

The Desire of the Ages

By
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“And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.” (Luke 24:27)

The law required two witnesses to prove the validity of a thing or the truth of a testimony. Jesus gave them at least four:

1. He referred them to John the Baptist as the forerunner to the Messiah foretold by the prophets.
2. He submitted to the baptism of John where everyone present heard the approval of God the Father.
3. He pointed to the miracles he performed as the works of God.
4. He used the scriptures as a testimony to his authority and position as the Son of God.

This text reveals Christ using the scriptures to defend his Messianic claims. As Jesus walked with two disciples on the road to Emmaus after his resurrection, he said, “And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.”

One of the most amazing truths that can engage the wit and reason of mankind are those written utterances called prophecy. All predictions are not prophecy for prophecy must submit to the rigid tests of the passing ages and fit into the pattern of God’s eternal plans. We must not forget that credible prophecy must be remote in time, minute in detail, and peculiar in character. Every claim of a fulfillment of prophecy concerning

Jesus of Nazareth must meet the test of these criteria in his every act, word, and deed.

The claims of its fulfillment must fit the moral measurements of Deity.

No one knew this better than he and from ancient antiquity, he moved in the scope of prophecy. His footprints can easily be followed through the sacred pages of the Bible. He takes a hundred forms in the Pentateuch. He is seen in a thousand symbols in the prophets. The psalmist sets his personality to music. Track his footsteps as he weaves his way through history. The New Testament unfolds like the break of dawn on a spring morning. The earth is filled with music; the heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth his handiwork. The Bible is his word, his unchanging word. His life was circumscribed only by what the prophets had said. He moved in the pattern planned for him.

- I. There went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all return to their home towns to be taxed. Here begins the main stream of human history. "For thus it is written by the prophet: Thou Bethlehem in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah, for out of thee shall come a governor that shall rule my people Israel." Nothing less than the power of Rome would get this peasant virgin from Nazareth to Bethlehem. God employed Caesar's power just as he employed Pharaoh's daughter to save another infant for his purpose.
- II. Herod, foiled by the wise men, sent forth and slew all the children two years old and under. Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet saying "In Ramah there was a voice heard, lamentation and weeping,

Rachel weeping for her children and would not be comforted because they were not.”

- III. Before Herod could strike, an angel appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, “Take the young child and his mother and flee into Egypt that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord to the prophet saying, ‘Out of Egypt have I called my son.’”
- IV. At the close of his ministry, he was brought before another Herod, a potentate of the same evil order, yet he refused to open his mouth. “He was brought as a lamb to the slaughter and was as a sheep before his shearers is dumb, so he opened not his mouth.” The prophets foretold it; Jesus lived it.
- V. Even the casting of lots for Christ’s seamless robe was foretold. “They parted my garments among them, and upon my vesture did they cast lots.”
- VI. Victims of crucifixion usually died after their legs were broken because they could no longer expand their lungs for lack of being able to support their weight. But the prophets said none of his bones would be broken and as the soldiers moved to break his legs, they found him dead already.
- VII. “He made his grave with the wicked and with the rich in his death.” He died between two thieves and was taken down from the cross by two wealthy men and buried in a rich man’s tomb.
- VIII. He arose from the dead. “Thou wilt not leave his soul in Hades or suffer thy holy one to see corruption.”
- IX. There are prophecies about his saving work.
 - a. He was wounded for our transgressions

- b. He was bruised for our iniquities.
 - c. With his stripes we are healed.
- X. Prophecy yet to be filled. “This same Jesus will come again.” There will come a day when the universe will break up. When the world is intoxicated with evil, He will return.