“Dad,” Mary asked after getting home from an Easter service, “today our Sunday school teacher said the Bible prophesied about Jesus being crucified. What did he mean by ‘prophesied’?”

Mr. Jones answered, “That word comes from the word prophecy, which is a statement about something that will happen in the future. Because no human can look into the future, God used prophets to tell what was going to happen. So a Bible prophecy is a God-given revelation of the future. It is not only a telling of the future – it is a PROMISE about the future.

“There are more than 300 prophecies in the Old Testament about the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus the Messiah. These were written thousands to hundreds of years before they happened. Yet each came true just as foretold. Let’s look at a few of the prophecies surrounding the crucifixion of Jesus.”

NOTE: The Bible references in blue show a prophecy. Passages in red show where it was fulfilled:

1. Zechariah prophesied that the Messiah was to enter Jerusalem on a donkey. (found in Zechariah 9:9) (fulfilled in John 12:12-15)

2. The Messiah would be betrayed by a friend. (Psalm 55:12-14) (Matthew 26:49-50) He would be sold for 30 pieces of silver. (Zechariah 11:12) (Matthew 26:14-15). The money would be cast down in the House of the Lord and used to purchase the potter’s field. (Zechariah 11:13) (Matthew 27:5-7)

3. The Messiah was to be silent in front of His accusers. (Isaiah 53:7) (Mark 15:5)

4. He would be wounded and bruised. (Isaiah 53:5) (Matthew 27:26, 29)

5. They would pierce his hands and feet. (Psalm 22:16) (Luke 23:33) NOTE: The Romans crucified people by using huge spikes to nail their hands and feet to a wooden cross.

6. He would be crucified with thieves. (Isaiah 53:12) (Mark 15:27-28)


8. He would cry out ‘My God, my God, why have you forsaken [abandoned] me …?’ (Psalm 22:1) (Matthew 27:46)

9. Darkness would be over the land. (Amos 8:9) (Matthew 27:45)

10. His side would be pierced. (Zechariah 12:10) (John 19:34-37)

11. Not one of his bones would be broken. (Psalm 34:20) (John 19:33, 36) NOTE: A person’s legs were usually broken soon after being crucified to speed up their death.

12. The Messiah would be buried in a rich man’s tomb. (Isaiah 53:9) (Matthew 27:57-60)

13. Jesus would not stay buried but would rise from the dead. (Psalm 16:10) (Matthew 28:6)

14. The Messiah will be killed as a sacrifice for the sins of His people. (Isaiah 53:5-9) (1 Peter 2:24) (1 Corinthians 15:3-4) “You see, Mary, when we see Old Testament prophecies fulfilled hundreds of years later by Jesus, we know that more than man’s wisdom was involved in giving them. God promised that these events would happen and they did – exactly the way He foretold. These amazing Old Testament prophecies are very strong proof that the Bible is truly the Word of God. Most importantly, we can believe its message about Jesus, because God always keeps His word.”
All of us at AOI wish you a wonderful Easter filled with love, peace and joy. Christ showed us His endless love by giving His life to wash away our sins.

Find the path through the maze from Jesus on the cross at the bottom, to the rich man’s tomb in the center, and out to the empty tomb at the top.

WORD SEARCH
Look for the words from the WORD LIST below. The hidden word might be up, down, sideways or slanted, but not backwards.

Word List
BONES BURIED CROSS CRUCIFIXION EASTER FULFILLED FUTURE JESUS MESSIAH PIERCED PROMISE PROPHECY SILVER SIN TOMB

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