

# A Prophetic Path

*Easter Sunday*

April 12, 2009



So far in our “Route 66” series, we’ve covered the first four books of the Bible, and yet Jesus has *leapt* out of each one!

In Genesis (3:15) God promises a Messiah who will “crush the serpent’s head,” though in so doing, the serpent will “strike the Savior’s heel” (and He will die). And the nature of this death is revealed when God asks Abraham to sacrifice his only begotten son – a sacrifice never intended to be accomplished, but only to paint a picture.



In Exodus, the Israelites must pass under the blood of the Passover Lamb as they leave the bondage of slavery behind, and enter into the joy of their salvation.



In Leviticus, the sacrifices in the tabernacle, and the festivals in the homes perfectly foreshadow, and offer a type of rehearsal for the coming Messiah.



And in Numbers, Moses is told to lift a bronze snake on a cross-pole, so that all who’ve been bitten have only to look upon this cross, in faith, to be healed and saved.

Well, today we’re taking a detour from “Route 66”.

But as I’ve been reading, I can’t help but notice *all* the mistakes in the Bible. When Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit ... big mistake! The guys who made fun of Noah ... in *way* over their heads!

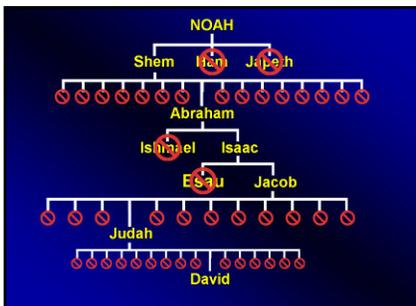
When the Israelites made that golden calf, when the men chained Samson to the roof supports, and when Goliath underestimated David’s pitching arm: blunder; slip-up; lapse of judgment.

But the biggest mistake, hands down, was when God’s chosen people failed to recognize His Son as their promised Messiah, and this, despite having been provided with a detailed prophetic path for the direct purpose of substantiating Him when He came.

Fulfilled prophecy is such a mainstay for authenticating and validating Jesus’ authority as Messiah, and Christianity itself! Plus, it’s really cool!

Here's a quick glimpse of the Messiah's prophesied genealogy:

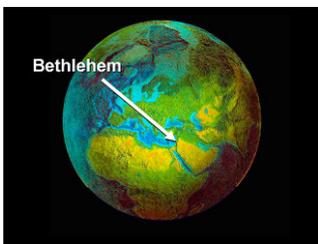
- A. Noah had three sons, but only **Shem** was chosen (over Ham and Japheth), thus eliminating 2/3 of the future population.
- B. Shem had dozens of descendents, but God selected **Abraham**.
- C. Abraham had two sons, but God chose **Isaac** over Ishmael.
- D. Isaac HAD two sons, but God chose **Jacob** over Esau.
- E. Jacob had twelve sons! The 12 tribes. But God eliminated 11/12 of the Israelites by singling out the **tribe of Judah**.
- F. And of all Judah's families, God elected the **house of David**.



So, if you're going to claim to be the Messiah (which scores had and would), you would need an exactly prophesied pedigree!

This is why the genealogies (in Matthew & Luke) are so important. Critics will point out that the two lists are different. That's because Matthew lists Joseph's bloodline; Luke offers Mary's.

Traditionalists would trace the ancestry through the *father*. But Jesus was born of a virgin ... so some go with the *mother*. But, the family tree of Mary *and* Joseph can *both* be traced from Noah's son Shem, to Shem's descendant Abraham, Abe's son Isaac, Isaac's son Jacob, the tribe of Judah, and the house of David!



Then (*Micah 5:2*) God eliminates *every* city on the planet except one tiny little town, Bethlehem (with a population of less than a thousand), as the eventual birthplace.



And through the prophet Malachi (*3:1*), God sets a time frame ... and it's fairly narrow. It's only while the 2nd temple is standing. Construction on the 2nd temple was completed in 516 B.C. And it was destroyed in 70 A.D. (fulfilling *Jesus'* prophecy). That's a 586 year window for the Christ to be born *in* Bethlehem, and through Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David!

And that's just the genealogy, geography, and chronology.

Now, let's go back to that first Easter morning. Two of Jesus' followers are walking from Jerusalem to a village called Emmaus.

They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?" They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you only a visitor to Jerusalem and do not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked. "About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. - Luke 24:15-21 NIV

So why are: "their faces downcast"? They mistakenly believed that the Messiah was going to redeem Israel by defeating the Romans. They couldn't conceive of a plan that included rescuing the Romans too!

And they continued this discussion until Jesus had had enough ...

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself. - Luke 24:25-27 NIV

No doubt He explained the foretold role of Christ as a suffering servant who was to become the ultimate sacrificial lamb for sin. And I'm sure He explained how the Messiah would rise to confirm God's acceptance of the sacrifice, and display power over death.

But, to give a small taste and a sense of Jesus' profound commentary, I've selected 40 *Old Testament*, prophetic verses, and arranged them in chronological order according to the life of Jesus.

And I would like to simply read them to you, with scenes from "The Passion" which have been edited to roughly fit the context. These images will serve to remind us of what these two men have *just* experienced.

And keep in mind that these verses are from the *Old Testament*, written 500 - 1400 years before Jesus came to fulfill them.

### **Filled With the Spirit**

And the Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. He will delight in obeying the Lord. - *Isaiah 11:2-3 NLT*

### **Minister of Miracles**

He is coming to save you. And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will shout and sing! ... - *Isaiah 35:4-6 NLT*

### **Teacher of Parables**

Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons ... - *Psalm 78:1-2 NLT*

### **Riding on a Donkey**

Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey ... - *Zechariah 9:9 NLT*

### **Stone of Stumbling**

If you fear him, you need fear nothing else. He will keep you safe. But to Israel and Judah he will be a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall. And for the people of Jerusalem he will be a trap that entangles them.

- *Isaiah 8:13-14 NLT*

### **Many Enemies**

Those who hate me without cause are more numerous than the hairs on my head. These enemies who seek to destroy me are doing so without cause. They attack me with lies, demanding that I give back what I didn't steal. - *Psalm 69:4 NLT*

### **Judas the Betrayer**

Even my best friend, the one I trusted completely, the one who shared my food, has turned against me. - *Psalm 41:9 NLT*

### **Judas the Close Friend**

If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it ... But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend ... - *Psalm 55:12-14 NIV*

### **Sheep Scattered**

Strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered ... - *Zechariah 13:7 NIV*

### **Beaten, Mocked, & Spit Upon**

I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting. - *Isaiah 50:6b NIV*

### **A Silent Lamb**

He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth. - *Isaiah 53:7 NLT*

### **Carried Sorrows**

Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! - *Isaiah 53:4 NLT*

### **Bearing Inequities**

When he sees all that is accomplished by his anguish, he will be satisfied. And because of what he has experienced, my righteous servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for he will bear all their sins. - *Isaiah 53:11 NLT*

### **Knees Buckled**

My knees are weak from fasting, and I am skin and bones. I am an object of mockery to people everywhere; when they see me, they shake their heads. – *Psalm 109:24-25 NLT*

### **Punishment Upon Him**

... the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. – *Isaiah 53:5b NIV*

### **Cut off from the Living**

From prison and trial they led him away to his death. But who among the people realized that he was dying for their sins – that he was suffering their punishment? – *Isaiah 53:8 NLT*

### **Pierced Hands & Feet**

My enemies surround me like a pack of dogs; an evil gang closes in on me. They have pierced my hands and feet. – *Psalm 22:16 NLT*

### **Laid on Him**

All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all. – *Isaiah 53:6 NLT*

### **Driven like a Peg**

He will bring honor to his family name, for I will drive him firmly in place like a tent stake. He will be loaded down with responsibility, and he will bring honor to even the lowliest members of his family." – *Isaiah 22:22-24 NLT*

### **Staring & Gloating**

I can count every bone in my body. My enemies stare at me and gloat. – *Psalm 22:17 NLT*

### **Scorned & Despised**

Everyone who sees me mocks me. They sneer and shake their heads, saying, "Is this the one who relies on the Lord? Then let the Lord save him! If the Lord loves him so much, let the Lord rescue him!" – *Psalm 22:7-8 NLT*

### **Hung with Criminals**

He willingly gave his life, and was treated like a criminal. But he carried away the sins of many people, and asked forgiveness for those who sinned." – *Isaiah 53:12 NCV*

### **My God, My God**

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? – *Psalm 22:1 NIV*

### **Gambling for Garments**

They divide my clothes among themselves and throw dice for my garments. – *Psalm 22:18 NLT*

### **Darkness Falls**

At that time," says the Sovereign Lord, "I will make the sun go down at noon and darken the earth while it is still day. – *Amos 8:9 NLT*

### **Thirsty**

My strength is dried up like [sun baked clay], and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. - *Psalm 22:15 NIV*

### **Given Vinegar**

... for my thirst they gave me vinegar. - *Psalm 69:22 NIV*

### **Into Your Hands**

Into your hands I commit my spirit ... - *Psalm 31:5 NIV*

### **A Guilt Offering**

Yet it was the Lord's will to crush him and cause him to suffer ... the Lord makes his life a guilt offering ... - *Isaiah 53:10 NIV*

### **No Broken Bones**

[The Lord] protects all his bones, not one of them will be broken. - *Psalm 34:20 NIV*

### **Pierced for our Transgressions**

... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities ...  
- *Isaiah 53:5a NIV*

### **A Melted Heart**

My life is poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint. My heart is like wax, melting within me. - *Psalm 22:14 NLT*

### **The Pierced One**

They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn for him as for an only son. - *Zechariah 12:10 NLT*

### **Not Hung Overnight**

You must not leave his body on the tree overnight. Be sure to bury him that same day, because anyone who is hung on a tree is under God's curse. - *Deuteronomy 21:23 NIV*

### **Not Left in Grave**

... you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. - *Psalm 16:10 NIV*

### **Escape from Death**

Our God is a God who saves; from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.  
- *Psalm 68:20 NIV*

### **Up from the Grave**

O Lord, you brought me up from the grave; you spared me from going down into the pit. - *Psalm 30:3 NIV*

### **The Third Day**

... on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. - *Hosea 6:2 NIV*

### The Capstone

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. - *Psalm 118:22-23 NIV*

### He Has Done It!

Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord. They will proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn – for he has done it.  
- *Psalm 22:30-31 NIV*

This is only a portion of the hundreds of prophetic scriptures that Jesus may have quoted. And it would've come with incredible interpretation and elaboration!

As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther. But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. - *Luke 24:28-31 NIV*

When He handed them the bread, their eyes were opened. Do you suppose they saw the wounds in His hands?!

I want you to notice three things:

1. We can fail to recognize and appreciate the presence of the Messiah even when He's walking right beside us.
2. Jesus will not barge in on us. He waits for an authentic, earnest, heart-felt invitation: "they urged him strongly"
3. And even though Jesus was their guest, He took on the role of master of the house and served them their own bread.

They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?" They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen ... - *Luke 24:32-34 NIV*

This Easter, make sure that you have recognized Him, appreciated Him, and sincerely invited Him to be the Master of your house.