

## GATEWAY CHURCH NORTHUMBERLAND

16.3.14 Joss Bray

### **The Law and the Prophets – Part 2**

We have been looking at some of the things that Jesus said he had come to do. Last week we heard about Jesus fulfilling the Law – that is the Old Testament law that God had handed down to Moses.

This means that we don't have to repeat rituals and sacrifices that are in the Jewish law, because Jesus has fulfilled all the requirements of that law – once and for all.

Because of that - we can also become at one with God because of Jesus's atonement for us. So God is not distant and out of communication, but close and our Father – who we can talk to whenever we want.

We also became righteous because Jesus has made things right with God on our behalf and we are in the right place in God's family.

And we have been justified - just as if we hadn't sinned.

So the Law remains a condemnation for those who do not trust Jesus – who are not saved into righteousness and justified. But for us who are saved – we are no longer under the Law but under the grace of God - and the Holy Spirit who lives in us not only teaches us what is right and wrong in God's sight, but also helps us when we are tempted – as we all are.

When we do sin, we can come to God in repentance – turning away from sin – and be forgiven. What an amazing deal!

We will focus this week on what he meant by the fulfilling the Prophets.

## **So what did Jesus say?**

MT 5:17 "Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.

JN 5:39 You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, <sup>40</sup> yet you refuse to come to me to have life.

## **What message about himself was Jesus trying to convey?**

The bible is about him and the prophets prophesied about him. He didn't come to overturn everything the Jews had received from God, he came to fulfill it. He would complete that old covenant and replace it with the new one – a new way that God was going to interact with his creation – particularly us – humanity.

He also said it is not enough to read and study the scriptures – we have to come to him - the subject of those scriptures. This is the basis of a personal faith in Jesus – a heart relationship rather than just head knowledge. He did not say – forget about the bible (actually the Old Testament as we know it) – rather “come to me through what you learn there”.

The prophecies were given so that the Jewish people might recognise the messiah and believe in him. All these messianic (i.e. saviour) prophecies were fulfilled by Jesus.

Yet they still did not believe because of their own agendas, pride and vested interests – the same as today for many people – not just Jews.

We remember the disciples on the road to Emmaus:

LK 24:17

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. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see."

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.

## **So what was prophesied about Jesus in the OT?**

There are several themes:

His birth, his nature, his ministry, what others did to him, his death, his resurrection – these were all fulfilled.

And to come, there are prophecies about his second coming and the end times – which are not fulfilled yet.

Opinions will vary on how many have been fulfilled but figures are suggested from 45 – hundreds.

### **His ancestral lineage:**

Through the Old testament God gives clues as to where the messiah would come from-

Seed of Abraham (Genesis 22:18; Matthew 1:1; Galatians 3:16) Here it is determined that the Messiah would be a Jewish descendant. Abraham had two sons, Isaac and Ishmael but God said he would originate from a son of Isaac (Genesis 21:12; Luke 3:23,34).. Jacob had twelve sons and each became a tribe of the Hebrew nation. Now God eliminates eleven-twelfths of the lineage of Jacob. He identifies the Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:10; Luke 3:23,33) Now God narrows it down even further by picking one family line out of the tribe of Judah the family line of Jesse (Isaiah 11:1; Luke 3:23,32) Jesse had at least eight sons (I Samuel 16:10,11). Now God eliminates all of Jesse's sons except one, David -(Jeremiah 23:5; Luke 3:23,31)

### **His birth:**

Born of a virgin (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18, 24, 25)  
Born in Bethlehem. (Micah 5:2; Matthew 2:1)  
Presented with gifts (Psalm 72:10; Isaiah 60:6; Matthew 2:1,11)  
Herod kills children (Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:16)

### **His nature:**

Son of God (Psalm 2:7; Matthew 3:17)  
His Pre-Existence (Micah 5:2; Colossians 1:17; John 1:1)  
He shall be called Lord (Psalm 110:1; Luke 20:41-44)  
He shall be called Immanuel ("God with us") (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23)  
Shall be a prophet (Deuteronomy 18:18; Matthew 21:11)  
Shall be a priest (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:5,6)  
Shall be a judge (Isaiah 33:22; John 5:30)  
Shall be a king (Isaiah 33:22; Matthew 27:37)  
Special anointing of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2; Matthew 3:16,17)  
His zeal for God (Psalm 69:9; John 2:15-17)

### **His ministry:**

Preceded by a messenger (Isaiah 40:3; Matthew 3:1,2)  
Ministry to begin in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1,2; Matthew 4:12,13,17)  
Ministry of miracles (Isaiah 35:5, 6a; Matthew 9:35)  
Teacher of parables (Psalm 78:2; Matthew 13:34)

He was to enter the temple (Malachi 3:1; Matthew 21:12)  
He was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Luke 19:35,36,37a)  
A "Stone Of Stumbling" to the Jewish nation (Psalm 118:22; I Peter 2:7)  
"Light" to the Gentiles (Isaiah 60:3; 49:6; Acts 13:47,48a)

## **His death:**

29 prophecies written over the centuries 1000 – 500 BC  
by different people before got fulfilled in 24 hours -

Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9; Matthew 10:4)  
Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15)  
Money to be thrown down in God's house (Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:5a)  
Price given for potter's field (Zechariah 11:13b; Matthew 27:7)  
Forsaken by His disciples (Zechariah 13:7; Mark 14:50)  
Accused by false witnesses (Psalm 35:11; Matthew 26:59-61)  
Mute before accusers (Isaiah 53:7; Matthew 27:12-19)  
Wounded and bruised (Isaiah 53:5; Matthew 27:26)  
Smitten and spit upon (Isaiah 50:6; Micah 5:1; Matthew 26:67)  
Mocked (Psalm 22:7,8; Matthew 27:31)  
Fell under the cross (Psalm 109:24; John 19:17; Luke 23:26)  
Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16; Luke 23:33)  
Crucified with thieves (Isaiah 53:12; Matthew 27:38)  
Made intercession for His persecutors (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:34)  
Rejected by his own people (Isaiah 53:3; John 7:5,48)  
Hated without a cause (Psalm 69:4; John 15:25)  
Friends stood afar off (Psalm 38:11; Luke 23:49)  
People shook their heads (Psalm 109:25; Matthew 27:39)  
Stared at (Psalm 22:17; Luke 23:35)  
Garments parted and lots cast (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23,24)  
Suffered thirst (Psalm 69:21; John 19:28)  
Gall and vinegar offered Him (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34)  
His forsaken cry (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46)  
Committed Himself to God (Psalm 31:5; Luke 23:46)  
His bones not broken (Psalm 34:20; John 19:33)  
His heart broken (Psalm 22:14; John 19:34) The blood and water which came from Jesus' pierced side.  
His side pierced (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34)  
Darkness over the land (Amos 8:9; Matthew 27:45)  
Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57-60)  
Sacrifice for sin Isaiah 53:5-12

## **His resurrection:**

His resurrection (Psalm 16:10; Psalm 49:15; Acts 2:31)  
His ascension (Psalm 68:18a; Acts 1:9)  
Seated at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1; Hebrews 1:3)

## **In conclusion:**

Jesus was spot on when he said he had come to fulfill the prophets. Not everything has been fulfilled yet – but eternity will see that happening.

People may argue about some of the instances we have looked at but if you take the big picture you have to say that Jesus was absolutely right when he said that the scriptures spoke about him.

We also know from Paul that:

1CO 13:8 .....where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. <sup>9</sup> For we know in part and we prophesy in part,

So we should not expect everything to be clear and 100% understandable now – but it will be.

What we do know is that we need to come to the Jesus the bible talks about, with a personal faith and he gives us life –

JN 10: 10 .....I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- which is what we will discuss next week.