

Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

**John 15:13**

## Store In My Heart Lamentations 1:3

Judah has gone into exile under affliction And under harsh servitude; She dwells among the nations, But she has found no rest; All her pursuers have overtaken her In the midst of distress.

Written following the fall of Jerusalem in about 586 BC, Lamentations is a collection of poems. As the name indicates, these poems are full of sorrow that God's people turned away from Him to the point that they have been taken from their promised land. Many prophets repeatedly warned, yet Judah did not heed.

There is a bright spot in the midst of this grief as the author speaks of hope through repentance and God's great mercy. Jeremiah is generally considered this book's author.

There is a lesson for us. No matter what God has done for me in the past, He will not continue to bless me if I am not willing to continue serving Him.



# Hope Through Prophecy

**Ben Smith**

There are numerous prophecies throughout the Old Testament. While many of these speak of doom and gloom for the nations in the area surrounding Israel, such as what the book of Obadiah says about the Edomites and what the book of Jonah says about the Ninevites, 700 of the prophecies in the Old Testament speak about the details of the life of Jesus, from His birth to His ministry, and even describing His death.

One of the most well-known prophecies about Jesus is found in **Isaiah 7:14** which states, *"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."* This prophecy was fulfilled when Mary, a virgin, gave birth to Jesus in Bethlehem. This miraculous birth is a testament to Jesus' divine nature as the Son of God.

Another important prophecy about Jesus is found in **Micah 5:2**, which says, *"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."* This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, as foretold by the prophet Micah.

A very fascinating prophecy of the coming Messiah is in **Zechariah 9:9** which reads: *"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."* What makes this prophecy so shocking is how it describes very specific, seemingly unimportant details of an event that happened in the life of Jesus, hundreds of years before it actually happened. This event happened in **Matthew 21:1-3**, which states: *"Now when they drew near Jerusalem, and came to Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Loose them and bring them to Me. And if anyone says anything to you, you shall say, 'The Lord has need of them,' and immediately he will send them.'"*

**Isaiah 53** is perhaps one of the most detailed prophecies about Jesus. It describes His suffering and death on the cross, stating in **Isaiah 53:4-6**, *"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we*

*esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”* This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross for the sins of humanity, taking upon Himself the punishment that we deserved.

The Old Testament also contains prophecies about Jesus’ resurrection. In **Psalm 16:10**, David writes, *“For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”* This prophecy was fulfilled when Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, conquering death and providing a way for us to have eternal life.

The importance of these prophecies cannot be overstated. They provide evidence that Jesus is the Messiah and the Son of God, fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of a Savior. The fulfillment of these prophecies demonstrate God’s sovereignty and faithfulness, as well as His love for humanity. As it says in **John 3:16**, *“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”*

Furthermore, these prophecies give us as Christians hope and assurance in our faith. Knowing that God’s promises are true and that He has fulfilled them in the past, it gives us confidence that He will also fulfill His promises to us in the present and future. As it says in **Romans 8:32**, *“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”*

Suffice to say, the prophecies about Jesus Christ are of utmost importance to us as Christians, because they provide evidence of Jesus’ divinity and show the fulfillment of God’s promises. They demonstrate God’s power, sovereignty and faithfulness, as well as His love for humanity. These prophecies give us hope and assurance in our faith, knowing that God’s promises are true, and that He will fulfill them, as well as giving us hope that God’s promises about our eternal home in heaven will be fulfilled as well. As the Apostle Paul writes in **2Corinthians 1:19-22**: *“For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*

## Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

### Church of Christ

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## For Our Information

**Marla Rigsby** is still sick. **Malcolm Rigsby** is to see a cardiologist for some more monitoring.

**Jim Soliday** is still waiting to get his cardiac ablation scheduled.

**Sue Soliday** has a CT scan scheduled about her Bells Palsy.

**Adene Gray** has not been feeling well this past week.

**Ruben Keisler** is scheduled for foot surgery late February. He and **Brenda** are in Hawaii with their cruise.

**Alaina Berryhill** is working.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 1:21** Wednesday – **John 16:12**

**Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock**

The  
**CHURCH OF CHRIST**

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service  
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study  
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study