

# **The Scarlet Thread of Redemption**

## **Old Testament (39 Books)**

### **1. Genesis**

The **Old Testament** foretells the arrival of a **divine rescuer**, one who would **restore what was lost** when **Eden was corrupted** by the **dark prince** who disrupted **God's creation**. Countless **prophecies, symbols, and predictions** point to both the **first and second coming of Jesus Christ**, forming a **scarlet thread of redemption** that runs throughout Scripture, revealing **God's plan to save humanity**.

This **redemptive thread** first appears after **the fall**, when Jesus is introduced as **the Seed of the woman** destined to **defeat Satan** (Genesis 3:15). The theme of **salvation through Christ** is echoed in:

- **Noah's ark**, representing Jesus as the **sole means of salvation**
- **Jacob's ladder**, foreshadowing Christ as **the only bridge to God**
- **Joseph's life**, mirroring Jesus in **betrayal, suffering, and ultimate mediation between life and death**

From the very beginning, **God's plan of redemption** was in motion, pointing forward to **Jesus as the fulfillment of His promise** to rescue and restore mankind.

### **2. Exodus**

When **God gave Moses the Law**, He was not only establishing a guide for **Israel's worship and daily life**, but also pointing to the **eternal covenant fulfilled in Christ**. Under the **Law**, Moses served as **a mediator between God and His people**, but under the **covenant of grace**, the **perfect Mediator** arrived—**Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man**.

One of the **clearest foreshadowings of Christ's salvation** is found in the **Passover**. The **death of Egypt's firstborn**, the **shedding of the lamb's blood**, and **Israel's deliverance from bondage** symbolize **Christ's sacrifice and redemption**. This connection is frequently emphasized in the **New Testament** (John 1:29, 36; 19:14; Acts 8:32-35; 1 Corinthians 5:7; 15:3-4; 1 Peter 1:19-20; Revelation 5:6-9).

The **tabernacle**, described in **Exodus 26–27 and 30**, also foreshadows **heaven and Christ Himself**. As the **Great High Priest**, **Jesus made fellowship with the Father possible**. Over time, the **tabernacle became the temple**, but ultimately, **Jesus became the true fulfillment of the temple**, as declared in **John 1:14**: “**The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.**”

### **3. Leviticus**

The **scarlet thread of redemption** is evident in the **law and tabernacle sacrifices**, symbolizing Jesus' atoning work. In the **Holy of Holies**, the **mercy seat** atop the Ark of the Covenant was where atonement blood was poured—foreshadowing Jesus, who became our mercy seat, turning judgment into mercy.

The **Day of Atonement** also parallels Jesus' sacrifice, as both the **sacrificial lamb** and the **scapegoat** represent His atonement on the cross. The law revealed God's holiness, and Jesus fulfilled its requirements, allowing anyone to approach God through Him.

#### 4. **Numbers**

In the book of **Numbers**, God designated **cities of refuge** as places where those accused of murder could seek protection. They were allowed to remain in these sanctuary cities until the **high priest's death**, after which they could return home. This concept is powerful: as long as the **high priest lived, they were safe**, but upon his death, they were **released**. This serves as a profound illustration of **Jesus Christ, our Great High Priest**, who gave His life to grant us **freedom and deliverance from eternal death**.

#### 5. **Deuteronomy**

**Deuteronomy** is the book Jesus quoted most frequently during His time on earth. The **scarlet thread of redemption** is especially evident in Moses' prophecy: **"The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from among your brethren. Him you shall hear"** (Deuteronomy 18:15).

The word "**Prophet**" is capitalized because translators believe it refers to the **Messiah, Jesus Christ**. God further stated, **"I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak all that I command Him"** (v. 18).

In this way, **Moses served as a foreshadowing of Christ**, and Jesus ultimately **fulfilled the Mosaic ideal** (John 1:21).

#### 6. **Joshua**

The book of **Joshua** has a strong gospel connection, starting with Joshua's name, which is derived from **Yeshua**, the Hebrew form of **Jesus**. The parallels go beyond the name—under **Moses' leadership**, Israel failed to inherit the Promised Land due to **disobedience** and unbelief, demonstrating that they could not earn it under the **Law**.

However, in **Joshua**, God freely **gives** them the land (Joshua 1:3), symbolizing **grace**—a gift they did not earn but had to **claim**. This mirrors the gospel: **what the Law could not achieve, grace provides through Jesus Christ** (John 1:17).

#### 7. **Judges**

The book of **Judges** illustrates humanity's inability to break the **cycle of sin**. Though **Jesus' sacrifice** paid for sin once and for all, people continue to turn away from God, a pattern seen throughout history. While Judges does not explicitly mention the **Messiah**, it highlights **mankind's deep need for Him**.

The book reflects the ongoing **spiritual battle** first revealed in **Genesis 3:15**, contrasting the **imperfect judges** with the **ultimate Deliverer, Jesus Christ**. Despite seven cycles of **rebellion, judgment, repentance, and restoration**, Israel repeatedly forsook God.

Judges foreshadows Christ's **victory over sin and death**, yet also serves as a reminder that **God will judge the unrepentant**, even in this age of grace.

## 8. **Ruth**

The book of **Ruth** foreshadows the **Messiah** through **Boaz**, who serves as a **kinsman-redeemer** (Leviticus 25:25). Like **Jesus**, Boaz was both **qualified and willing** to redeem.

Boaz's role mirrors **Christ's redemption**—he **paid Ruth's debt**, acted as her **protector**, and served as a **mediator**, reconciling her to a new life. His marriage to Ruth reflects **Jesus as the Bridegroom** of the **Church**, a **Gentile bride** (Matthew 13:44).

Boaz purchasing a field to gain a bride symbolizes **Jesus' sacrifice**, securing salvation for His people.

## 9. **1 Samuel**

Israel's request for a **king** was part of **God's plan**, as foretold in **Genesis 49:10**, where the **scepter was promised to Judah**. However, the people rushed God's timing and first received **Saul**, from the wrong tribe (**Benjamin**), instead of **David**, a **man after God's own heart** from the **tribe of Judah**.

David became the rightful king and an **ancestor of Jesus**, the **King of kings**, fulfilling the prophecy of the **Son of David**. Like David, **Jesus was born in Bethlehem**, a connection later echoed in the famous Christmas hymn, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*.

“Yet in thy dark streets shineth

The everlasting Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years

Are met in thee tonight.”

#### 10. 2 Samuel

The **scarlet thread of redemption** runs through **David’s life**, as God promised to establish his **dynasty forever** (2 Samuel 7), a prophecy ultimately fulfilled in **Jesus Christ, the Son of David**.

David also foreshadowed **Jesus’ compassion**. When **Jesus entered Jerusalem**, knowing it would reject Him, He **wept** over its future suffering (Luke 19:41-44), just as **David mourned for King Saul**, despite being driven into exile by him. David **honored Saul**, recognizing him as **God’s chosen king**, just as **Jesus showed grace** to those who rejected Him.

#### 11. 1 Kings

**Solomon’s temple** was a **visible symbol** of God’s presence among His people, but it foreshadowed a **greater temple**—the **body of believers**. With **Jesus’ incarnation**, God **became flesh**, and after His **resurrection and ascension**, His presence now dwells **within believers** (1 Corinthians 3:16), not in manmade temples (Acts 7:48).

Solomon, as **David’s son**, brought **glory** to Israel, but **Jesus, the greater Son of David**, surpassed him in **wisdom and glory** (Matthew 12:42). Jesus is the ultimate fulfillment of **God’s presence and redemption**.

#### 12. 2 Kings

In **2 Kings**, Satan fiercely opposed **God’s chosen people**, waging both **political and spiritual warfare** in an attempt to **destroy the messianic line**. This effort traces back to **Genesis 3:15**, where God foretold that the offspring of Eve would **crush Satan’s power**.

Throughout history, Satan sought to **eliminate God’s people**, from **Cain killing Abel** to **Pharaoh’s order** to kill Israel’s firstborn sons, **Saul’s pursuit of David**, **Haman’s attempted genocide**, and here in **2 Kings**, where **Athaliah ordered the slaughter of Judah’s royal family**—only for **baby Joash to be miraculously saved** (2 Kings 11).

Satan's plan rested on the belief that **eliminating Israel** would **thwart God's promise of redemption**, but he failed once again. Even in **Israel's darkest times**, **God's redemptive plan remained unbroken**, proving His sovereignty over history.

### 13. 1 Chronicles

**1 Chronicles 17** points to **Christ's future reign**, revealing the vast scope of **God's redemptive plan**. God promised **David's lineage would last forever**, partially fulfilled through **Solomon's reign**, but ultimately awaiting fulfillment in **Jesus Christ's second coming**.

Understanding **1 Chronicles 17** is key to grasping both **Jesus' ministry** and **eschatology** (the study of the last days). The **New Testament** begins by declaring Jesus as the **Son of David** (Matthew 1:1), emphasizing that He fulfills **God's covenant with David**. The **angel Gabriel** reinforced this promise when announcing **Jesus' birth to Mary**.

### 14. 2 Chronicles

**2 Chronicles** describes **Solomon building the temple on Mount Moriah**, the same place where **Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac**. This location later became the **center of Israel's sacrifices**, foreshadowing **Jesus' ultimate sacrifice** at **Golgotha**, just north of Moriah.

The **temple prefigured Christ**, who declared Himself **greater than the temple** (Matthew 12:6) and prophesied His resurrection as the rebuilding of the **true temple** (John 2:19). In the **New Jerusalem** (Revelation 21:22), there will be **no physical temple**, as **God and the Lamb** will be its temple, fulfilling the ultimate **dwelling of God with His people**.

### 15. Ezra

The book of **Ezra** does not directly reference **Jesus** in the New Testament, but it plays a crucial role in **preserving the Messianic lineage**. **Zerubbabel**, the chief builder of the **temple**, was a **descendant of David** and an **ancestor of Jesus Christ**.

Ezra's opposition to **mixed-faith marriages** helped preserve the **purity of Israel's lineage**, especially the **tribe of Judah**, from which the **Messiah was prophesied to come** (Genesis 49:10).

Additionally, the **high priest Jeshua** (Yeshua) in Ezra shares the **same name as Jesus**, meaning “**God is Salvation.**” This foreshadows **Jesus as our Great High Priest** (Hebrews 4:14), who will be the central focus of the **future millennial temple**.

## 16. Nehemiah

In the book of **Nehemiah**, the **scarlet thread of redemption** is symbolically woven into **Jerusalem’s walls**. Jesus Himself said that even the **stones would cry out** His praises (Luke 19:40). From the beginning, **God set Jerusalem apart**, declaring, “**In Jerusalem I will put My name**” (2 Kings 21:4).

Though **earthly conflicts** have scarred the city—such as its **destruction by the Romans in AD 70**, as Jesus predicted—a **glorious future awaits it**. **Jerusalem is the biblical, spiritual, and prophetic center of the world**:

- **Biblically**: The city is central in **God’s plan** (Ezekiel 5:5).
- **Spiritually**: **Salvation was purchased** just outside its walls at **Mount Calvary**.
- **Prophetically**: It remains a **global focal point**, playing a key role in future events.

Jerusalem is **God’s chosen city**, the **epicenter of biblical history and prophecy**.

## 17. Esther

Even though **God is never mentioned** in the book of **Esther**, His **redemptive plan** is evident throughout. God often works through **ordinary events**, weaving them together to fulfill **His will**. He acts in various ways, including:

- **Appearance** (creation and theophanies)
- **Maintenance** (sustaining the universe)
- **Interference** (miracles)
- **Providence** (orchestrating events for His purpose)

As **John Nelson Darby** said, **God works behind the scenes, moving all things according to His plan**. Jesus also taught that **God’s kingdom is not always outwardly visible** (Luke 17:20). In **Esther**, God’s unseen hand is evident in **preserving His people**, ensuring the survival of the **Messianic lineage** and fulfilling His **redemptive promise**.

## 18. Job

**Job** proclaimed the message of **resurrection** long before it happened (Job 19:25-27). Though he knew **death was near**, he confidently declared, "**I know that my Redeemer lives,**" foreseeing the **coming Messiah** and the hope of **eternal life**.

His prophetic words broke through the fear of **death**, revealing the **promise of immortality**. Job understood that even though he would **die**, he would **live again**—pointing to the **power of resurrection**.

If you're searching for **Jesus in Job**, He appears as a **suffering man** who looked ahead to a **living Redeemer**, one who would **suffer to secure resurrection** for all who believe. This is a powerful thread in **God's redemptive plan**.

## 19. **Psalms**

The **book of Psalms** plays a vital role in the unfolding of the **gospel story**. Jesus quoted from Psalms **more than any other book**—eleven times in total. Additionally, **seventeen messianic psalms** prophesy key events in **Christ's life**, including His **birth, ministry, death, resurrection, second coming, and eternal reign**.

It is remarkable that **Jesus was foretold, described, and exalted** in the very book used for **worship in the temple**. These **songs**, written by different authors over centuries, reflect a range of human emotions while pointing to **the Messiah's glory**.

The following are recognized as **messianic psalms**: **2, 8, 16, 22, 23, 24, 40, 41, 45, 68, 69, 72, 89, 102, 110, 116, and 118**.

## 20. **Proverbs**

In **Proverbs 8**, **wisdom** is personified in its **perfect, divine form**, serving as the source of both **biological and spiritual life**. It is **righteous, moral**, and available to all who seek it. The **Apostle Paul** identified **Jesus as "the wisdom of God"** (1 Corinthians 1:24) and the One "**in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**" (Colossians 2:3).

**Proverbs 11:4** states that "**righteousness delivers from death,**" a truth fully realized in **Christ's righteousness** displayed on the cross.

**Proverbs 30:4** offers a profound reference to **God's sovereignty and His Son**, illustrating **Christ as the embodiment of wisdom**:

*"Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?  
Who has gathered the wind in His fists?*

*Who has bound the waters in a garment?  
Who has established all the ends of the earth?  
What is His name, and what is His Son's name, if you know?"*

Through **Christ**, believers receive wisdom **through the Holy Spirit and God's Word**, enabling them to **live righteously**.

## 21. Ecclesiastes

Although **Ecclesiastes** doesn't explicitly mention the **Messiah**, it powerfully highlights the **need for redemption**. Solomon, exhausted from his search for **meaning**, describes life "**under the sun**"—a phrase repeated **29 times**—as **toilsome, repetitive, and ultimately meaningless**. This is the natural result of focusing only on the **world's struggles, philosophies, and uncertainties**, rather than on **God and His truth**.

However, this darkness sets the stage for the **light of Christ**—a shift from "**life under the sun**" to "**life under the Son**." Without **God**, life is **empty and futile**, but with **Jesus**, it is **rich with purpose**. As He declared, "**I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly**" (John 10:10).

Solomon's experience proves that **wealth and power** cannot bring true fulfillment. While **medical advancements may extend life**, only **Jesus can give life true meaning**.

## 22. Song of Solomon

The **Song of Solomon** is a beautiful love story between a **husband and wife**, but it also reflects **God's love for His people**. Without forcing allegory, the book naturally hints at a deeper truth, later expanded in the **New Testament**. Several passages—such as **2 Corinthians 11:2, Romans 7:4, and Ephesians 5:25-27**—draw a connection between **marriage and God's love for Israel and the Church**.

Marriage serves as a **reflection of divine love**, illustrating the profound **love Jesus has for His Church**. This theme is captured in **Song of Solomon 2:4**:

*"He brought me to the banqueting house, and his banner over me was love."*

Just as a **banner identifies and unites** a group, **Solomon's bride rejoiced in a public display of her husband's love**. In the same way, **God's banner over believers is the cross**, the ultimate demonstration of **His unwavering love**.

## 23. Isaiah



The **New Testament** quotes **Isaiah twenty-one times**, making him the **most quoted prophet**. Jesus Himself launched His **ministry in Nazareth** by reading from **Isaiah 61:1**:

**"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor"** (Luke 4:18).

Isaiah is known as the **messianic prophet** for his emphasis on **God's Anointed One**. He foretold:

- The **Messiah's virgin birth** (Isaiah 7:14 - Immanuel prophecy)
- Christ's **birth and coming kingdom** (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- His **atoning sacrifice** (Isaiah 53)

A central theme in Isaiah is **salvation**, mentioned **thirty-one times**, even reflected in his **Hebrew name, Yeshayahu**, meaning **"God is salvation."**

One key **scarlet thread of redemption** in Isaiah is the title **"servant."** While sometimes referring to **David (Isaiah 37)** or **Israel (Isaiah 41)**, it primarily describes the **Messiah**. In **four Servant Songs** (Isaiah 42:1-4; 49:1-6; 50:4-9; 52:14-53:12), Isaiah paints a vivid picture of **Christ as the suffering servant**, fulfilling **God's redemptive plan**.

## 24. Jeremiah

**Jesus and Jeremiah** shared many **similar characteristics**. When Jesus asked His disciples who people thought He was, **Jeremiah was mentioned** as a possibility (Matthew 16:14). Both were **fearless in confronting hypocrisy** yet **deeply compassionate, loving Israel and weeping over its sin**.

Jeremiah, known as the **weeping prophet**, felt **deep sorrow and frustration** over **Israel's rebellion and fate**. He didn't just **proclaim judgment**—he **personally grieved** for the people and their suffering. Yet, he also held on to **hope**, prophesying **Israel's return after seventy years** and ultimately, the **future messianic restoration**.

Likewise, **Jesus was heartbroken over sin**. He didn't come merely to **declare judgment** but to **live among humanity**, sharing in **its struggles** and offering **redemption through His sacrifice**.

## 25. Lamentations

**Jesus is deeply reflected** in the sorrow of **Jeremiah, the weeping prophet**, in *Lamentations*. As Jeremiah mourned over **Jerusalem's destruction**, he wrote, **"For**

**these things I weep; my eye overflows with water... my children are desolate because the enemy prevailed"** (Lamentations 1:16). Similarly, **Jesus wept over Jerusalem**, grieving its **failure to recognize its Redeemer** just before His crucifixion (Luke 19:41-44).

Amidst the despair of *Lamentations*, **one beacon of hope** shines through: **God's unfailing mercy**. Jeremiah declares, **"Through the LORD's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness"** (Lamentations 3:22-23). The Hebrew word **chesed**—translated as **"lovingkindness" or "covenant love"**—highlights God's steadfast commitment to His people. Seventy years after their **exile**, God **faithfully restored Israel** because **He always keeps His promises**.

However, **God's new covenant** through **Jesus' sacrifice** is even greater. Through **Christ's blood**, all **past, present, and future sins** are forgiven, and believers are **forever God's children**. Sin may have consequences, but it **no longer has power** over those who belong to Him. No matter the trials we face, we have the **assurance of heaven** and the promise that one day, we will **arrive safely home with Jesus**.

## 26. **Ezekiel**

The **scarlet thread of redemption** runs through **Ezekiel 36**, where **God makes a three-part promise** to Israel: they would be **regathered to their land**, their **hearts would be spiritually renewed**, and His **kingdom would be restored**.

- The **first promise** was fulfilled in **1948** when Israel became a nation.
- The **third will be completed at Jesus' second coming**, when He establishes His **earthly kingdom** (Ezekiel 40-48).
- The **second—spiritual regeneration—points to Christ's work on the cross**.

Jesus, our **Great High Priest** (Hebrews 4:14), became the **ultimate sacrifice**, ushering in the **new covenant** through His **blood**, which **cleanses and renews** us. Ezekiel foreshadowed this in **Ezekiel 36:25**:

*"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols."*

In **Jewish purification rituals**, priests sprinkled **lamb's blood** on **holy objects and people** for cleansing. This symbolized what **Jesus would do**—cleansing **Israel and the world** through His **suffering on the cross**.

After Jesus' time, **Israel lost its temple**, its **means of atonement**. But Ezekiel prophesied that **God would provide atonement**. **Isaiah 52:15** echoes this, foretelling that God's

Servant, **Jesus**, would "sprinkle many nations," signifying that **salvation is not just for Israel, but for the entire world.**

## 27. Daniel

**Jesus affirmed the prophetic accuracy** of the book of **Daniel**, referring to him as a **prophet** (Matthew 24:15). Many of **Daniel's prophecies** have proven remarkably **precise**, predicting both the **first and second coming of the Messiah.**

As a **Jew**, Daniel understood **Israel's hope for a coming kingdom** led by the **Messiah.** However, his **visions of successive Gentile empires** ruling the world troubled him, leaving him wondering **when the Messiah would come.** Yet, through these visions, **powerful messianic prophecies emerged**, providing some of the **most profound and accurate predictions** about Christ in the Bible.

In **Daniel 2**, the Messiah appears as the **Smiting Stone** from heaven. Describing the rise and fall of world kingdoms, Daniel saw "**a stone cut out without hands... And the stone... became a great mountain and filled the whole earth**" (Daniel 2:34-35). This **Rock represents Jesus**, who will establish a **kingdom that will never be destroyed** (Revelation 11:15-19).

Through Daniel's **visions**, God revealed His **sovereign plan**, pointing to the ultimate **rule of Christ** over all nations.

## 28. Hosea

The book of **Hosea** mirrors the **gospel message: God offers redemption**, exchanging **pain, suffering, and death** for **life and restoration.** Just as **Hosea forgave and welcomed back his unfaithful wife**, **God is ready to forgive and restore those who have strayed from Him.**

Many see God's **commandments** as restrictions that take away joy, but this perspective is **backward**—it is **sin**, not God's rules, that brings **suffering** into the world. Jesus came so that we "**may have life, and have it more abundantly**" (John 10:10). His sacrifice provides what we could never achieve on our own: **eternal life.**

The **gospel's offer** is clear—a **life overflowing with love and grace on earth and eternal joy with God in heaven.** **Hosea** vividly portrays the **devastation of sin**, but more importantly, it highlights **God's relentless love and pursuit of His people.**

## 29. Joel

One of **Joel's most significant prophecies** is the **promise of the Holy Spirit** in **Joel 2:28-32**, later quoted by **Peter on the day of Pentecost**: **"It shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh"**(Acts 2:17). This prophecy was partially fulfilled when **God poured out His Spirit on the early church** after **Jesus' death and resurrection**, but it also points to a **future outpouring upon Israel in the end times**.

Joel also prophesied **devastating judgment and the coming day of the Lord**, aligning with **Jesus' warning in Matthew 24:21**: **"Then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be."**

Like many **Old Testament prophecies**, **Joel's words have a dual fulfillment**—his vision of a **locust plague** foreshadowed **Judah's invasion by the Assyrians**, but it also pointed to the **ultimate day of the Lord in the end times**.

## 30. Amos

**Amos's name and mission** as a **burden-bearer** foreshadow **Christ's work on the cross**. Amos carried the **heavy burden of proclaiming judgment on Israel and its enemies**, yet his prophecy concluded with **God's promise to restore David's dynasty** and bring His people back to their land (Amos 9:11-15).

Similarly, **Jesus bore the ultimate burden**—the **weight of our sin**—with the purpose of **restoring us to God**. Through His sacrifice, He offers believers the **promised inheritance of heaven**, securing our place in **God's eternal kingdom**.

## 31. Obadiah

The **scarlet thread of redemption** in **Obadiah** becomes clearer when we contrast two vastly different kings in **New Testament times**. **Herod the Great**, an **Idumean** (a descendant of Edom), sought power and control, even **ordering the massacre of infants in Bethlehem** to eliminate the **Christ child**. His successor, **Herod Antipas**, had **John the Baptist executed** for speaking against his immoral marriage, prioritizing **his own desires over God's truth**—a reflection of the **prideful, self-serving nature of Edom**. Their family motto could be summed up as **"What's in it for me?"**

In contrast, **Jesus, the true King of the Jews**, stood before **Herod Antipas** during His trial (Luke 23:7-12). Unlike the **Herods**, who pursued **self-interest**, Jesus' mission was centered on **sacrifice and redemption**, living by the principle **"What's in it for you?"** He came to **restore humanity to God**, offering **hope and a future**.

Even in the **brief book of Obadiah**, which focuses on **judgment against Edom**, we see a deeper theme: **the downfall of prideful, self-seeking rulers and the promise of redemption through Christ**.

### 32. Jonah

**Jesus used Jonah's experience** in the belly of the great fish as a **symbol of His own burial and resurrection**, stating, **"For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth"** (Matthew 12:40). Since **Jesus physically died and rose again**, dismissing Jonah's story as a **myth** would suggest that **Christ's resurrection** was also a myth. While some critics argue against the **historicity of both events**, the **Bible presents Jonah's story as literal**, supported by **2 Kings 14:25**, the writings of **Jewish historian Josephus**, and **Jesus' own words**.

The book of **Jonah also highlights God's relentless pursuit of the lost**, demonstrating the **great lengths He goes to** in offering **forgiveness and mercy**. Even though Jonah was **reluctant and unwilling**, God still used him to bring **salvation to Nineveh**. Centuries later, **Jesus would go even further**, giving His **own life** to extend **redemption to all**.

### 33. Micah

**Micah** delivered one of the most **significant messianic prophecies** in history, foretelling the **Messiah's birth in Bethlehem 700 years** before it happened (Micah 5:2).

His prophecy didn't just point to **Jesus' first coming**—it also spoke of His **return**. The **Deliverer born in Bethlehem** would have the **heart of a shepherd**, caring for His people (Micah 5:4)—a prophecy fulfilled in **Jesus' first coming**. But He will also **bring lasting peace to the earth** (Micah 5:5), a promise yet to be fulfilled in His **second coming**.

Jesus confirmed this role, declaring, **"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep"** (John 10:11). He fulfilled this by **dying on the cross**, offering **forgiveness and reconciliation with God**. As Micah prophesied, **God "casts all our sins into the depths of the sea"** (Micah 7:19).

Having **laid down His life and risen again**, Jesus now awaits the appointed time to **return and establish His eternal kingdom of peace**.

### 34. Nahum

The book of **Nahum** reveals both **God's mercy in salvation** and **His righteousness in judgment**. While Nineveh once **repented in response to Jonah's warning**, their change was **temporary**, and they eventually **returned to evil**. In **Jonah's time**, God showed **grace to Assyria**, just as **Jesus did in His first coming**. However, **Nahum's prophecy foreshadows Christ's return**, when **judgment will come upon those who reject Him and refuse to repent**.

Many struggle with **Nahum's depiction of God** as a **jealous avenger** (Nahum 1:2), but any **understanding of God** that ignores **His justice and holiness** is incomplete. A **God who does not judge sin** would not be **righteous**. Though He is **slow to anger** and desires **all to come to repentance** (2 Peter 3:9), judgment is inevitable for those who persist in rebellion.

Even the **cross of Christ** embodies both **mercy and justice**—God **poured out judgment on His Son**, allowing **mercy for all who believe**. Even during the **tribulation**, in a time of severe judgment, **salvation will remain available** to those who turn to Jesus. For those who **trust in Him**, He will be “**a stronghold in the day of trouble**” (Nahum 1:7).

### 35. Habakkuk

The book of **Habakkuk** holds profound significance in **Scripture**, as one of its key verses is repeatedly quoted in the **New Testament** as a foundational gospel truth. The **great doctrinal books of Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews** all reference or build upon the well-known verse, “**The just shall live by his faith**” (Habakkuk 2:4).

This verse underscores the **essential doctrine** that **Jesus justifies His people not by works, but through faith** in His **finished work on the cross**. It serves as a cornerstone of **New Testament teaching**, affirming that **salvation comes through faith alone**.

### 36. Zephaniah

**Zephaniah's prophecy of the coming kingdom** points directly to **Christ as the Lord within Israel** (Zephaniah 3:5), the **righteous Judge of all nations** (v. 8), and the **reigning King of Israel, the LORD** (v. 15). He warned **Judah** of an imminent **day of the Lord**, a period of judgment first upon **the Jews for their idolatry** and then upon **the nations used to discipline them**. These events served as a **foreshadowing** of the **ultimate day of the Lord**, when God will bring judgment upon the **entire world in the end times**.

Yet, **God's mercy is just as central as His justice**, a truth fully revealed in **Jesus Christ**. Zephaniah highlights this **compassionate aspect of God's character**, foretelling the **future restoration of Israel**. When **Christ returns as King**, Zephaniah's prophecy will be fully realized:

**"The LORD your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing"** (Zephaniah 3:17).

What a powerful **promise of redemption and joy** in God's **ultimate kingdom!**

### 37. **Haggai**

In **Haggai**, the **scarlet thread of redemption** is symbolized by the **signet ring**—God's **royal mark of approval** on **Zerubbabel** as the chosen **temple builder** (Haggai 2:23). This imagery carries two key meanings:

1. **God's presence and authority**—Zerubbabel was divinely **appointed** to lead the rebuilding of the temple after **Israel's exile**, signifying God's **blessing and guidance**.
2. **A symbol of royalty**—As a **descendant of David**, Zerubbabel was part of **Jesus' genealogy** (Matthew 1:12-13; Luke 3:27). His role foreshadowed the coming **Messiah**, who would one day **establish His millennial kingdom**.

By calling Zerubbabel **His signet ring**, God placed **His seal of approval** on him, marking him as a **representative of the coming Christ**.

**Hebrews 12:26-28** reflects back on this prophecy, revealing that in the **end times**, God will **shake the world**, removing all that is **temporary and worldly**, leaving only **His unshakable kingdom**. Jesus instructed His followers to pray, **"Your kingdom come"**, pointing to the ultimate fulfillment of **God's redemptive plan**.

### 38. **Zechariah**

No **Minor Prophet** book weaves the **scarlet thread of redemption** more vividly than **Zechariah**. Of the **eight visions** God gave him, three directly point to either **Christ's first coming**—where He is called **"the BRANCH"** (Zechariah 3:8)—or His **future reign in the end times**.

Tragically, the **very temple** Zechariah urged the people to rebuild became the place where he was **murdered**, as Jesus later confirmed (Matthew 23:35). **Christ referenced Zechariah's death** while condemning the **scribes and Pharisees** for rejecting both **Him** and the prophets before Him:

**“See! Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!’” (Matthew 23:38-39).**

With these words, Jesus alluded to His **triumphal entry into Jerusalem**, fulfilling **Zechariah 9:9**:

**"Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey."**

Immediately following this prophecy, Zechariah describes **Christ's second coming**, when He will **establish lasting peace** and reign as **King over all nations**.

### 39. **Malachi**

Malachi's **obscure identity** reinforces an important truth: **the messenger is secondary to the message**. This is especially evident in **Malachi's prophecy** about a **forerunner** preparing the way for the **Messiah**:

**“Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight” (Malachi 3:1).**

We now understand that **John the Baptist** was the **"messenger"** sent to prepare the way, but imagine reading this **400 years before his arrival**. At the time, all that was known was that a **messenger (Malachi)** predicted another **messenger (John the Baptist)**, who would proclaim **the ultimate Messenger**—**“the Messenger of the covenant”**—Jesus Christ, the long-awaited **Messiah**.

The **lesser messengers** in this prophecy ultimately exist to point to **the true and final Messenger, Jesus**, who came to fulfill God's covenant and bring **redemption to His people**.

## **Uses OT in the NT to proclaim the Gospel**

There are numerous passages in the New Testament where Old Testament scriptures were used for evangelism. Here's a list of key passages:

### **1. Jesus Using the Old Testament for Evangelism**

- **Luke 4:16-21** – Jesus reads **Isaiah 61:1-2** in the synagogue and declares its fulfillment.
- **Luke 24:27** – Jesus explains the Scriptures to the disciples on the road to Emmaus.



- **Luke 24:44-47** – Jesus tells His disciples that the Law, Prophets, and Psalms spoke about Him.
- **John 5:39-40** – Jesus tells the Pharisees that the Scriptures testify about Him.

## 2. Peter Using the Old Testament in Evangelism

- **Acts 2:14-41** – At Pentecost, Peter quotes **Joel 2:28-32** and **Psalms 16:8-11, Psalms 110:1** to prove Jesus is the Messiah.
- **Acts 3:12-26** – Peter preaches using **Deuteronomy 18:15** (Moses' prophecy about the Prophet like him).
- **Acts 4:8-12** – Peter references **Psalm 118:22** (the rejected stone becoming the cornerstone).

## 3. Paul Using the Old Testament in Evangelism

- **Acts 13:16-41** – Paul in Pisidian Antioch preaches using **Psalm 2:7, Isaiah 55:3,** and **Psalm 16:10.**
- **Acts 17:1-3** – In Thessalonica, Paul reasons from the Scriptures about the suffering and resurrection of Christ.
- **Acts 17:10-11** – The Bereans examine the Old Testament to verify Paul's teachings.
- **Acts 17:22-31** – Paul in Athens refers to God's sovereignty but does not directly quote the Old Testament.
- **Acts 18:4-5, 28** – Paul debates in synagogues, proving that Jesus is the Messiah from the Scriptures.
- **Acts 26:22-23** – Paul tells King Agrippa that he teaches "what Moses and the Prophets said would happen."

## 4. The Epistles and Old Testament Evangelism

- **Romans 1:16-17** – Paul quotes **Habakkuk 2:4** ("The just shall live by faith").
- **Romans 3:10-18** – Paul quotes multiple Old Testament passages (Psalms and Isaiah) to prove human sinfulness.
- **Romans 4:1-25** – Paul uses **Genesis 15:6** and **Psalm 32:1-2** to explain justification by faith.
- **Romans 9:25-33** – Paul cites **Hosea 2:23, Isaiah 1:9,** and **Isaiah 8:14** to explain salvation by grace.
- **Galatians 3:6-14** – Paul references **Genesis 15:6** and **Deuteronomy 21:23** to explain salvation by faith.
- **Hebrews 1:1-14** – Quotes multiple Old Testament passages to prove Jesus' superiority.

These passages illustrate how the New Testament writers used Old Testament scriptures to evangelize, proving Jesus as the Messiah and fulfilling God's promises.

## 1. Old Testament Prophecies About the Messiah's Coming

- **Genesis 3:15** – The first prophecy of the Messiah who would crush the serpent's head (**Galatians 4:4, Romans 16:20**).
  - **Genesis 12:3** – God's promise to Abraham that all nations will be blessed through his seed (**Galatians 3:8**).
  - **Genesis 22:18** – God's promise to bless all nations through Abraham's offspring, fulfilled in Christ (**Acts 3:25**).
  - **Deuteronomy 18:15-19** – Moses prophesies about a coming prophet like him, which Peter applies to Jesus (**Acts 3:22-23**).
- 

## 2. Old Testament Prophecies About Christ's Death and Resurrection

- **Psalms 16:10** – "You will not let your Holy One see decay," used to preach Christ's resurrection (**Acts 2:25-28, Acts 13:35-37**).
  - **Psalms 22** – A prophetic description of Jesus' crucifixion, referenced in the Gospels (**Matthew 27:46, Mark 15:34, John 19:24**).
  - **Isaiah 53:3-7** – The Suffering Servant prophecy, used to preach Jesus' atoning death (**Acts 8:32-35, 1 Peter 2:24-25**).
  - **Daniel 9:24-26** – Predicts the Messiah's death, referenced indirectly in gospel preaching.
- 

## 3. Old Testament Passages About Justification by Faith

- **Habakkuk 2:4** – "The just shall live by faith," quoted to emphasize salvation by faith (**Romans 1:17, Galatians 3:11, Hebrews 10:38**).
  - **Genesis 15:6** – "Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness," used by Paul to explain justification by faith (**Romans 4:3, Galatians 3:6**).
  - **Psalms 32:1-2** – "Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven," used to explain salvation apart from works (**Romans 4:6-8**).
- 

## 4. Old Testament Passages Used to Call for Repentance

- **Isaiah 55:6-7** – A call to seek the Lord and repent, echoed in New Testament preaching (**Acts 17:30, Romans 2:4**).
  - **Ezekiel 18:30-32** – "Repent and live," used as a foundation for the gospel's call to repentance (**Acts 2:38, Acts 3:19**).
- 

## 5. Old Testament Prophecies About the Inclusion of the Gentiles

- **Isaiah 42:6, Isaiah 49:6** – "A light for the Gentiles," quoted in the New Testament to show God's plan for all nations (**Luke 2:32, Acts 13:47**).
  - **Hosea 2:23** – "I will call them my people who are not my people," used by Paul to show that Gentiles are included in God's salvation plan (**Romans 9:25-26**).
  - **Joel 2:28-32** – The prophecy of the outpouring of the Spirit, quoted by Peter at Pentecost (**Acts 2:16-21**).
- 

## 6. Old Testament Passages About Jesus as the Cornerstone

- **Psalms 118:22** – "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone," used to show that Jesus was rejected by Israel but exalted by God (**Matthew 21:42, Acts 4:11, 1 Peter 2:7**).
  - **Isaiah 28:16** – "Behold, I lay in Zion a cornerstone," quoted to show Jesus as the foundation of salvation (**Romans 9:33, 1 Peter 2:6**).
- 

## 7. Old Testament Foreshadows of the Gospel

- **Numbers 21:8-9** – The bronze serpent, used by Jesus as a symbol of His crucifixion (**John 3:14-15**).
  - **Exodus 12:46, Psalm 34:20** – The Passover lamb, fulfilled in Jesus' sacrifice (**John 19:36**).
  - **Leviticus 17:11** – "The life of the flesh is in the blood," used to explain Jesus' atoning death (**Hebrews 9:22**).
- 

## Why Should we Care about Bible Prophecy?

Seven compelling reasons

We look to the past but we should also look to the future

1. **Prophecy is in the Bible** – we know that every verse is profitable for all believers (2 Tim 3:16-17). This may be a bit obvious but if God chose to include something in Scripture, then it plays a strategic role in revealing God and His plans for human history, humanity, and His children.
2. **Prophecy makes up about 28 percent of the entire bible.**

Remove Prophecy from God's Word and you have gutted a significant portion of Scripture's supernatural character.

Consider the following:

- One out of every 30 verses in the NT contains prophecy
- There are 8,000 total verses that are prophetic in nature
- 23 out of 27 NT books mention the second coming of Christ
- For each verse that mentions the first coming of Jesus, there are *eight* verses that mention His second coming.
- The First Prophecy about Christ appears in Gen 3:15
- There are 333 prophecies concerning Christ. Of those, 109 were fulfilled at his first coming (100%). That leaves 224 prophecies yet to be fulfilled.

3. **According to Jesus every word or letter of Scripture will eventually come to pass** (Matt 5:17-18).

Every OT Prophecy about the Messiah was fulfilled literally and exactly as Scripture predicted. Given this perfect track record, it stands to reason that every future prophecy will also be fulfilled literally and exactly as the Bible foretells. The Bible is batting a 1,000% - It has never once missed on any point of a prophecy. Every single one so far has been fulfilled down to the last minute detail. And the same will be true for the 500 prophecies with future fulfillments

4. **The last book of the Bible is 95% prophecy.**

Authors are very careful about how they end their books, considering the best ways to leave a lasting impression on the reader.

God concluded His written revelation to man the same way.

He could've ended His book any He wanted, and yet chose to do so by giving us a heads up on future history.

Last words are lasting words.

God must have wanted us to know about the future because His final word to us is all about that.

5. **God doesn't want His children to be uninformed about the end times** (1 Thes 4:13; 2 Thes 3:1-3, 5).

But Why?

Because ignorance (or lack of information) leads to weakness. Ignorance about the future can give rise to fear, anxiety, and uncertainty. It also makes us vulnerable to misleading information, false teachers, errant beliefs, sensationalism, speculation, conspiracy theories, and baseless predictions. Thankfully, our fears about the future can be conquered by reading God's prophetic Word and trusting Him to accomplish it.

6. **Prophecy is important because of the day we live in.**

At no time since Jesus walked the earth is end-time prophecy more likely to be fulfilled than it is right now. It could be possible that the signs of the times -as described in Scripture- give every indication that we are living in the last days.

Since Revelation's realities could be just around the corner the relevance of Bible prophecy has never been more real to Christians.

## 7. **Finally Bible prophecy is important because of what it does for you and me.**

Bible Prophecy gives us:

- **Clarity** – (2 Thes 2:1-3, 5): Thanks to the internet virtually every person has unlimited access to thousands of views and opinions regarding the times in which we live and the future of humanity on the planet. Scripture cuts through the fog, enlightening us to clear and specific truths about what lie ahead. This clarity frees us from confusion
- **Confidence** – (2 Thes 2:1-3): Once you clearly see what's ahead, you can proceed forward with confidence and assurance. You don't have to be timid about your beliefs concerning the rapture, the tribulation, the Anti-Christ, or Jesus' second coming. That's because prophetic Scripture gives insight and wisdom, enabling you to be strong in your beliefs.
- **Faith** – (Rev 4): The strength of our faith is directly proportionate to what we know about the object of our faith. If we know that God is on his throne, guiding history towards its appointed end that we can rest in, knowing that not only he does hold the future, but us as well (rev 4). Studying prophecy, never breeds fear it only builds faith.
- **Hope** – (Titus 2:13-15; 1 Thes 4:13): In the Bible Hope is not a wish but rather a confident expectation. Jesus's return for His bride is called the "blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13). All throughout the New Testament there are dozens of verses that speak of the bride's expectation for that return and we know that Hope will not be disappointed Romans 5:4-5)
- **Love for Jesus** - (Revelation 19:10): That's right, when you study Bible prophecy it leads you straight to Jesus. That's because the ultimate point of prophecy is the Lord Jesus Christ. Bible prophecy reveals the character and heart

of the God you worship. So, the more you study prophecy, the more you will be drawn into a closer and more intimate relationship with your Savior.

As you can see, God's prophetic plan for the future is a plan that greatly affects you as well. This is why Bible prophecy isn't on the "optional menu" for Christians, but rather is an essential part of our spiritual nourishment.

One of the most challenging and intimidating responsibilities we face as Christians is defending our faith in a culture that is becoming increasingly more hostile towards Christianity and the Bible. We may sometimes feel outnumbered and outsmarted and thus outmatched. It's not that we don't believe the truth of the Bible, but rather, that we struggle with defending those truths, especially skeptics who have made up their minds about Jesus and his word.

Today there are many excellent apologetic resources (books, videos, and conferences) available to us providing much needed evidence and support for the Faith using logic, philosophy, archaeology, and science. But what is sometimes left out is the apologetic of the Bible itself. This is unfortunate, because when it comes to solid evidence for the scripture's credibility, nothing is more compelling and convincing than fulfilled prophecy.

1. God calls every Christian to be an apologist, not just pastors or professionals. All believers are called to earnestly contend for the faith (Jude 3).  
Peter also encourages us to put Jesus first "always being ready to make a defense (or give an answer) to everyone who asked you to give an account for the hope that is in you (1Peter 3:15).  
Peter uses the Greek word *apologia* translated here as "make a defense".  
This word was used during the first century to describe an attorney presenting a reasonable, convicting case in a court of law.
2. We should use prophecies as an apologetic because it is one of the most concrete and undeniable proofs that God exists and that the Bible is true.  
On the day the church was born (Pentecost), Peter urged his fellow Jews to believe in Christ because of fulfilled Bible prophecy (Acts 2:14-16).  
Fulfilled prophecy was also used by the apostles in the early church to help convince some of the most skeptical believers of their day) Acts 3:12-26; 13:13-41

**How Bible prophecy defend the faith.**

Bible prophecy be a powerful apologetic!

1. **The perfect fulfillment of all the prophecies that have come to pass.**

The Bible is batting 1000 when it comes to fulfilled prophecy. It has never missed or been incorrect in the slightest manner, always hitting the bull's-eye exactly as God predicted.

Every single prophecy concerning the Messiah's first coming was fulfilled literally and precisely as recorded in the Old Testament hundreds of years before Christ's birth.

If even one of the Old Testament prophecies concerning Jesus' first coming, turned out to be wrong, then we would have reason to question the Bible's authenticity but this hasn't happened.

On the contrary, because every one of these prophecies came true, we can expect all the prophecies concerning the end times in Jesus's second coming to also be fulfilled, literally and precisely.

Fulfilled prophecy is strong evidence of the divine authorship of the Bible, for who, but God could know the future and be able to predict it hundreds and thousands of years before it occurs.

Jesus Himself declared that every single word of God will eventually be fulfilled, even down to the punctuation marks! (Matthew 5:17 -18)

Here just a few of more than 300 prophecies Jesus fulfilled at His first coming.

- He would be born to a virgin. (Gen 3:15, Gal 4:4, Isaiah 7:14, Matt 1:22-23)
- His physical place of birth was named. (Micah 5:2, Matt 2:5-6, Luke 2:4-6)
- He would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. (Zech 9:9, Matt 21:4-5)
- He would be beaten and abused. (Is 50:6, Matt 26:67, 27:26)
- He would be betrayed with money. (Zech 11:12-13, Matt 27:9-10)
- His hands and feet would be pierced. (Ps 22:16, Zech 12:10, John 19:34,37)
- He would die with criminals. (Is 53:12, Matt 27:38)
- His bones would not be broken on the cross. (Ps 34:20, John 19:33-36)
- Though killed with wicked men, His grave would be associated with a rich man. (Is 53:9, Matt 27:57-60)
- He would physically rise from the dead. (Ps 16:10, Matt 28:2-7)

Now comes the math. The odds of one person fulfilling just eight of those prophecies is: one and one quadrillion.1 in 1,000,000,000,000,000

2. **Credibility in the area of prophecy is evidence that the entire Bible can be trusted.**

Because the Bible is accurate and credible, when it comes to fulfilled prophecies, then it stands to reason that it can be trusted in other areas as well – science, history, morality, marriage, and family, sexuality, relationships, and how to live (2 Tim 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:3-4)

### 3. **Prophecy is being fulfilled before our very eyes!**

We are currently witnessing many of Revelations, future prophecies, in their embryonic forms. These are so blatantly obvious that they rise far above the category of mere coincidence.

1. **The regathering of the Jewish nation** – the Bible makes it clear that before many of the events of Revelation can occur, the Jewish nation must be reborn and living in their ancient homeland (Jer 30:1-51; Ezekiel 34:11-24, 37; Zech 10:6-10). This is the most prophesied end time event in the Bible, and it is already happened! Remember, the Jews were scattered to more than 100 nations for 20 centuries where they were maligned, persecuted, and even slaughtered. And yet miraculously through all that time, they retain their identity. Today, Israel is a nation once again with more Jews living there than all other places in the world combined! Is that mirror coincidence?
2. **The Rebuilt Temple in Jerusalem** - Both Daniel and Revelation, along with Jesus' Olivet discourse in Matthew 24-25, tells us the Jews will also one day rebuild their temple in Jerusalem. (Dan 9:27; Matt 24:15; 2 Thes 2:3-4; Rev 11:1-2). The temple Institute in Jerusalem was founded in 1987 with the express purpose of rebuilding that sacred structure on the temple mount. Those who are part of this institute have already fashioned sacred temple vessels and priestly garments according to Old Testament specifications. They have drawn blueprints for the temple, trained priests, and even made preliminary sacrifices. At present, the institute is petitioning the Israeli government for permission to set foot on the temple mount itself to offer sacrifices in anticipation of the rebuilt temple. All they need is some sort of agreement or peace treaty enabling them to begin construction (Dan 9:26-27). And according to Bible, prophecy, that will happen with the single stroke of a pen via an agreement signed by a world leader. Another mere coincidence?
3. **Revived Roman Empire** – Bible prophecy also tells us that in the last days the Revived Roman Empire will rise up and function as a one world government. Most recently, the coronavirus crisis prompted world leaders to say it's more urgent than ever to establish such a global governing entity. This teaches us that during a time of world crisis, the overwhelming consensus is going to be to "work together as one". The Bible indicates this will happen in a chaotic post-rapture world under the leadership of the man called Antichrist (Daniel 2:36-45; Rev 13; 17:9-10).



Do you think the Bible will just “get lucky” when there’s prophecy is fulfilled?

4. **The splitting of the Mount of Olives** – Scripture also predicts that when Jesus Christ returns at his second coming, his feet will touch the Mount of Olives, splitting it East to West, causing it to move north and south (Zech 14:4; Acts 1:11; Matt 24:3).

In 2004, NBC news reported that a three-year study by the Geological Survey of Israel, confirmed this exact area to be at imminent risk for earthquakes, having detected a major fault line running – you guessed it – right through the Mount of Olives, east to West.

Just another coincidence?

Or solid evidence that the Bible knows what it’s talking about?

## **Practical Application for Believers**

1. **Power**: Depend upon the Spirit of God and the Word. It is His job to draw people to Jesus, to convict them of their sin and they’re desperate need for a Savior. (John 6:44, 65; 16:7-11). The messenger is not greater than the message
2. **Perspective**: Remember: this world is not your home  
As followers of Jesus, one of the paradoxes we live with is the fact that, though we remain here on the Earth right now, our citizenship is in heaven (Philippines 3:20). Our home is with the Lord. As Paul said, to remain here means we live for Christ, and to die is great gain (Galatians 2:20; Philippians 1:21).  
For Christians, this is a win – win proposition.  
And though our time here on earth is temporary, that certainly does not mean it’s unimportant.  
The way we presently live will determine our future rewards in heaven (1 Corinthians 3:10–15; 2 Corinthians 5:10–11)  
So we maintain in our hearts and minds both earthly and an internal perspective  
Our future influences our present.  
Knowing where we’re going, and who we will be with should affect how we live our lives in the here and now.  
Living with this perspective will give us great hope and encouragement.
3. **Penetration**: Shine the light of God’s truth

It's no secret that we're living in evil days (Ephesians 5:16). Jesus' generation was no different, which is why he told his disciples, (Matt 5:14-16)

<sup>14</sup> Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup> Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

<sup>16</sup> Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

4. **Preparation:** Making myself ready to meet the Lord

**1 John 3:2-3:** <sup>2</sup> Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

<sup>3</sup> And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

**1 Peter 3:11-13:** <sup>11</sup> Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

<sup>12</sup> Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

<sup>13</sup> Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Peter gives us a healthy balance between living, purely, and watching for the day of the Lord. Knowing that Christ could return at any time, not only motivates us to be holy in our conduct, but also fills us with expectant Hope while we live!

Christ's promised return puts purpose and passion into our daily lives, motivating, and preparing us to meet Him.

5. **Priorities:** God must remain first in my life

Have you ever secretly prayed, "Jesus, I want You to return, but could You just hold off Your coming until I get married?...Finish college?...Get my graduate degree?... Have children?...See my kids grow up?"

These are natural desires, and we shouldn't think of them as inherently selfish.

They're all part of living our lives here on earth.

Such desires become a problem only when we care about them more than we do about God himself.

Jesus made it clear that our love for him must far out way our love for anyone or anything else, including ourselves (Luke 14:25-35).

When we love the world and the things of the world more than the things of God, we will slide into spiritual mediocrity and become lukewarm (James 4:4; 1 John 2:15–17; Rev 3:14–16).

But as long as God truly remains our number one priority, we can freely pursue all these other lesser desires in the right ways.

When we delight ourselves in the Lord, He puts in our hearts the desires He wants us to have (Psalm 37:4).

No guilt. Only gratitude that we are free to love Him and live our lives to the fullest while, at the same time, longing for our savior's return.