

QUIET TIME

Theme: The life of Christ as Prophet, Priest and King

- Try to make a specific time every day to meet Jesus Christ through reading and meditating his Word.
- Pray, talk with Jesus Christ and make a few short notes about this Bible passage in your notebook.
- Record what you discover, what speaks to your mind and heart, what you find difficult or what you understand.

- Day 1 Luke 1:26-38
Announcement of the birth of Jesus
- Day 2 Luke 2:1-20
The birth of Jesus (about 4 B.C.)
- Day 3 Matthew 4:17-25
Jesus Christ as Prophet
- Day 4 Hebrews 7:11-28
Jesus Christ as Priest
- Day 5 Revelation 1:4-6
Jesus Christ as King
- Day 6 Luke 2:40-52
The childhood of Jesus
- Day 7 Matthew 4:1-11
The preparation of Jesus in the desert of Judea (26 A.D.)
- Day 8 John 1:35-42
The Early Galilean and Judean Ministries: Bethany, Cana, Jerusalem (26-27 A.D.)
- Day 9 Matthew 9:35-38
The Great Galilean Ministry: Capernaum, Galilee (Jan 28 A.D.)
- Day 10^{BS} 1 Peter 2:4-12
Also Christians are prophets, priests and kings
- Think about Luke 22:31-32.
Jesus Christ prays that your faith may not fail!
 - Pray every day for someone or something specific and wait in expectation for what God is going to do (Psalm 5:3).

STUDY

Theme: The fifth continuous theme in the Bible: The prophecies about Jesus Christ

Read study 16 carefully before the next meeting.
If you have questions, write them down and mail them to one of your group leaders.
We will seek an answer together.

BIBLE STUDY

Theme: Being a Christian means being a prophet, priest and king

If you like, you may already prepare the Bible Study for the coming meeting by reading through the Bible passage. Make use of the 5-step Bible Study method.
The Bible passage is: **1 Peter 2:4-12**

MEMORISATION

1. Motivation

Jesus memorised Bible verses (Luke 4:4-13).
Are you doing that?

2. Memorisation

Memorise this verse in the Bible version of your choice.

THE LIFE OF CHRIST

John 1:14

The Word became flesh
and made his dwelling among us.
We have seen his glory,
the glory of the One and Only,
who came from the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John 1:14 (NIV)

3. Review and back-review

Review the last 5 memorised verses once every day and back-review all other memorised verses once every three weeks.

4. Memorisation of the Bible books

The 4 Gospels and 1 historical book:
Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts

16. The fifth continuous theme: Prophecies about Jesus Christ

There are more than 50 prophecies (= predictions from God) in the Old Testament that point forward to the coming Saviour, the Messiah-King. They are called 'messianic prophecies'. Some prophecies in the Old Testament had a provisional, literal fulfilment during the Old Testament period as well as a later, less literal fulfilment during the New Testament period. This only becomes clear in the New Testament. This study contains an overview of the prophecies concerning Jesus Christ: his birth, life, death, resurrection, ascension, enthronement, work of salvation and second coming. Jesus said: "Everything *must* be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44).

Prophecies in the Old Testament are fulfilled in a literal (L), typological (T), analogous (A) or Christological (C) way in the New Testament.

An example of a typological fulfilment of an Old Testament prophecy in the New Testament: Hosea 11:1b refers to the exodus of Israel from Egypt as a type of the exodus of Israel from Babylon. In the New Testament Matthew 2:15 refers to the exodus of Israel from Egypt as a type of the exodus of the Messiah, Jesus Christ, from Egypt. Israel is thus a type of the Messiah! God had decided that his Servant, Jesus Christ, would be the fulfilment of everything that God had intended Israel to be (Isaiah 49:3,6)!

An example of an analogous fulfilment of an Old Testament prophecy in the New Testament: Jeremiah 31:15 refers to Rachel, the mother of Joseph (the representative of the northern kingdom of Israel) and Benjamin (the representative of the southern kingdom of Judah) mourning and weeping, because her children (descendants) were taken into exile from Rama (on the border between these two kingdoms) to Assyria (721 B.C.) and Babylonia (586 B.C.). In the New Testament (Matthew 2:17-18) the mothers of little children in Bethlehem mourn and weep, because their children were murdered by Herod. The last event is analogous (similar) to the first event.

An example of a Christological fulfilment of an Old Testament prophecy in the New Testament: What is said about God in the Old Testament (Ezekiel 34:11-16a) is ascribed to Jesus Christ in the New Testament (John 10:11-14).

A. Prophecy about the eternity of Jesus

Jesus is God the Creator until the renewal of creation

☛ Prophecy: Psalm 102:25-27.

☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 1:10-12 (C).

B. Prophecies about the birth of Jesus

Jesus is God who has taken on the human nature

☛ Prophecy: Isaiah 7:14-20.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 1:18-23 (A).

Explanation: Isaiah (740-680 B.C.) prophesied that a young woman would become the mother of a child, called 'Immanuel' (meaning: God with us), without mentioning the father. The child in Isaiah 7:14 was an ordinary child that lived in the time of king Ahaz (734-727 B.C.). This prophecy was initially *literally* fulfilled during the Old Testament period. Tiglath-Pileser of Assyria conquered Samaria in 734 B.C. (2 Kings 15:29) and Damascus (2 Kings 16:7-9) in 732 B.C.

But the New Testament reveals that this prophecy also received another fulfilment that was *not literal* (Matthew 1:22-23). God saw to it that the virgin Mary became the mother of the real Immanuel child without a human father. The child in Isaiah 7:14 was thus also a sign and type of the coming Messiah-child! The Son of God (the divine nature) took on the human nature and was born as a child (John 1:1-14; Philippians 2:5-7). His name indicates who he is: Jesus Christ is God who became a human living with us (Matthew 1:23).

Jesus was born in Bethlehem

☛ Prophecy: Micah 5:1.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 2:1-6 (L).

King Herod tries to murder Jesus

☛ Prophecy: Jeremiah 31:15.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 2:17-18 (A).

Jesus stays in Egypt until the death of Herod

☛ Prophecy: Hosea 11:1.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 2:14-15 (T).

Jesus was an insignificant person

☛ Prophecy in general Old Testament sense

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 2:23.

Explanation: A Nazarene is a person coming from Nazareth. While Bethlehem was famous as the city of David in Judea, Nazareth was an insignificant town in Galilee. Although Matthew 2:23 is not a specific prophecy in the Old Testament, the words: "So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets (plural): indicate what the Old Testament prophets had understood about the Messiah, namely, that the Messiah would be insignificant and despised (Psalm 22:6-8; 69:7-9,19-20; Isaiah 9:1; 11:1; 53:2-4,9).

C. Prophecies about the life of Jesus

Jesus is the LORD (Hebrew: JaHWeH) and John the Baptist prepared his way

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 40:3,9-11; Malachi 3:1-3; Malachi 4:5-6).

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 3:1-3 (A); 11:7-14; 17:10-13 (L).

Jesus grew up and began his ministry in Galilee

☞ Prophecy: Jesaja 9:1-2.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 3:13, 4:12-17 (L), Luke 4:14-21.

Jesus is the Son of God, his chosen Beloved

☞ Prophecy: Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1.

☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 1:5 (L); Matthew 3:16-17 (T).

Jesus is tempted by the devil

☞ Prophecy: Deuteronomy 8:3a.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 4:4 (A).

A first job description of Jesus

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 42:1-4.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 12:18-21 (L).

Explanation: What was the task of the Messiah? Isaiah prophesied that the servant of the LORD would establish justice (God's righteousness) on earth. What is ascribed to the LORD in Isaiah 2:2-4 and 51:4, is here ascribed to the Mediator Jesus Christ! He will establish what is right in God's eyes as the general acknowledged authority on earth (1 Corinthians 15:24-28)! The Servant of the LORD is especially the Prophet and Lawgiver – a second Moses.

For whom is the Messiah a Servant? Isaiah prophesies in verse 1 and 4b (and 6c) that the Messiah would bring justice to all the nations. Even the furthest islands would expectantly look forward to him. His work of salvation is for all the nations on earth.

How does the Messiah fulfil his task? Isaiah prophesies in verse 2 that the Messiah would not shout, cry out or raise his voice in the streets. He would not force himself on others or make use of earthly means of power. He would be unassuming (unpretending) and move about quietly, unobserved by superficial spectators. He even forbade people to make publicity for him. Through inner and spiritual power he would compel the nations to listen to him. He would act with meekness and mercy towards the weak and the sick.

The Messiah would fulfil his task. Isaiah prophesies that the Messiah would continue his work with unabated vigour until he has finished his task (verse 4; John 17:4). He would encounter opposition and would finally be broken (Isaiah 49:7; 50:6; 53:5), but he would reach his final goal!

A second job description of Jesus

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 42:6b; 49:8.

☞ Fulfilment: Luke 22:20 (L).

Explanation: Jesus would inaugurate the new covenant. He would not simply be the Mediator of the covenant, but the personalised covenant, because in him all God's promises are being fulfilled (2 Corinthians 1:20)! The outpouring of his blood on the cross ratified the covenant.

A third job description of Jesus

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 42:6c-7; 49:9.

☞ Fulfilment: Acts 13:46-47 (L).

Explanation: Jesus would proclaim the gospel in order to open the eyes of the spiritual blind (Isaiah 42:18,20; 43:8; cf. John 8:12; 9:39-41), to set people free from sin that enslaves them (John 8:30-36) and to release people who sit in darkness from their dungeon of despair.

A fourth job description of Jesus

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 61:1-2a.

☞ Fulfilment: Luke 4:18-19 (T).

Jesus brings help to the oppressed and sick

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 53:4.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 8:14-17 (L).

Jesus proclaims the message of salvation through parables

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 6:9-10; Psalm 78:2

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 13:10-17,34-35 (T).

Jesus declares God's name to his brothers in the Church

☞ Prophecy: Psalm 22:22

☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 2:12 (T).

Jesus cares for the people God gave him

☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 8:17-18.

☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 2:13 (A).

Jesus is the Good Shepherd

☞ Prophecy: Ezekiel 34:11-16a.

☞ Fulfilment: John 10:11-14 (C).

Jesus is hailed as King by many in Jerusalem

☞ Prophecy: Zechariah 9:9; Psalm 118:26.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 21:4-5,9; 23:39 (L).

D. Prophecies about the suffering and death of Jesus

Jesus' own household became his enemies

☞ Prophecy: Micah 7:6.

☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 10:35-36 (A);
cf. Mark 6:4; John 7:5.

Jesus was rejected by the religious leaders

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 118:22.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 21:42 (T).

Jesus was despised as a Galilean (= a foreigner)

- ☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 49:7, 53:2-3.
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 1:45-46, 7:41-42 (L).

Jesus zeal for the temple would consume him

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 69:9.
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 2:17 (T); Romans 15:3 (T).

Jesus was hated without reason

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 69:4.
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 15:25 (T).

Jesus was sold for 30 silver coins, with which the potter's field was later bought

- ☞ Prophecy: Zechariah 11:12-13.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 26:14-16 (C); and Matthew 27:3-10, see Jeremiah 32:6-9 (A).

Jesus was betrayed by a friend who ate with him

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 41:9; 55:12-14.
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 13:18 (T).

Jesus was repudiated by his own disciples and arrested by his enemies

- ☞ Prophecy: Zechariah 13:7-9.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 26:31 (T).

Jesus was beaten and spat upon

- ☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 50:6.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 26:67-68 (T).

Jesus gave his body as a sacrifice of atonement

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 40:6-8 LXX
(verse 6: "a body you have prepared for me").
- ☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 10:5-7 (T).

Jesus was crucified

- ☞ Prophecy: Isaiah 53:5
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 19:18 (L).

Jesus' hands and feet were pierced

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 22:16.
- ☞ Fulfilment: John 20:25 (T).

Jesus was given wine to drink, mixed with gall

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 69:21.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 27:34 (T).

Jesus was crucified naked and his clothes were divided

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 22:17-18.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 27:35 (T).

Jesus was mocked by people

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 22:6-8.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 27:39-44 (T).

Jesus was forsaken by God

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 22:1.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Matthew 27:46 (T).

E. Prophecies about the resurrection of Jesus

Jesus was resurrected from the dead

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 16:10.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Acts 2:23-32, 13:30-37; cf. Isaiah 55:3 and Habakkuk 1:5 (T).

Jesus was resurrected after three days

- ☞ Prophecy: Mark 8:31, 9:31, 10:32-34.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Mark 16:1-7 (L).

F. Prophecies about the ascension and enthronement of Jesus

Jesus was anointed as the Eternal King

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 45:6-7.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 1:8-9 (L).

Jesus ascended the heavenly throne and rules

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 110:1.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Acts 2:33-36; (cf. Matthew 22:44-45, 26:64; 1 Corinthians 15:25; Ephesians 1:20-22; Hebrews 1:13) (L).

Jesus put his enemies under his feet

- ☞ Prophecy: Psalm 8:4-6; 110:1.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Hebrews 2:5-8 (T).

G. Prophecies about Jesus' work of salvation

Jesus is the Greatest Prophet

- ☞ Prophecy: Deuteronomy 18:17-19.
- ☞ Fulfilment: Acts 3:14-23 (L); cf. John 1:1,14-18; Acts 1:1-2.

Explanation: Moses (1527–1407 B.C.) prophesied: The LORD said to me: "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. If anyone does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name, I myself will call him to account."

The New Testament reveals that this Greatest Prophet in history is Jesus Christ. No other prophet in history was killed and raised from the dead.

The last of the Old Testament prophets was John the Baptist (Matthew 11:13). Jesus Christ terminated the Old Testament prophets by being the Eternal Great Prophet through whom God spoke his definite and final word to people (Hebrews 1:1-2). Grace, truth and revelation of God came through Jesus Christ (John 1:14-18). Jesus Christ spoke with authority and demands our obedience (Matthew 7:24-29). Whoever does not listen to the words of Jesus, also does not listen to the words of God (Johns 5:34-36; 14:23-24). Whoever does not honour Jesus, does not honour God (John 5:23). Whoever does not know

Jesus, does not know God (John 8:19,24). Whoever does not believe in Jesus, does not believe in God (John 12:44). Whoever does not receive Jesus, also rejects God (Luke 10:16; John 13:20).

Religions that claim that this prophecy refers to another prophet than Jesus, are greatly mistaken, because they forget that this Prophet had to be a Jew; they neglect to take all other Old Testament prophecies about him into account; and they close their eyes to the clear fulfilment of this prophecy in Acts 3:14-23. Someone who claims that the Bible has been corrupted and nevertheless uses the Bible to claim that this prophecy refers to the prophet of his religion is inconsistent!

Jesus is the Highest Priest

☛Prophecy: Psalm 110:4.

☞Fulfilment: Hebrews 5:6; 7:15-28 (L).

Explanation: David (1011–971 B.C) prophesied: “The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind: ‘You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek’ (Psalm 110:4).” The New Testament reveals that Jesus Christ is the Highest Priest. In contrast to all other priests, he is sinless, holy, pure, set apart from sinners and made perfect for ever (Hebrews 7:26-28). In contrast to all other priests, who bring sacrifices for their own sins and for the sins of others, Jesus Christ once for all brought himself as a sacrifice of atonement for all believers (Hebrews 9:6-14,25-26). In contrast to the Old Testament high priests, who all died and had to be succeeded, Jesus Christ lives forever. Being raised from the dead, he lives and works for ever as High Priest (Hebrews 7:15-25). In contrast to all other priests, who serve in some earthly sanctuary, Jesus serves in the heavenly sanctuary in the presence of God (Hebrews 9:24). And in contrast to all other priests, he empathizes with our weaknesses, because he has been tempted as we are, but without sinning (Hebrews 4:14-16).

Jesus is the Almighty King

☛Prophecy: Isaiah 9:6-7.

☞Fulfilment: Matthew 28:18; John 3:35; 13:3;
Revelation 1:5; 17:14; 19:16 (L).

Jesus is the Capstone or Cornerstone

☛Prophecy: Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 28:16.

☞Fulfilment: Matthew 21:42-44; 1 Peter 2:6-8 (C).

H. Prophecies about the second coming of Jesus

The abomination that causes desolation before the second coming

☛Prophecy: Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11.

☞Fulfilment: three times in history:
167 B.C. (1 Maccabees 1:29-64, Antiochus Epiphanes the Seleucid-Syrian)
70 A.D. (Matthew 24:15; Luke 21:20-24, Titus the Roman) (T).

It will finally go into fulfilment during the short persecution before the one and only second coming of Christ (2 Thessalonians 2:1-4; Revelation 13:14-15) (T).

The great tribulation before the second coming

☛Prophecy: Daniel 12:1; Matthew 24:21-29a;
Revelation 11:7-10 (L).

The starry heavens will be shaken at the second coming

☛Prophecy: Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7; Joel 2:31;
Revelation 6:12-13, 8:12; Matthew 24:29 (L).

Jesus appears visibly for everyone on the clouds at his second coming

☛Prophecy: Daniel 7:13-14; Matthew 24:30, 26:64 (L).

All people will see Jesus as the One pierced by nails and a spear

☛Prophecy: Zechariah 12:10; John 19:18,33-37;
20:25,27 (at his first coming);
Revelation 1:7 (at his second coming) (T).

The second coming will be sudden and unexpected

☛Prophecy: Matthew 24:43-44; 1 Thessalonians 5:2;
2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 3:3, 16:15 (L).

Every knee will bow before Jesus and every tongue will confess the Jesus Christ is the Lord

☛Prophecy: Isaiah 45:23; Philippians 2:10-11 (C).

All angels will worship him

☛Prophecy: Deuteronomy 32:43 (Dead Sea Scrolls);
Hebrews 1:6 (C).

Jesus will reward every believer according to his deeds

☛Prophecy: Psalm 62:12; Matthew 16:27 (T).

Jesus will transform this present creation, but himself remains unchangeable for ever

☛Prophecy: Psalm 102:25-27; Hebrews 1:10-12 (C).

The Bible is unique.

There is no book that compares to it!

The prophets in the Old Testament spoke more than 50 prophecies about the coming Messiah. They did this hundreds of years before these prophecies went into fulfilment. Jesus Christ is the only person in history who fulfilled all these prophecies! Thirty of these prophecies are fulfilled in Jesus Christ in just one day!

Maybe one or two of these prophecies could be fulfilled in another historical person, but not all 50! There is but one chance in 100 000 000 000 000 000 that 8 of these predictions could be fulfilled in one single historical person! The fact that all the above prophecies are being fulfilled in Jesus Christ proves that Jesus Christ is absolutely unique in the history of the world! It also proves that there exists a Divine Intelligence (God himself) behind the Bible, its prophecies and their fulfilment in the history of this world!