

A statue of Jesus Christ on a wooden cross, set against a cloudy sky. The statue is made of a dark material, possibly bronze or stone, and shows Christ with a crown of thorns and visible wounds on his hands and feet. The cross is made of light-colored wood.

Living the Gospel eBooks

He Came to Seek & to Save the Lost

*Forecast and Fulfillment of the
Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ*

ERIC OTCHERE

He Came to Seek & to Save the Lost

*Forecast and Fulfillment of the Death &
Resurrection of Jesus Christ*

Eric Otchere (March 2024)

*"He paid the debt he did not own,
I own the debt I could not pay
I needed someone to wash my sins away
And now I sing a brand new song,
"Amazing grace"
Christ Jesus paid the debt I could never
pay"
-- He Paid A Debt He Did Not Owe,
Alton Howard Singers - Glory*

*"And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; **for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.**"*

Luke 19:9-10 (NKJV)

"No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father."

- John 10:18 (NKJV)

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Introduction

The death of Jesus Christ was not a 'cosmic child abuse' as some people claim. Jesus laid down His life for His friends and took it again (John 10:18). He died and resurrected to demonstrate His power and authority over sin and death. *Jesus died on the cross to save us from the wrath of God* (Nahum 1:6). He was punished for our sins.

His death was the most meaningful on earth. *People claim to die for a good cause but Jesus died for a greater cause - He died to save His people from their sins* (John 15:13). His people are the chosen of God before the foundation of the earth (Ephesians 1:4-5). He redeemed them by His blood (Ephesians 1:7).

Without Jesus, none can be reconciled with the Father (John 14:6). *Anyone who comes to Him will not be cast away* (John 6:37-39). He saves to the uttermost.

This eBook is in two parts; Part 1 looks at Scriptures that *forecast* the death and resurrection of Christ and then Part 2 looks at the *fulfillment* of the prophecies.

May your life be enriched as you read this book.



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PART 1: FORECAST OF THE DEATH OF CHRIST



"Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

– John 1:45 (NKJV)

Chapter #1

Jesus is the Lamb of God

"All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

– Revelation 13:8 (NKJV)

In the eternity past, the Lamb of God was slain to atone for the sins and transgressions of God's people. The Lamb was already provided before Adam and Eve even sinned in the garden of Eden and fell short of the glory of God.

There are two important things we can take away from Revelation 13:8:

A. Jesus was slain before man was created

Jesus was not slain after Adam sinned to remedy the situation. He was slain before that unfortunate event in the garden of Eden when Adam and Eve disobeyed God and fell from glory (Genesis 3). God is not a man to wait until events happen before He offers a solution. He was slain before we sinned. He was slain before we were created. He was slain

before the world came into being. *God knew everything before everything happened.*

B. Jesus' death was foreshadowed in the Old Testament

The pattern of the Old Testament sacrificial system of using unblemished animals to atone for sin foreshadows the ultimate work of Christ on the cross to take away the sin of the world (Hebrews 10:8-10). In the Old Testament, animals were not the sinners yet they were used as sacrifice for man's sins. Likewise, God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21).

The first forecast we learn about is that Jesus was the Lamb prepared by God before sin manifested. *Since God knows everything, it is His nature to prepare for any outcome.* Nothing takes Him by surprise. He knew what would happen, so He adequately prepared a remedy for our ailment - the Son of God.

Take Action: *Praise the Lord for the Lamb of God made available before we were even born.*

Chapter #2

Jesus will bruise Satan's head

*"And I will put enmity Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise
your head, And you shall bruise His heel."*

– Genesis 3:15 (NKJV)

In the forecast concerning the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God Himself predicted that there will be a rift between Satan and Jesus. Right from His birth to His death, Satan was on His case (Matthew 2:16-23; 4:1-11). He knew what it meant for Christ to take His rightful place in the kingdom of light.

After the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, God gave a two-part prophecy concerning the death of Christ – foretelling the role of Satan in opposition to God's plan:

A. He shall bruise your head

The first thing God predicted was that Jesus the Messiah will give a hefty blow to the head of the serpent (Satan). His 'head' represents his *authority and power*. He will prevail against Satan and triumph

over him. Therefore, the devil will not have superior power over the kingdom of light nor its children. We are on the winning side.

B. You shall bruise His heel

The second part of the prediction was that Satan will bruise the heel of Jesus Christ. He will be successful at putting Him to death, but it will all work for good when He resurrects and draws many to Himself (John 12:32). If Satan knew that bruising Jesus would give Him the upper hand, he would not have tried it. This is to tell us that Satan is not so powerful as we see him to be. He could not figure out that Jesus' death was planned, and he only helped to execute it for the good of the kingdom (1 Corinthians 2:7-8).

The forecast was to tell us that Christ will win over Satan. Therefore, the Bible says that Christ has all authority and power in heaven and on earth. He won the victory over death and sin. Anyone who believes in Him has power over sin and death. Romans 6:14 says that sin has no dominion over us.

***Take Action:** Bless the Lord for the guaranteed victory over Satan before we came on earth.*

Chapter #3

Jesus will suffer sorrows and grief

"He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him."

– Isaiah 53:3 (NKJV)

The Prophet Isaiah had a lot to say about the death of Christ before it happened. Isaiah 53 captures the heart of the ‘suffering Servant’ of God who will come and suffer for His people.

There are three main parts of Isaiah's prophecy that speak about the suffering Messiah:

A. He is despised and rejected by men

Isaiah predicted that Jesus would appear in the form of man in order that He will be treated as such (Philippians 2:5-11). As God, He made all things and sustains all things (Hebrews 1:3-6) but coming in the form of man meant that He will be treated like any man. He will be despised and rejected by the same people He was sent to save from sin. The Son of Man arrived without a place to lay His head (Luke 9:58).

B. A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief

Isaiah also said He will suffer sorrow and know grief. He will be betrayed by His own, arrested, beaten and crucified for our sins. Jesus will go through these hardships for our sake. Just in case you are thinking you have suffered an emotional downturn, remember that Jesus went through the worst of it for you to have emotional stability.

C. We did not esteem Him

The final thing Isaiah talks about is that the Jewish people will not regard their Messiah. They will not value Him as the Son of God nor One who came from God (John 9:16). In John 9:24, they called Jesus a sinner for opening the eyes of a man born blind.

Isaiah's prophecy about the suffering servant is a very important snapshot of what Jesus will go through in His first coming. He was rejected, mistreated and not regarded.

***Take Action:** Thank God that our Saviour knows our emotional needs so that He can comfort us in time of trouble.*

Chapter #4

Jesus' stripes will heal us

"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

– Isaiah 53:5 NKJV

In Isaiah 53:5, the prophet again gave more details about what Jesus Christ will go through for the sake of His brethren. He gave specific insights on what will happen to Him in the hands of the Gentiles (non-Jews).

What does Isaiah 53:5 teach us?

A. But He was wounded for our transgressions

Jesus will be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Meaning He will suffer for our sins. God will lay our sins upon Him as though we were being punished for our own sins. He will be the Lamb that will bear our sins and die for us so we will not have to keep sacrificing animals to atone for our sins. Jesus suffered for us so we will not have to suffer again.

B. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him

Jesus will take the rebuke for our peace and cleanse us of our sins (Hebrews 1:3). For the sake of our peace, He was chastised so we can enjoy the peace of God that surpasses all understanding. Instead of being enemies of God, we now have peace with God (Romans 5:1). He heals us from the sin Adam brought on us. *He takes away what we cannot deal with so that we can enjoy what we cannot provide on our own.* Jesus was the best gift of God to be given to humanity.

God spoke through Isaiah to tell us what manner of Messiah was coming for our sake. He was not a freedom fighter with arms. He was indeed a freedom fighter who carried power to take away what man could not deal with - sin and death. He was beaten for our sake. He was wounded for our sins. In the end, His suffering brought divine deliverance for many people who put their trust in Him.

Take Action: *Praise the Lord for the gift of Jesus who takes our place so that we will not bear our own sins.*

Chapter #5

Jesus will die and rise again

[30] Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. [31] For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." [32] But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.
– Mark 9:30-32 (NKJV)

Jesus Himself predicted His death and resurrection in the gospels many times. Whereas His disciples did not understand and believe what He was talking about, He knew full well that He could put down His life and take it again (John 10:18). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus yielded His will to the Father to accomplish His mission on earth - *to seek and to save the lost*. He showed us perfect obedience in His earthly work.

What will happen to Jesus?

A. They will kill Him

Jesus told His disciples that He will be betrayed and handed over to the Gentiles to be killed. He knew

full well what would happen to Him. How? Because He was God who knew everything. He knew the heart of man including that of Judas, His betrayer (John 2:24). The religious leaders and the Gentiles will team up to have Him killed. Nothing surprises God. He knows everything. He can see everything before it happens.

B. He will rise on the third day

Jesus predicted that He will die and resurrect from the dead. In Romans 1:4, Paul wrote of this and said that God's power rose Jesus from the dead. Major world religious leaders who claimed to be powerful and able to see into the spiritual world died but never rose again. Only Jesus of Nazareth died and come back again. He is the first fruit of our own resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20).

From the above, we can learn that Jesus predicted that He will go through an ordeal, die and resurrect on the third day. It was a clear prophetic utterance from the Lord. Our Saviour knew it all but yet still went through it all for our sake.

***Take Action:** Thank God that our Saviour did not flee from the price He had to pay for our redemption.*

PART 2:

FULFILLMENT OF THE DEATH & RESURRECTION OF CHRIST



"25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

– Luke 24:25-27 (NKJV)

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Chapter #6

Jesus takes away sin

*"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! **The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**"*

– John 1:29 (NKJV)

In Revelation 13:8, John revealed that Jesus was the Lamb of God who was slain before the foundations of the earth. The question is: how did He know that when he was not there? Simple. The whole book of Revelation is Christ unveiling His truth to His servant. In John 1:29, John the Baptist reveals that Jesus was slain to take away the sin of the world. John 3:16 says it was the love of God that sent Christ to die for sinners. We see a fulfillment of what was planned before we were even created.

There are two lessons we can glean from John 1:29:

A. Behold! The Lamb of God

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming and referred to Him as "the Lamb of God". Meaning Jesus Christ represented the 'lamb' of the Old Testament sacrificed for the sins of the children of God. He is

now fully manifested to be sacrificed once for all for atonement of our sin (Hebrews 10:10). Hebrews 9:27-28 says that He died once for all to take away sins. He is the Lamb that God sacrificed on the cross for the sin of Adam that had made us enemies of God. He represents the animal killed by God to cover the shame of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:21). He represents Isaac whom Abraham took to the mountain to sacrifice to God (Genesis 22). He is the Lamb made ready for sacrifice on the altar of God.

B. Takes away the sin of the world

The next thing we notice about John's statement in the text is that: 'Jesus takes away the sin of the world'. He was not only prepared to be sacrificed by God but He was actually sacrificed for the sin of the world. He took our place as sinners so that we will not have to pay for our own sins.

John 1:29 fulfills the forecast made by John that Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world. He is the Lamb of God who was slain before we were even created. Jesus is our ultimate sacrifice.

Take Action: *Rejoice that Jesus has taken our place and dealt with our sins forever.*

Chapter #7

Jesus disarmed principalities and powers

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

– Colossians 2:15 (NKJV)

The Scripture in Genesis 3:15 predicted that Jesus will bruise the head of the serpent (Satan). Did He do that? Well, Colossians 2:15 says that Jesus disarmed principalities and powers. This is obviously referring to Satan and his kingdom. Right from His birth, there was hatred from the court of Satan against the Son of Man. In Mark 1:23-24, the demon confessed that they knew Jesus as the Holy One of God.

What can we learn from Colossians 2:15?

A. Having disarmed principalities and powers

Jesus disarmed principalities and powers by overcoming the strong man (Satan). He went to the grave and led captives free. He destroyed the works of the devil and made His kingdom undefeatable (Matthew 16:18). On the cross, He destroyed the works of Satan. He has no more dominion over the

children of God. His power and influence cannot match that of Jesus Christ for God has highly exalted Him and given Him the Name that is above every other name (Philippians 2:9). All power and authority in heaven and on earth belongs to Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:18).

B. Triumphant over them in it

Colossians 2:10 teaches that Jesus is the head of all principalities and powers. He won the victory over the enemy that made Him triumph over them in it. The cross was a symbol of victory over sin and death. Satan does not have any dominion over the children of God who are in Christ Jesus. We are more than conquerors through Him (Revelation 12:11). His victory is our victory. *The devil can only deceive and trick, but He does not have any power over us.*

Just as Genesis 3:15 predicted that He would bruise the head of the serpent, Jesus achieved that victory. He overcame the enemy of our soul. He has made us victors rather than victims. We have power over Satan to cast him and his cohorts out.

Take Action: *Magnify the Lord for the victory we have over Satan and his kingdom.*

Chapter #8

Jesus was sorrowful and deeply distressed

“37 And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed. 38 Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.”

– Matthew 26:37-38 (NKJV)

The Bible is not just another book. It is a prophetic book that brings to pass what was spoken by God through His Holy men. In Isaiah, the prophet predicted that Jesus will be sorrowful and acquainted with grief. In this chapter, we want to investigate if it happened as was spoken.

A. He began to be sorrowful and deeply distressed
Jesus did not hide His emotional state. He was sorrowful and deeply distressed as a result of the weight of the sin of humanity He had to carry to the cross. He felt it and He told His disciples. He had nothing to hide from them. Even though He knew they could not do anything about it, He shared it. Just as Isaiah said, Jesus was sorrowful and deeply

distressed. God's word cannot lie. Isaiah spoke and died but the word manifested as planned by God.

B. Stay here and watch with Me

The next thing Jesus requested of His disciples was for them to stay and watch with Him as He wrestled before His Father. He needed them to be there for Him in His darkest hour. They were supposed to watch and pray but they ended up sleeping and not praying. Although Peter had commented that He will be with Him through and through, he slept when he was needed most. Again, we see here that Jesus may have brought them to witness the weight of the sins He was about to carry. He bore our griefs even to death.

Matthew 26 fulfills what Isaiah said that He would be sorrowful and grieved. God's word does not fail. Once He said it, it shall come to pass. Trust Him and leave the rest in His hands to fulfill it.

***Take Action:** Thank God for bearing our sorrows and griefs.*

Chapter #9

Jesus suffered in the hands of men

[1] So then Pilate took Jesus and scourged Him. [2] And the soldiers twisted a crown of thorns and put it on His head, and they put on Him a purple robe. [3] Then they said, "Hail, King of the Jews!" And they struck Him with their hands.

– John 19:1-3 (NKJV)

Isaiah the prophet predicted that Jesus would suffer in the hands of men. Men will mistreat Him and lead Him as sheep to the slaughter house. He did not open His mouth though He could have called legion of angels to fight for Him (Matthew 26:53). He was betrayed and handed over to the Gentiles.

There are three things we pick from John 19:

A. Pilate scourged Him

Pilate took Jesus from the religious leaders. In John 18:3, the Bible says Judas was given troops by the chief priests and Pharisees to arrest Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane where He was praying. He was arrested by His own and delivered to Pilate to

scourge Him. To scourge is to *beat*. He suffered betrayal and severe beatings by Roman soldiers.

B. They hurt Him

Jesus was forcefully crowned with twisted thorns to hurt Him. Since they said He claimed to be the King of the Jews, they made a crown for Him that caused Him to bleed. The soldiers hurt Him.

C. They mocked Him

The Scripture says that, “Then they said, “Hail, King of the Jews!” And they struck Him with their hands.” They were not proclaiming Him as the true King of the Jews from the seed of David but to mock Him. They did not regard Him.

Think of the fact that He was innocent, yet the Father did not spare Him. John 19 fulfills what Isaiah said that Christ will be mistreated, despised, and not regarded.

***Take Action:** Hail the Lord for His unblemished sacrifice for us.*

Chapter #10

Jesus resurrected from the dead

"[6] But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him. [7] But go, tell His disciples – and Peter – that He is going before you into Galilee; there you will see Him, as He said to you."

– Mark 16:6-7 (NKJV)

"Without the resurrection, the cross is meaningless."

– Billy Graham, evangelist and author

E*ver since the world began, there has not been any man who rose from the dead on his own. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection and it perfectly came to pass. What He said was what happened. He put down His life and took it again.*

What do we learn from Mark 16?

A. He is risen! He is not here.

When the women came to the tomb to visit and do their rituals, an angel of the Lord met them and told them Jesus had risen from the dead. He was not

where they thought He would be. They doubted His assertion that He will die and resurrect on the third day. If they had believed, there wouldn't have been the need to seek Him among the dead. God's word was sure and came to pass. Jesus said He will resurrect and He did that. There is nothing God says that will be hindered from happening.

B. You will see Him, as He said to you

The next thing the angel said was more evidence for His resurrection. He said they will see Him just as He told them will happen. 2 Corinthians 5 says that when Jesus rose from the dead He was seen by many including Peter and the other disciples. The people who were closest to Him were those whom He showed Himself to so they will believe in Him. When our trust in God is weak, He will give us undeniable evidence to believe in Him.

The mission was accomplished. Jesus predicted His death and resurrection and it was done. It is a historical fact that Jesus died and was resurrected.

***Take Action:** Glorify the Lord for the death and resurrection of His Dear Son to atone for our sins.*






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FEATURE ARTICLE

Conclusion

Jesus came with one prime mission – to seek and to save the lost. We have learnt that it was predicted by Holy men and actualized in the life of Christ. God planned it and executed it.

Galatians 1:3-5 (NKJV)

[3] Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, [4] who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, [5] to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Christ gave Himself for our sins. He did not sin but He was made sin for our sake. The purpose was to deliver us from this present evil age.

Easter is meaningless unless we link it with our salvation from sin and iniquities. If you have not trusted Jesus as your Lord and Saviour, don't wait any longer. When Jesus comes again, He will come to judge the living and the dead (2 Timothy 4:1).

May you cry for mercy so that you will be granted and saved from eternal condemnation.

About the Author

Eric Otchere is committed to declaring the whole counsel of God through systematic writing and preaching of God's word. He is a Licensed Minister of the International Central Gospel Church (ICGC) headquartered in Accra, Ghana. He actively works in the church as an Associate Pastor at ICGC The Royal Temple, Accra, and doubles as Regional Administrator of ICGC Central Region.

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you for
reading*

