy weeks are determined unto thy people, and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgressions, and to make an end of sins... and after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off."

Messiah, Christ, was cut off (crucified) 490 years after the rebuilding of Jerusalem.

Christ was crucified at the precise time. No one earlier or later could be Christ.

6. Christ's coming was announced by a forerunner. Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God."

This prophecy was fulfilled in John the Baptist (Matthew 3:3).

7. The Messiah would be God – the wonderful verse of Isaiah 9:6, "... the mighty God..."

II. PROPHECIES CONCERNING CHRIST LIFE

1. He would spend part of His childhood in Egypt. Hosea 11:1, "When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called My son out of Egypt."

2. He would suffer and make atonement for sin. Isaiah 53:4-6 had to be fulfilled by Christ.

II Corinthians 5:21 records the fulfillment, "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

3. He would ride into Jerusalem on a colt. Zechariah 9:9, "Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: He is just, and having salvation... lowly, and riding upon an ass."

The fulfillment of this on Palm Sunday is told in detail in Matthew 21:2-5.

4. He would be given gall and vinegar in His agony on the cross. Psalm 69:21, "They gave Me also gall for My meat; and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink."

This was fulfilled at the cross in Matthew 27:34 by the Roman soldiers.

5. Not a bone would be broken, contrary to Roman crucifixion practices. Psalms 34:20, "He keepeth all His bones; not one of them is broken."

Not a bone was broken of the Passover lamb, either (Exodus 12:46).

Ordinarily the legs of the crucified prisoners were broken to prevent them from escaping but they broke custom and didn't break Jesus' legs or bones (John 19:33-36).

6. Men would cast lots for His garments. Psalms 22:18, "They part My garments among them, and cast lots unto My vesture."

This prophecy was fulfilled precisely as spoken by the soldiers in Matthew 27:35.

7. Christ would utter certain words in His dying agony. Psalms 22:1, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me."

This prophecy was fulfilled as the fourth saying from the cross (Mark 15:34).

8. He would rise again from the dead. Psalm 16:10, "Thou wilt not leave My soul in hell; neither wilt Thou suffer Thine Holy One to see corruption."

Peter affirms that this was literally and actually fulfilled in Acts 2:3.

III. THE LIFE OF CHRIST.

1. His pre-incarnate state, as God, Jesus has always existed. He was before all things.
2. The birth of Jesus of the Virgin Mary is recorded in Matthew and Luke.
3. Jesus was circumcised at the age of eight days (Luke 2:21).
4. Jesus was taken to the Temple at Jerusalem when he was 12 years of age (Luke 2:41-48).
5. Jesus spent the early years of His life as a carpenter in Nazareth (Mark 6:3).
7. Jesus began His ministry in Judea, Samaria and Galilee. This period lasted six months.
8. Jesus' first miracle was performed at Cana of Galilee (John 2:1); and His second miracle, the healing of the noblemen's son, and Capernaum (John 4:46, 54).
9. The second stage of Jesus' ministry covered a period of 6 to 8 months in Capernaum and Galilee. He performed miracles, healed the sick and preached the Gospel.
10. The third stage was the later Galilean ministry lasting about a year in and about Galilee. Crowds followed Him. He preached the Sermon on the Mount, etc. (Matthew 5, 6 and 7).
11. In the next stage the Pharisees hound Him to seek His life. Jesus travels to Capernaum, Phoenicia, Bethsaida, Caesarea, Philippi, and finally re-enters Galilee.
12. The last six months were spent teaching, preaching and traveling.
13. The last week, Palm Sunday, the Last Supper, Gethsemane, the trials and death by the cross.
14. Three days later, according to prophecy, Jesus rose again from the dead.
15. Forty days after the resurrection He ascended visibly and bodily into heaven (Acts 1:10, 11).

IV. THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

A miracle is the setting aside of a lower law by a higher law. Lower law is the natural physical law of the earth and nature. Only God can do things contrary to this law.

If Jesus truly performed miracles, then He is God, for man cannot perform true miracles. The Lord Jesus performed miracles not to "show off" or entertain, but to prove His Deity and cause men to believe in Him, His message and His Person (John 2:11; 20:31).

Jesus performed credible miracles over nature. He stilled the tempest, calmed the wind and water. He even walked on the water (Matthew 8:26, 27; Matthew 14:25).

Jesus performed miracles over devils (Mark 5:12, 13; Matthew 8:28-32; etc.)

Jesus performed miracles over disease – cleansed the leper; heal the lame; open the eyes of the blind; caused the dumb to hear; fevers to depart (Matthew 8:3; Matthew 12:10-13; etc.)

Jesus performed miracles over death. He raised the dead contrary to all human law that says a dead person must stay dead (John 11:44; Matthew 9:23-25; Luke 7:12-15).

Our Lord's miracles were restrained and are completely believable. His miracles were performed openly in the presence of many witnesses and recorded by divine inspiration for us to read and believe.

CONCLUSION

The life of Jesus Christ on earth can be summarized in the words of Acts 10:38, "Who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil."

The Lord Jesus left us an example that we should follow. I Peter 2:21, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that we should follow His steps."

We are to walk as He walked. I John 2:6, Christ came to do God's will and we should too, John 8:29; Hebrews 10:7.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why was Jesus' coming to earth not a surprise?
2. Of what nation was the Savior to come? Of what tribe?
3. When was Messiah to come?
4. Was it accidental that Jesus was given gall and vinegar on the cross? Why?
5. What is the significance of John 19:34?
6. What is the Old Testament prophecy of the resurrection of Christ?
7. What were Jesus' first two miracles?
8. Where does John 13, 14, 15, 16 fit into the life of Christ?
9. What is a miracle? Why did Jesus perform miracles?
10. Give three verses to show the kind of life Jesus lived on earth.

