

Christ's Life and Ministry

Where would you turn in the Bible to read about Jesus Christ? The obvious answer is the four New Testament Gospels: the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But did you know you can also learn a lot about Jesus in the Old Testament? The Lord spoke through His prophets, centuries before Christ's birth, revealing many details of His life and ministry. Jesus perfectly fulfilled all of the Old Testament prophecies. In fact, more than 30 times the Gospels state that Christ's actions were in direct fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies.

Many of those prophecies concerning Jesus are found in the book of Psalms. This lesson and the next two are devoted to messianic prophecies in the psalms. The psalms you will study today contain prophecies about Jesus Christ's life and ministry. For starters, read Psalm 8:2. Jesus quoted that verse about Himself in Matthew 21:16 when the children hailed Him as their Messiah. In Psalms 78, 91, and 118 you will find several more prophecies.

Ps. 78:2 "I will open my mouth in a _____."

Matt. 13:34 How did Jesus teach the people?

Matt. 13:35 Why did He do that?

Psalm 78 was written 1,000 years before Christ came to earth.

Psalm 91 is about the safety and security enjoyed by those who place their trust in the Lord. Read it when you are afraid or under attack. Protection and safety are found in trusting the Lord (verses 1-4) because He protects us from harm (verses 5-10).

Ps. 91:11 "For he shall give his _____ charge over thee, to _____ thee in all thy ways."

Ps. 91:12 "They shall bear thee up in their _____, lest thou _____ thy foot against a _____."

Do those verses sound familiar? Read Matthew 4:6 and Luke 4:10-11. The devil quoted these verses when he challenged Jesus to prove He was the Son of God by throwing Himself off the pinnacle of the Temple.

Did you realize that the devil can quote scripture? Satan knows the Bible better than you do, but He always twists or misquotes it to tempt people to do wrong (Gen. 3:1-4). Jesus is the Son of God – He didn't have to perform a stunt to prove His identity. He answered the devil by saying that we are not supposed to put the Lord to the test (quoting Deut. 6:16). If you take a biblical promise out of context (as the devil did) and challenge the Lord to do what you want, you are putting God to the test. Be sure you understand the context and application of God's promises.

Another important truth we can learn from the devil's misuse of scripture is this: a person who quotes scripture is not necessarily a true Christian or a trustworthy advisor. Don't believe everyone who quotes a scripture verse; check them out and be careful.

Psalm 118 is a wonderful expression of praise and thanksgiving for God's mercy and help. Verses 22-26 contain some more prophecies about Jesus Christ.

Ps. 118:22 "The stone which the builders _____ is become the _____ stone of the _____."

The corner stone was the most important stone in the construction of ancient buildings. If the corner stone wasn't perfect the builders would reject it and cut a new one. The **corner stone** in this verse represents Jesus Christ and the **builders** were the Jewish religious leaders who rejected Him and wanted to kill Him.

Matt. 21:42 Who quoted Psalm 118:22-23?

Jesus Christ is the foundation of our salvation and the corner stone of the church, but the self-righteous Jewish religious leaders rejected Him. This prophecy recorded in Psalm 118:22 is so important that the New Testament refers to it **6 times** (Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; Eph. 2:20; 1 Peter 2:7)!

Ps. 118:24 "This is the day which the _____ hath made; we will _____ and be glad in it."

That's a great memory verse; but note its context: the coming of Jesus Christ as the corner stone of our faith.

Ps. 118:26 "Blessed be he that _____ in the _____ of the _____."

Does that verse sound familiar? Read Matthew 21:9. The Jews clearly understood this verse to be a prophecy of the Messiah. The people of Jerusalem shouted it when Jesus rode into the city on Palm Sunday (see also Mark 11:9; Luke 19:38; John 12:13). Jesus also quoted it, referring to Himself (see Matt. 23:39; Luke 13:35).

Concluding Thoughts: The children greeted Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus taught in parables. The devil tempted Jesus to put God to the test. Christ, the chief corner stone, was rejected by the Jewish leaders. Jesus came to Jerusalem as the Messiah and was welcomed by the people quoting a messianic prophecy.

Those five specific prophecies were perfectly fulfilled by one person – Jesus Christ. There are many other prophecies about the Messiah (you will learn some more next week). It would be mathematically impossible for any one person to fulfill them all – but Jesus Christ did. He could do that because He is God.

In spite of this, many people are just like the ancient Jewish religious leaders – they reject Jesus. Have you received Jesus or do you reject Him? If you've never trusted Him for salvation please read the verses printed on the back of this book.

Project: Memorize **Psalm 118:14**. Rejoice in the fact that **Jesus Christ is Lord**. Try to tell someone about Him this week.