

Exercising My Understanding

1. Who moved the prophets of old to speak? (2 Peter 1:19-21)
2. Who fulfilled the prophecy found in Malachi 3:1 and how do we know this? (Luke 7:24-27)
3. Who used Isaiah 53 to teach someone about Jesus the Christ? (Acts 8:26-35)
4. When was the prophecy of Jeremiah 31:31-34 fulfilled and how do we know?
5. Who prophesied the out pouring of the Spirit of the Lord upon all flesh?
6. Who said, *“Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day”*?
7. In what year of his reign did Nebuchadnezzar have the dream of the statue? (Daniel 2:1)
8. David foretold God telling Jesus to sit where? (Acts 2:34-36)
9. According to Peter, over whom is Jesus Christ reigning? (1 Peter 3:21-22)
10. Whose prophecy contains the following phrase, *“I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people”*?

Next Lesson:

Jesus the Christ

God’s Plan for Man

Lesson 5: The Role of Prophecies

- A. Prophecies both foretold and confirmed God’s message for man.
 1. Prophet’s of the Old Testament spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit. (2 Peter 1:19-21)
 2. Two ways to tell if a prophet was truly speaking for God.
 - a. Negative: If the prophecy did not come to pass. (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)
 - b. Positive: If the prophecy came to pass but the prophet told the people to go after other gods. (Deuteronomy 13:1-5)
- B. Prophecies foretold the coming of John, the one who prepared the way for Jesus.
 1. Isaiah 40:3-5
 - a. Date of prophecy: Between 740 B.C. and 686 B.C. – We do not know how long Isaiah lived. However, his prophecies in chapters 1-39 pertained to these kings with chapters 36-39 recording events which took place during the life of king Hezekiah. In chapters 40-66, Isaiah’s tone changes considerably from judgement to hope and restoration. (The tone is so drastic that some scholars believe someone living during the reign of king Cyrus, king of Persia, wrote chapters 40-66. King Cyrus took the city of Babylon in 539 B.C.) We will hold to the idea that Isaiah, through the Holy Spirit wrote both sections during the rough time span of 740 B.C. (the death of king Uzziah) to 686 B.C. (the death of king Hezekiah), including chapters 40-66 which would later serve as hope for a people in captivity.
 - b. Fulfilled: Luke 3:3-6 - Luke, through inspiration of the Holy Spirit makes the connection between Isaiah’s prophecy and John’s role in preparing the way.
 - c. Date of fulfillment: John’s role in preparing the way for the Christ took place around A.D. 26 or 27, almost 700 years after Isaiah’s prophecy was written.
 2. Malachi 3:1
 - a. Date of prophecy: Circa 460 B.C. – While little is known of Malachi outside of what he wrote, it is suggested by some that Malachi may have written this book in the

Creation

- **adam sinned**
- expulsion from garden
- cain kills abel
- sin abounds
- god brings the flood
- man is still sinful
- the tower of babel
- **god's covenant with abraham**
- melchizedek
- offering of isaac
- promise to isaac & jacob

- god called moses
- god institutes the passover
- moses delivers israel
- god gives manna and water
- god gives law on Sinai
- god gives the tabernacle
- the first generation rebels
- 40 years of wandering
- the bronze serpent
- the promised land
- time of the judges
- time of the kings

- the one who would prepare the way
- the suffering of the messiah
- god's new covenant
- pouring out of the spirit of the lord
- the coming of the kingdom of heaven

Prophecies

early days of king Artaxerxes I (465-424 B.C.). Malachi's use of the term "governor" would suggest a time after the building of the second temple and just prior to Ezra's arrive in 458 B.C.

- b. Fulfilled: Luke 7:24-27 – Jesus makes the connection between Malachi's statement and John's role in preparing the way.
- c. Date of fulfillment: John's role in preparing the way for the Christ took place around A.D. 26 or 27, almost 490 years later.

C. Prophecy foretold the suffering of the Messiah.

1. Isaiah 53

- a. Date of prophecy: Between 740 B.C. and 686 B.C. *See Isaiah 40:3-5 dating information already covered.*
- b. Fulfilled: Acts 8:26-35 - Philip applied this prophecy directly to Jesus. Matthew applied this prophecy to Jesus (Matthew 8:14-17). The apostle John applied it to Jesus' teachings (John 12:37-41). Jesus applied it to himself. (Luke 22:35-38). Peter applied the prophecy to Jesus (1 Peter 2:19-25)
- c. Date of fulfillment: Jesus' death (circa A.D. 27 - 30).

D. Prophecy foretold the establishing of the New Covenant.

1. Jeremiah 31:31-34

- a. Date of prophecy: Jeremiah's work as a prophet appears to span from the 13th year of king Josiah's reign (627 B.C.) to the 11th year of Zedekiah, the fifth month (586 B.C.). (Jeremiah 1:1-3) Based on the context of chapter 31,

it may be this prophecy was written somewhere between 597 and 586 B.C.

- b. Fulfilled: Hebrews 8:6-13; 9:16-17; 10:8-10 - Death of Jesus Christ, the testator.
- c. Date of fulfillment: Jesus' death (circa A.D. 27 - 30).

E. Prophecy foretold the pouring out of the Spirit of the Lord.

1. Joel 2:28-32

- a. Date of prophecy: Circa 500 B.C. – Since Joel mentions the temple, he either wrote with the earlier prophets or during the later time of Malachi, after the second temple had been built.
- b. Fulfilled: Acts 2:14-21 - The apostle Peter made a direct connection between the prophecy of Joel and the events occurring on the day of Pentecost after Jesus' death.
- c. Date of fulfillment: Fifty days after the death of Jesus Christ (circa A.D. 27-30).

F. Prophecy foretold the coming of the New Kingdom.

1. Daniel 2:24-45

- a. Date of prophecy: 604 B.C. – Daniel 2:1 identifies the time to be the 2nd year of king Nebuchadnezzar's reign.
- b. Fulfilled: Before Jesus died, He promised, "But I tell you truly, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:27). A short time later, Jesus would die on the cross. Forty days after His crucifixion, Jesus ascended to heaven, fulfilling Daniel's prophecy.
 - ★ Sit at the right hand of the Father. (Psalm 110:1; Mark 23:36; Acts 2:34-36; Hebrews 1:13)
 - ★ Reign over His Father's kingdom. (Hebrews 2:5-9; 1 Peter 3:21-22; Revelation 11:15; 1 Corinthians 15:25-28; Hebrews 1:8; 12:28).
- c. Date of fulfillment: Fifty days after the death of Jesus Christ, (circa A.D. 27-30) on the day of Pentecost.