

## Amazing Prophecies Fulfilled on Easter Sunday

Message 3 of 3 in the series: "Amazing Bible Prophecies Fulfilled at Easter!"

### A. Amazingly, When Jesus rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, He fulfilled a prophecy contained within a Psalm written by King David 1,000 years earlier.

**Prophecy:** "No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. For **you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave.**" Psalm 16:9-10 (NLT)

**Fulfillment:** "But very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared. They found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. **So they went in, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus.** As they stood there puzzled, two men suddenly appeared to them, clothed in dazzling robes. The women were terrified and bowed with their faces to the ground. Then the men asked, 'Why are you looking among the dead for someone who is alive? **He isn't here! He is risen from the dead!** Remember what he told you back in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be betrayed into the hands of sinful men and be crucified, and that he would rise again on the third day.' Then they remembered that he had said this." Luke 24:1-8 (NLT)

**Note:** On Pentecost Sunday, Peter made sure that everyone knew that the "holy one" spoken of in Psalm 16 is Jesus. "People of Israel, listen! God publicly endorsed Jesus the Nazarene by doing powerful miracles, wonders, and signs through him, as you well know. But God knew what would happen, and his prearranged plan was carried out when Jesus was betrayed. With the help of lawless Gentiles, you nailed him to a cross and killed him. But God released him from the horrors of death and raised him back to life, for death could not keep him in its grip. King David said this about him: '**I see that the Lord is always with me. I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me. No wonder my heart is glad, and my tongue shouts his praises! My body rests in hope. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your Holy One to rot in the grave. You have shown me the way of life, and you will fill me with the joy of your presence.**' Dear brothers, think about this! You can be sure that the patriarch David wasn't referring to himself, for he died and was buried, and his tomb is still here among us. But he was a prophet, and he knew God had promised with an oath that one of David's own descendants would sit on his throne. David was looking into the future and speaking of the Messiah's resurrection. He was saying that God would not leave him among the dead or allow his body to rot in the grave. God raised Jesus from the dead, and we are all witnesses of this. Now he is exalted to the place of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand... **So let everyone in Israel know for certain that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, to be both Lord and Messiah!**" Acts 2:22-33a & 36 (NLT)

**Why it Matters:** If Jesus didn't rise from the dead, He isn't the Christ/Messiah and none of our sins are forgiven. "**And if Christ has not been raised, then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins.** In that case, all who have died believing in Christ are lost! And if our hope in Christ is only for this life, we are more to be pitied than anyone in the world. **But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead. He is the first of a great harvest of all who have died.**" 1 Corinthians 15:17-20 (NLT)

### B. Amazingly, on Easter Sunday, Jesus fulfilled His own prophecies that He would rise from the dead.

**Prophecies:** "But Jesus replied, 'Only an evil, adulterous generation would demand a miraculous sign; but the only sign I will give them is the sign of the prophet Jonah. For **as Jonah was in the belly of the great fish for three days and three nights, so will the Son of Man be in the heart of the earth for three days and three nights.**" Matthew 12:39-40 (NLT)

"...If God gave you authority to do this, show us a miraculous sign to prove it.' 'All right,' Jesus replied. '**Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.**' 'What!' they exclaimed. 'It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple, and you can rebuild it in three days?' But **when Jesus said 'this temple,' he meant his own body.** After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered he had said this, and they believed both the Scriptures and what Jesus had said." John 2:18b-22 (NLT)

"The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of his enemies. He will be killed, but **three days later he will rise from the dead.**' They didn't understand what he was saying, however, and they were afraid to ask him what he meant." Mark 9:31b-32 (NLT)

**Fulfillment:** "That same day two of Jesus' followers were walking to the village of Emmaus, seven miles from Jerusalem. As they walked along they were talking about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things, Jesus himself suddenly came and began walking with them. But God kept them from recognizing him. He asked them, 'What are you discussing so intently as you walk along?' ... 'The things that happened to Jesus, the man from Nazareth,' they said. 'He was a prophet who did powerful miracles, and he was a mighty teacher in the eyes of God and all the people. But our leading priests and other religious leaders handed him over to be condemned to death, and they crucified him. We had hoped he was the Messiah who had come to

rescue Israel. This all happened three days ago. Then some women from our group of his followers were at his tomb early this morning, and they came back with an amazing report. They said his body was missing, and they had seen angels who told them Jesus is alive! Some of our men ran out to see, and sure enough, his body was gone, just as the women had said.' Then Jesus said to them, 'You foolish people! You find it so hard to believe all that the prophets wrote in the Scriptures. Wasn't it clearly predicted that the Messiah would have to suffer all these things before entering his glory?' Then Jesus took them through the writings of Moses and all the prophets, explaining from all the Scriptures the things concerning himself." Luke 24:13-27 (NLT)

**Why it Matters:** Since Jesus kept His promise to rise from the dead, He can be trusted to keep His other promises, too!

- "I am the resurrection and the life. **Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying.** Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." John 11:25-26a (NLT)

**Good News!** If we belong to Christ, we don't need to be afraid of dying. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.**" John 3:16 (NKJV)

- "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that **I am going to prepare a place for you?** When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:1-3 (NLT)

**Good News!** If we belong to Christ, we have a place prepared for us in heaven right now. "I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, 'Look, **God's home is now among his people!** He will live with them, and they will be his people. God himself will be with them. He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and **there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever.**' And the one sitting on the throne said, 'Look, I am making everything new!' And then he said to me, 'Write this down, for **what I tell you is trustworthy and true.**'" Revelation 21:3-5 (NLT)

- "And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b (NLT)

**Good News!** If we belong to Christ, nothing can separate us from His love, joy, and peace. "I know the Lord is always with me. **I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me.** No wonder my heart is glad, and I rejoice. My body rests in safety. For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. You will show me the way of life, granting me the joy of your presence and the pleasures of living with you forever." Psalm 16:8-11 (NLT)

### C. **Because Jesus fulfilled amazing prophecies that He would rise from the dead, we should trust Him to be our Savior and Lord.**

"Peter's words pierced their hearts, and they said to him and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter replied, '**Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.** Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away—all who have been called by the Lord our God.'" Acts 2:37-39 (NLT)

"If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, '**Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.**'"

Romans 10:9-11 (NLT)

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### **Connect Group Discussion Questions:**

1. How did your family celebrate Easter this year? Did God speak to you about anything?
2. Read Luke 24:1-12. How did you react the first time you heard that Christians believe Jesus literally rose from the dead? Who told you?
3. Why do you think it was important to Peter that everyone in Jerusalem on Pentecost Sunday recognize Jesus as the "holy one" whom God would not allow to rot in the grave? (Psalm 16:8-11, Acts 2:22-36)
4. Why did Paul think it's essential for Christians to believe that Jesus rose from the dead? (1 Corinthians 15:12-20 & 30-32)

5. How do you explain the fact that although Jesus told people numerous times that He would rise from the dead, (Matthew 12:39-40, Mark 9:31-32, Luke 18:31-34, John 2:18-22) even His disciples didn't believe He would actually do so until they met with Him on Easter Sunday? (Luke 24:13-38)

6. Discuss the following promises of Jesus:

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." John 11:25-26a (NLT)

"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am." John 14:1-3 (NLT)

"And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Matthew 28:20b (NLT)

How important are they to you? Why is it necessary to believe in Jesus' resurrection to trust these promises?