

Prophecy and Fulfilment – Study Session 3 - Jesus' Death

1. He would be betrayed by a friend.
 2. He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.
 3. His friends would abandon Him.
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 5. He would remain silent.
 6. His hands and feet would be pierced.
 7. He would be crucified with thieves.
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 9. They would gamble for His clothes.
 10. He would thirst.
 11. His friends would stand back.
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1. He would be betrayed by a friend

Psalm 41:9 *Even my bosom friend in whom I trusted, **who ate of my bread**, has lifted the heel against me.*

Psalm 55:12-14 *It is not enemies who taunt me--I could bear that; it is not adversaries who deal insolently with me--I could hide from them. But it is **you, my equal, my companion, my familiar friend, with whom I kept pleasant company; we walked in the house of God with the throng.***

John 13:18 *I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfill the scripture, '**The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me.**'*

John 13:21-26 *After he had said this, Jesus was troubled in spirit and testified, "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me....Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." ... Jesus answered, "**It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish.**" Then, dipping the piece of bread, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, son of Simon.*

Matthew 26:47-55 *While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." At once he came up to Jesus and said,*

*"Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. **Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do."** Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him.*

Judas had been with Jesus and the rest of the disciples for three years. Judas had seen the miracles, heard the teaching, watched and listened as Jesus defeated every negative statement and accusation the Pharisees brought against him. Yet, Judas still betrayed Jesus. Why?

These two prophecies from Psalms speak clearly about Judas and Jesus and their companionship and very specifically about the bread.

In **Mark 9:30–32 (and Matthew 17:22–23)** Jesus tells the disciples, *"The Son of Man is going to **be betrayed into the hands of men**. They will kill him, and after three days he will rise."* But they did not understand what he meant and were afraid to ask him about it.

2. **He would be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver.**

Zechariah 11:12-13 *I then said to them, "If it seems right to you, give me my wages; but if not, keep them." So they weighed out as my wages **thirty shekels of silver**. Then the LORD said to me, "**Throw it into the treasury**"--this lordly price at which I was valued by them. So I took the thirty shekels of silver and threw them into the treasury in the house of the LORD*

Matthew 26:14-16 *Then one of the Twelve - the one called Judas Iscariot -went to the chief priests and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" **They paid him thirty pieces of silver**. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.*

Matthew 27:3 -10 *When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." **Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple**, he departed; and he went and hanged himself..... Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the **thirty pieces of silver**, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."*

This betrayal of a friend brought no pleasure to Judas. Realizing his own sin and folly he later took his own life (**Matthew 27:5**).

3. His friends would abandon Him.

Zechariah 13:7 "Awake, O sword, against my shepherd, against the man who is my associate," says the LORD of hosts. **Strike the shepherd, that the sheep may be scattered;**

Matthew 26:56 But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." **Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.**

Mark 14:27 And Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters; for it is written, **'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.'**

Here, Jesus tells His disciples the prophecy that they would shortly fulfil.

4. He would be accused by false witnesses.

Psalm 35:11 Malicious witnesses rise up; they ask me about things I do not know.

Psalm 109:2 For wicked and deceitful mouths are opened against me, speaking against me with lying tongues.

Matthew 26:59-60 The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were **looking for false evidence against Jesus** so that they could put him to death. But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward. Finally, two came forward and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.' "

Note how their hatred for Jesus – their hatred for the Truth – had the ‘*whole Sanhedrin*’ looking for false evidence against Jesus. Many false witnesses came forward. These ‘false witnesses’ were telling the truth...in a way. Jesus did say, "Destroy this temple, and I will raise it again in three days." (**John 2:19**). Whether their interpretation of Jesus’ words was intentionally misleading or not, Jesus was speaking of His own bodily resurrection on the third day. Another prophecy that was fulfilled.

5. He would remain silent.

Isaiah 53:7 He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. [Also, Psalm 38:13, 39:2]

Matthew 27:12 But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he did not answer.

Matthew 27:14 But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

1 Peter 2:23 When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten; but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly.

What a lesson this is for us. When falsely accused do we rush to self defence? Do we counter with accusations ourselves? What a powerful weapon for the truth silence can be!

6. His hands and feet would be pierced.

Psalm 22:16 Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and feet.

John 20:25-29 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you. Then he said to Thomas, "**Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side.** Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Psalm 22 was written by David. It was written by David around 1,000 years before Jesus was born. Crucifixion was introduced by the Assyrian and Babylonian empires. It was used regularly by the Persians in the 6th century B.C. It was not known to the Jews until their captivity around 600 B.C. Psalm 22 speaks of the form and use of crucifixion and its bodily effects. How would David know of it at least 400 years before it was invented?

7. He would be crucified with thieves.

Isaiah 53:9 They made his **grave with the wicked and his tomb with the rich**, although he had done no violence, and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Isaiah 53:12 Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he poured out himself to death, and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Mark 15:27 *And with him they crucified two bandits, one on his right and one on his left. [and the scripture was fulfilled which says, "He was counted with the lawless ones".]*

Luke 22:37 *39 For I tell you, this scripture must be fulfilled in me, 'And he was counted among the lawless'; and indeed what is written about me is being fulfilled."....*

Luke 23:39-43 *One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

This fulfillment gives us insight to the scope of God's salvation message. Even at the last minute, with death just moments away, a person can look on Jesus and ask for His salvation. "Ask and it will be given to you." (**Matthew 7:7**). "All who call on the name of the Lord will be saved." (**Acts 2:21; Romans 10:13**)

8. He would be mocked

Psalm 22:7 *All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;*

Psalm 109:25 *I am an object of scorn to my accusers; when they see me, they shake their heads.*

Matthew 27:39 *Those who passed by derided him, shaking their heads.*

Even today, followers of Jesus will be mocked. You may have already experienced this. Not just a rejection of your faith in Jesus but expressions of ridicule towards you for your faith. This is persecution. This should not come as a surprise to anyone because Jesus prophesied that very thing, "Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, **they will persecute you also** (John 15:20).

9. **They would gamble for His clothes**

***Psalm 22:18** they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.*

***John 19:23** When the soldiers crucified Jesus, **they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them**, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom.*

***John 19:24** So they said to one another, "Let us not tear it, **but cast lots for it** to see who will get it." This was to fulfill what the scripture says, "They divided my clothes among themselves, and **for my clothing they cast lots.**"*

10. **He would thirst**

***Psalm 22:15** my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.*

***John 19:28** After this, when Jesus knew that all was now finished, he said (in order to fulfill the scripture), "**I am thirsty.**"*

***Matthew 27:34** they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall; but when he tasted it, he would not drink it.*

Psalm 69:21** They gave me poison for food, and **for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.

***Matthew 27:48** Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink.*

11. **His friends would stand back**

***Psalm 38:11** My friends and companions stand aloof from my affliction, and my neighbors stand far off.*

***Psalm 88:8** You have caused my companions to shun me; you have made me a thing of horror to them. I am shut in so that I cannot escape;*

***Luke 23:49** But all his acquaintances, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a distance, watching these things.*

Even Jesus' closest friends abandoned Him at His most difficult time. Are we willing to abandon our faith in Jesus when the going gets tough? When the church comes under persecution from the government will we back off? Or will we step forward and proclaim our faith in Jesus with boldness.

12. **None of His bones would be broken**

Exodus 12:46 *It shall be eaten in one house; you shall not take any of the animal outside the house, and **you shall not break any of its bones.***

Numbers 9:12 *They shall leave none of it until morning, **nor break a bone of it**; according to all the statute for the Passover they shall keep it.*

Psalm 34:20 *...he protects all his bones, **not one of them will be broken.***

John 19:36 *These things occurred so that the scripture might be fulfilled, "**None of his bones shall be broken.**"*

The Exodus text speaks of the Passover lamb that was to be prepared and eaten by the Hebrew slaves the night of Passover. Jesus is our Passover lamb, sacrificed at Passover. None of Jesus' bones were broken.