

## A Thought Concerning Prophecy

In Acts chapter 3 verses 1-11 an undeniable miracle had taken place. And as a result of the miracle Peter and John were seen in the wrong light. It was believed that through the power of Peter and John that the miracle took place (Acts 3:11). However, in Acts 3 and verses 12-16 Peter sets the record straight. After correcting the error of verse 11, Peter moves forward in his message concerning Jesus – and in verse 18 of chapter 3 he makes one of the most profound prophetic statements recorded in Scripture. Note carefully Peter's words: "But those things, which God before had shewed by the mouth of all his prophets, that Christ should suffer, he hath so fulfilled" (Acts 3:18).

Luke recording the missionary travels of Paul, tell us, that Paul had entered a synagogue of the Jews: "And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three Sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures. Opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ" (Acts 17:2-3).

Critics raise several challenges against the Christian belief that Jesus fulfilled Old Testament prophecy. But, modern day critics are no more different than the Jews of Jesus' day.

Jews of that day missed the Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah by not linking them to Jesus. They wanted a Messiah of their own pleasure, much like the critics do today – wanting a God of their own pleasure. No matter how you cut the cake, the writers of the New Testament believed and taught that Jesus fulfilled the teaching of the Old Testament prophets concerning God's Messiah.

Some critics say that the prophecies that were written were written after Jesus' time. In other words, the prophets were writing history instead of prophecy. It has been noted, "Even the most skeptical biblical critics date the latest Old Testament writings hundreds of years before Jesus' time." Therefore, when Peter and Paul refer to Jesus as fulfilling the Old Testament prophecies, they are referring to documents written hundreds of years before the birth of Jesus.

Some suggest that the prophets of the Old Testament made false predictions. This theory is pure speculation – no evidence exists that shows the prophets of the Old Testament made wrong prophecies. Even if it were true, it still doesn't account for all the prophecies that came true. The Bible's ability to predict the future and Jesus' fulfillment of it still stand, no matter what critics say!

Scripture: King James Version: Acts 3:1-16, 18; Acts 17:2-3

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