

## 20:20 Vision Ministries – Devotions by Roger Browning Week 33 (August 13-19, 2017)

I pray that you are fascinated by the accuracy of prophecy pertaining to the first coming of Jesus. Since this is true, you can certainly trust His Word containing the truth about His second coming.

**Sunday**, August 13 (read Isaiah 53:7-9; reprinted from April 3, 2015)

*He was oppressed and afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; He was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so He did not open His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)*

Today's text makes me realize how far I am from His standard of holiness. Whenever I have faced oppression, I have opened my mouth in defense. I, who am guilty, can get vocal, but He, who is innocent, does not fight back (v. 7). Jesus' sacrificial death on our behalf has opened the door of salvation to every person on earth who has believed and accepted Him (v. 8). This prophecy is so accurate that it even predicts the role of Joseph of Arimathea, the rich man who provided a grave for the body of our Lord (v. 9; see also John 19:38-42). How can anyone doubt the Word of God, knowing that all the events of Holy Week were prophesied hundreds of years before they came about?

**Monday**, August 14 (Isaiah 53:10-12; reprinted from April 4, 2015)

*After the suffering of His soul, He will see the light of life and be satisfied; by His knowledge my righteous Servant will justify many, and He will bear their iniquities. (Isaiah 53:11)*

God knew from the beginning that the sacrifice of His Son to purchase the souls of sinful men would be the only way to accomplish His will (v. 10). He also knew that death would not defeat His Son. His **resurrection** is prophesied in v. 11 printed above. How can God's plan of salvation be any clearer? Because of His faithful sacrifice, "God exalted Him to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (v. 12 & Philippians 2:9-11). Hallelujah!

**Tuesday**, August 15 (read Psalm 22:14-18)

*I am poured out like water; and all my bones are out of joint. My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me. (Psalm 22:14)*

King David must have wondered why he was writing these words of prophecy that would not be fulfilled for another 1000 years. He couldn't understand the meaning of this passage, because crucifixion had not been introduced to the world at this time. Yet, he not only penned the words, but he also began the chapter with the words Jesus would cry out from the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me" (v. 1a)? I hope you are finding these prophecies as amazing as I am. Every bone in the Lord's powerful body pulled out of joint under the weight of the cross (v. 14). His heart actually burst from the load of sins He carried in order to save us from our sins (v. 14b). We will continue in this passage in tomorrow's devotion.

**Wednesday, August 16** (reread Psalm 22:14-18)

*They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing. (Psalm 22:18)*

One of the Lord's sayings from the cross was, "I am thirsty" (see John 19:28). He was not thirsty for earthly water, but for the unbroken relationship He had always shared with His Father, the one that He willingly relinquished while dying on the cross for our sins. He says to us, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled" (Matthew 5:6). Verse 15 in today's text refers to that experience. Gentiles, who were called dogs by the Jews, surrounded Jesus on the cross after they pierced His hands and feet (v. 16). The printed verse above was fulfilled completely while Jesus was on the cross and is recorded in John 19:23-24. Since all of these events were fulfilled with perfect accuracy, don't you think that the prophecies concerning His second coming will also come to pass?

**Thursday, August 17** (read Psalm 16:5-11)

*Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, because you will not abandon me to the grave, nor will you let your Holy One see decay. (Psalm 16:9)*

David knows that he is writing about the Messiah in this psalm. A thousand years before the empty tomb, David clearly prophesies the resurrection. He knows that the Messiah will come from the tomb to sit at the right hand of God in Heaven (v. 8). He also knows that because of the death and resurrection of the Messiah, others will find the path to eternal life (9-11). Because of these amazing fulfillments, we should praise the Lord day and night (v. 7) and thank Him forever because of the security we have in Christ (v. 5). "The boundary lines have fallen for [us] in pleasant places; surely [we] have a delightful inheritance" (v. 6).

**Friday, August 18** (read Isaiah 45:11-15)

*"I will raise up Cyrus in my righteousness: I will make all his ways straight. He will rebuild my city and set my exiles free, but not for a price or reward, says the Lord Almighty." (Isaiah 45:13)*

Beginning in Isaiah 44:28, God tells us that He will raise up a man named Cyrus to rebuild the city of Jerusalem and the temple within. The amazing thing is that Cyrus would not be born for another 100 years. Many early scholars thought that these words could not have been written in 700 B.C., but the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls ended that theory. You can read about the decree King Cyrus made in Ezra 1:1-4. My purpose is not to teach history, but rather to amaze you at the accuracy of the Word of God. We will close the week by looking at the entire passage predicting the reign of Cyrus.

**Saturday, August 19** (reread Isaiah 44:24-45:15)

*"I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things." (Isaiah 45:7)*

I want to spend another day on this amazing passage. God not only calls Cyrus by name (v. 1), but He is the one who elevates him to the kingship before Cyrus acknowledges the Lord (v. 4-5). The foreknowledge of God is beyond our understanding, but it separates the Bible from all religious books. God is sovereign over all the earth and the actions of man, even though we possess a free will. Many scholars spend a lifetime trying to reconcile those two truths. The printed verse above tells you that nothing will ever enter your life without the permission of our almighty God. Worship Him and ask Him to go to your unsaved family members and call them into His service (v. 8). Leave the results to Him and do not question Him or the speed with which He works (v. 9-10). He is God and we are not! Let Him do His job while you report for duty to perform the tasks He has entrusted to you.