

THE PROMISED CHRIST

A 5-WEEK DEVOTIONAL PLAN
ON BIBLICAL PROPHECY

BY WILL THOMAS



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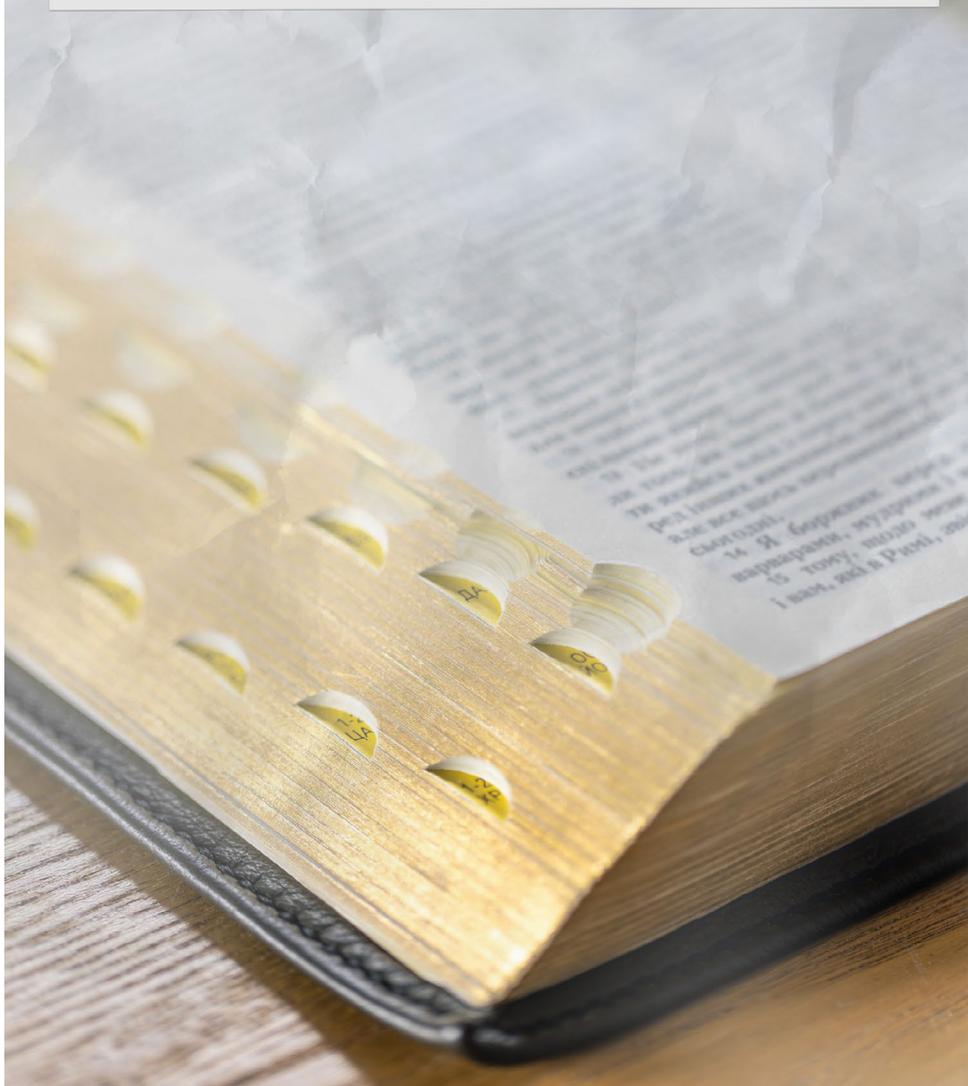
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WEEK 1

UNDERSTANDING BIBLICAL PROPHECY



WEEK 1: Understanding Biblical Prophecy

Theme: What prophecy is, why God uses it, and how it strengthens our faith today.

1. What Is Biblical Prophecy?

Key Scriptures:

- “And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed...” — 2 Peter 1:19–21
- “I declare the end from the beginning...” — Isaiah 46:9–10
- “I will put My words in his mouth...” — Deuteronomy 18:18–22

Biblical prophecy is God speaking to His people, revealing both:

1. Forth-telling — declaring God’s truth, calling people to repentance, warning, correcting, encouraging (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos, etc.).
2. Foretelling — predicting future events God has sovereignly determined (Messiah’s birth, exile, return, crucifixion, resurrection).

Prophecy is NOT human guessing.

- Scripture says prophecy came when “men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:21).
- It begins with God, not the prophet.

Prophets served as:

- God’s messengers (Jeremiah 1:7–9)
- Covenant prosecutors calling Israel back to faithfulness
- Revealing God’s future redemptive plan (Isaiah, Daniel, Micah)

God used prophecy to show:

- His sovereignty (He knows the end from the beginning)
- His faithfulness (He always fulfills what He promises)
- His commitment to revealing Himself to His people

2. Why God Gives Prophecy: The Heart Behind It

A. To Reveal His Character

Prophecy always points back to who God is.

- Holy: He confronts sin.
- Merciful: He promises restoration after judgment.
- Faithful: He keeps every word He speaks (Joshua 21:45).
- Sovereign: He writes history before it happens.

When God says something centuries before it occurs—like the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) or the crucifixion (Psalm 22)—He shows that He is in complete control of time and nations.

B. To Strengthen the Faith of His People

- Jesus Himself said prophecy helps us believe:

“Now I have told you before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe.” (John 14:29)
- Prophecy is God saying:

“I want you to trust Me. I want your faith to rest on truth, not feelings.”

C. To Call People Back to God

- Almost every prophet in the Old Testament started with the same message:

“Return to Me.”
- Prophecy warns, convicts, corrects, and protects.

It is God pleading with His people to come home.

D. To Reveal the Hope of Redemption

All prophecy ultimately points to Jesus Christ—His first coming, His sacrifice, His resurrection, and His second coming.

3. How Prophecy Was Tested in the Bible

- Deuteronomy 18:20–22 gives a clear standard:
 - If a prophecy does not come true → the prophet is false.
 - If a prophecy contradicts God’s Word → the prophet is false (Deut. 13:1–5).
 - True prophecy always aligns with God’s character.
- This matters for devotionals because we build our lives on Scripture, not human predictions or “feelings.”
- True prophecy always points back to the unchanging Word of God.

4. How Fulfilled Prophecy Builds Your Faith

- The Bible contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies, including:
 - Jesus’ birthplace (Micah 5:2 → Matthew 2:1)
 - His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13 → Matthew 27:9)
 - His crucifixion described before crucifixion existed (Psalm 22)
 - Isaiah 53 describing Jesus’ suffering in detail

- **This week's goal is simple:**
 - Understand that fulfilled prophecy proves God keeps His promises.
- **That means you can trust:**
 - His promise to forgive
 - His promise to heal
 - His promise to guide
 - His promise to return

5. Devotional Application for Today

This is where Week 1 becomes devotional instead of academic.

A. God's Word Is Reliable

- Since God has fulfilled every prophecy perfectly, you can trust what He says about your life.
- If He keeps promises about nations and kings, He keeps promises about you.

B. God Is Active in Your Story

- Prophecy isn't just about the future—it's about God's involvement in history.
- That means He is also involved in your daily life.

C. You Can Stand Firm in a Shifting Culture

- When the world feels unstable, prophecy reminds you:
- God already knows the end.
- He is not surprised by anything.
- He is guiding history toward redemption.

D. Prophecy Shapes How You Read Scripture

- When you read the Bible, you're not reading random stories—you're reading a unified story written by a God who knows the beginning, middle, and end.

6. Reflection Questions for Week 1

1. What does prophecy reveal to you about God's character?
2. How does knowing God fulfills His promises increase your trust in Him?
3. Are there areas of your life where you struggle to believe God's Word?
4. How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen your faith in Jesus?
5. What promise from Scripture do you need to cling to this week?

DAY 1

What Is Biblical Prophecy?

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Peter 1:19–21
- Isaiah 46:9–10
- Deuteronomy 18:18–22

Teaching

1. Biblical prophecy is not human guessing. It is God speaking through chosen messengers. According to 2 Peter 1:21, men “spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.”
2. Prophecy includes:
 - Foretelling: declaring future events God has sovereignly determined.
 - Forth-telling: declaring God’s truth, calling people to repentance, correction, and faithfulness.
 - Prophecy begins with God, not the prophet.

Application

If prophecy starts with God, then Scripture is not opinion it is revelation. That means when you open your Bible, you are hearing from a God who knows the end from the beginning.

Prayer

Lord, help me see Your Word as living and authoritative. Teach me to trust what You say more than how I feel.

Reflection

- Do I treat Scripture as divine revelation or personal inspiration?

- What would change in my life if I fully trusted that God speaks through His Word?

DAY 2

Why did God Give Prophecy

Key Scriptures:

- Joshua 21:45
- Isaiah 7:14
- Psalm 22

Teaching

1. Prophecy reveals who God is:
 - God is Holy: He confronts sin.
 - God is Merciful: He promises restoration.
 - God is Faithful: Not one word fails (Joshua 21:45).
 - God is Sovereign: He declares the end from the beginning.
2. When God foretold the virgin birth (Isaiah 7:14) and the suffering Messiah (Psalm 22), He showed complete control over history.

Application

Prophecy is not mainly about prediction, but it is about God revealing His character. If He has been faithful across centuries, He will be faithful in your life.

Prayer

Father, show me Your faithfulness in Scripture so I can trust You more in my present circumstances.

Reflection

- What aspect of God's character stands out most to me?

- Where do I need to trust His sovereignty more?

DAY 3

Prophecy Strengthens Faith

Key Scriptures:

- John 14:29

Teaching

Jesus said, "I have told you before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe." Prophecy builds belief. Fulfillment builds confidence. God does not ask for blind faith. He gives evidence of His reliability through fulfilled prophecy.

Application

When doubt creeps in, fulfilled prophecy reminds you: God has already proven Himself trustworthy. Your faith rests on truth and not your feelings. Truth is what makes you feel secure.

Prayer

Jesus, when I struggle with doubt, remind me that You have already proven Your Word true.

Reflection

- What doubts do I wrestle with?

- How does the past fulfilled prophecy answer those doubts?

DAY 4

Understanding and Testing True Prophecy

Key Scriptures:

- Deuteronomy 18:20–22
- Deuteronomy 13:1–5

Teaching

1. God gave clear standards:
 - If it does not come true → false.
 - If it contradicts God’s Word → false.
 - True prophecy aligns with God’s character.
2. This protects believers from deception. Our foundation is Scripture and not emotions, trends, or personalities

Application

In a culture full of opinions and predictions, you must anchor your faith in the unchanging Word of God.

Prayer

Lord, guard my heart from deception. Keep me grounded in Scripture.

Reflection

- What voices influence me most?

- Am I testing everything against God’s Word?

DAY 5

Fulfilled Prophecy and Personal Trust

Key Scriptures:

- Micah 5:2 / Matthew 2:1
- Zechariah 11:12–13 / Matthew 27:9
- Isaiah 53

Teaching

1. The Bible contains hundreds of fulfilled prophecies, especially concerning Jesus:
 - His birthplace
 - His betrayal for 30 pieces of silver
 - His suffering and crucifixion
2. Fulfilled prophecy proves God keeps His promises.

Application

- If God keeps promises about nations and centuries, He keeps promises about:
 - Forgiveness
 - Guidance
 - Healing
 - Christ's return
- Prophecy is not just proof, but assurance.

Prayer

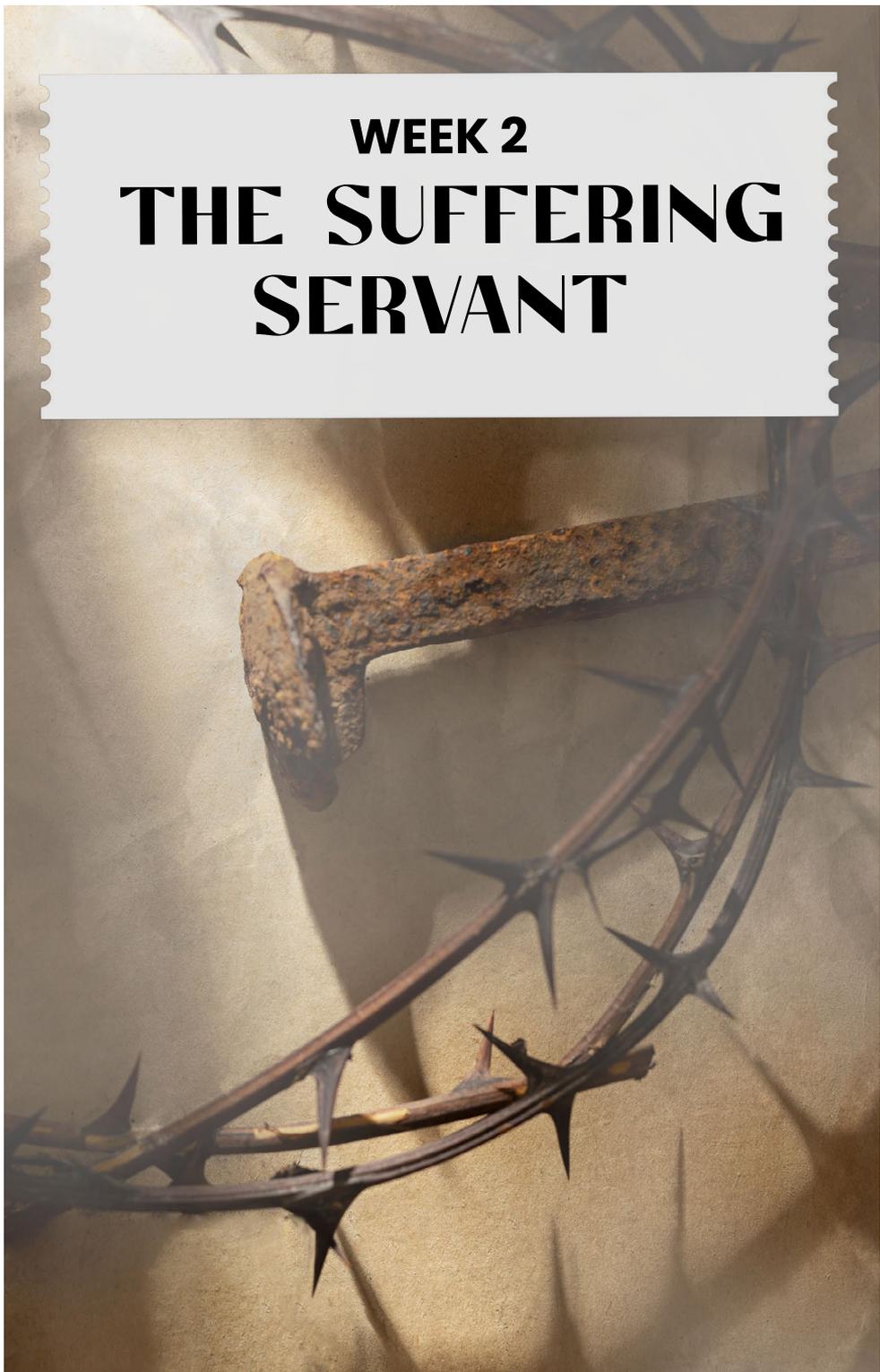
Father, help me rest in Your promises. You have never failed — and You never will.

Reflection

- What promise from Scripture do I need to cling to this week?

- How does prophecy strengthen my confidence in Jesus?

WEEK 2
**THE SUFFERING
SERVANT**



Week 2: The Suffering Servant

Theme: Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Isaiah’s prophecy of the Suffering Servant.

Key Passages:

Isaiah 53, Matthew 8:17, 1 Peter 2:24–25, Luke 22:37, Acts 8:32–35

Background & Context:

Isaiah wrote his prophecy roughly 700 years before Jesus’ birth, during a time when Israel struggled with rebellion, judgment, and hope for restoration. Many expected the Messiah to be a political or military deliverer. Instead, Isaiah describes a servant who suffers, is rejected, and bears the sins of others.

This chapter is written in a poetic and prophetic style, portraying a figure who:

- Is despised and rejected
- Suffers willingly
- Bears the guilt of others
- Brings peace and healing through sacrifice

At the time, this description puzzled readers. Only in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus does Isaiah 53 fully make sense.

Isaiah 53 Breakdown

1. Rejected Yet Chosen (Isaiah 53:1–3)

- The Servant is not admired or celebrated. He appears ordinary and is rejected by many.
- **Fulfillment in Christ:**
Jesus was misunderstood, rejected by religious leaders, and abandoned by many (John 1:11).
- **Reflection:**
God’s greatest work often doesn’t look impressive by human standards.

2. The Substitute for Our Sin (Isaiah 53:4–6)

- The Servant bears grief, pain, and punishment that belong to others. This is one of the clearest descriptions of substitutionary atonement in Scripture.
- **Fulfillment in Christ:**
Jesus took our sin upon Himself so that we could be forgiven and restored (1 Peter 2:24).
- **Reflection:**
Salvation is not earned—it is received through Christ’s sacrifice.

3. Silent Obedience (Isaiah 53:7–9)

The Servant does not defend Himself, even though He is innocent.

- **Fulfillment in Christ:**

Jesus remained silent before His accusers and submitted fully to the Father's will (Matthew 27:12–14).

- **Reflection:**

True obedience trusts God even in suffering.

4. God's Redemptive Purpose (Isaiah 53:10–12)

Though the Servant suffers and dies, God's plan is accomplished through Him. The outcome is victory, justification, and restored relationship with God.

- **Fulfillment in Christ:**

Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus brings salvation to many and intercedes for sinners (Romans 8:34).

- **Reflection:**

What looks like defeat can be God's greatest victory.

Why Isaiah 53 Matters to Christians:

- It clearly points to Jesus centuries before His birth.
- It explains the purpose of Christ's suffering.
- It confirms God's sovereignty and faithfulness.
- It reveals the depth of God's love for humanity.

Isaiah 53 reminds believers that the cross was not an accident—it was part of God's redemptive plan from the beginning.

Devotional Application

Personal Reflection

- What does it mean to you that Jesus willingly suffered for your sins?
- Which verse from Isaiah 53 stands out most to you right now, and why?

Prayer Focus

- Thank God for the sacrifice of Christ and ask for a deeper understanding of grace and forgiveness.
- Gratitude Journaling

Write about:

- How Jesus' wounds bring healing to your life
- Areas where you need to surrender guilt or shame to Him

DAY 1

The Prophecy Before the Cross

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 53
- Acts 8:32–35

Teaching

Isaiah wrote this prophecy around 700 years before Jesus was born. At the time, Israel expected a political conqueror, a king who would defeat enemies and restore national power. Instead, Isaiah describes a suffering servant. When the Ethiopian official in Acts 8 read Isaiah 53, he asked, “Who is the prophet talking about?” Philip answered by preaching Jesus. Isaiah 53 only fully makes sense in light of Christ.

Application

- God’s plan rarely looks like we expect. The Messiah did not come with a sword — He came with a cross.
- Are you willing to trust God even when His plans don’t match your expectations?

Prayer

Lord, help me trust Your wisdom even when I don’t understand Your methods.

Reflection

- Why do you think people struggled to accept a suffering Messiah?

- Where have your expectations of God needed correction?

DAY 2

Rejected Yet Chosen (Isaiah 53:1–3)

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 53:1–3
- John 1:11

Teaching

1. The Servant is described as:
 - Despised
 - Rejected
 - Unattractive by worldly standards
 - A man of sorrows
2. Jesus was not celebrated by the world. He was misunderstood, opposed by religious leaders, and ultimately rejected.
3. God’s greatest work did not look impressive.

Application

- We often equate success with visibility and applause. But God works through humility, obscurity, and suffering.
- If Christ was rejected, we should not be surprised when faithfulness costs us something.

Prayer

Jesus, teach me to value faithfulness over recognition.

Reflection

- Do you fear rejection for your faith?

- How does Christ’s rejection comfort you in your own struggles?

DAY 3

The Substitute for Our Sin (Isaiah 53:4–6)

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 53:4–6
- 1 Peter 2:24

Teaching

1 “He was pierced for our transgressions... the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”

This is substitutionary atonement.

2. Jesus did not suffer for His own sin — He suffered for ours. He took the punishment we deserved so we could receive forgiveness and peace

This is the heart of the gospel.

Application

- Salvation is not earned. It is received.
- Are you still trying to earn what Christ already paid for?
- Release guilt. Release shame. The punishment has already fallen — just not on you.

Prayer

Father, thank You that Jesus bore my sin. Help me live in the freedom of forgiveness.

Reflection

- What guilt are you still carrying?

- What does it mean personally that Christ took your place?

DAY 4

Silent Obedience (Isaiah 53:7–9)

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 53:7–9
- Matthew 27:12–14

Teaching

1. The Servant is silent before His accusers.
2. Jesus did not fight to defend Himself. He submitted to the Father’s will, even when it led to suffering.
3. True strength is not loud retaliation — it is surrendered obedience.

Application

- We live in a culture that demands self-defense and self-promotion.
- Christ shows us another way: trust God’s justice.
- Where is God asking you to trust Him instead of defending yourself?

Prayer

Lord, give me the humility to obey You even when obedience is costly.

Reflection

- When do you feel the strongest urge to defend yourself?

- What would surrendered trust look like in that situation?

DAY 5

From Suffering to Victory (Isaiah 53:10–12)

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 53:10–12
- Romans 8:34

Teaching

1. Though the Servant suffers and dies, Isaiah reveals something shocking:

“He shall see His offspring... He shall prolong His days.”

Death is not the end.

2. What looked like defeat was God’s redemptive victory. Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus justifies many and now intercedes for believers.

The cross was not an accident. It was God’s plan from the beginning.

Application

- What feels like defeat in your life may be the very place God is working redemption.
- The resurrection proves suffering is not final.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for turning suffering into salvation. Help me trust that You are working even in hardship.

Reflection

- Where in your life does something look like defeat?

- How does the resurrection give you hope in that area?

WEEK 3

**MESSIANIC
PROPHECIES
FULFILLED IN CHRIST**



Week 3: Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled in Christ

Theme: Jesus fulfills the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms, confirming Him as the promised Messiah.

Key Passages

- Micah 5:2
- Psalm 22
- Zechariah 9:9
- Isaiah 7:14
- Isaiah 9:6–7
- Luke 24:27, 44
- Matthew 1:22–23
- John 19:23–24

Why Messianic Prophecy Matters

- The Old Testament contains hundreds of prophecies pointing to the Messiah. These were written across different centuries, cultures, and authors, yet they converge in the life of Jesus. This unity reveals that Scripture is not random—it is intentional and divinely inspired.
- Jesus Himself affirmed this when He explained to His disciples that everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to be fulfilled (Luke 24:27).

Key Messianic Prophecies and Their Fulfillment

1. Birthplace of the Messiah

- **Prophecy:** Micah 5:2 — The Messiah would be born in Bethlehem.
- **Fulfillment in Christ:** Matthew 2:1; Luke 2:4–7
This prophecy shows God's sovereignty, using even a Roman census to fulfill His Word.
- **Reflection:**
God's plans unfold perfectly, even through ordinary events.

2. The Nature of the Messiah

- **Prophecy:** Isaiah 7:14; Isaiah 9:6–7 — A virgin-born child called Immanuel, reigning with divine authority.
- **Fulfillment:** Matthew 1:22–23
Jesus is both fully God and fully man—able to save completely.
- **Reflection:**
The Messiah did not merely bring a message; He brought God's presence.

3. The Suffering Messiah

- **Prophecy:** Psalm 22 — Details of suffering, mockery, pierced hands and feet, and divided garments.
- **Fulfillment:** Matthew 27:35–43; John 19:23–24
Written centuries before crucifixion was practiced, Psalm 22 vividly describes Christ’s suffering.
- **Reflection:**
God knew the cost of redemption long before the cross.

4. The Humble King

- **Prophecy:** Zechariah 9:9 — The King arrives riding on a donkey.
- **Fulfillment:** Matthew 21:1–11
 - Jesus enters Jerusalem not as a conquering warrior, but as a humble Savior.
- **Reflection:**
 - God’s kingdom advances through humility, not force.
- Reliability of Scripture
- Messianic prophecy provides evidence that the Bible is trustworthy. These fulfillments were:
 - Public and historical
 - Recorded by multiple eyewitnesses
 - Beyond human control (place of birth, method of death)
- Prophecy reveals that God stands outside of time and faithfully accomplishes His promises.

Jesus and the Whole Story of Scripture

Jesus is not an addition to the Old Testament—He is its fulfillment. From Genesis to Malachi, Scripture points forward to Him. The Gospel accounts do not invent Jesus; they reveal the One the prophets foretold.

Devotional Application

Personal Reflection

- How does seeing prophecy fulfilled in Jesus strengthen your trust in Scripture?

DAY 1

The Whole Bible Points to Jesus

Key Scriptures:

- Luke 24:27, 44

Teaching

1. After His resurrection, Jesus explained to His disciples how everything written about Him in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms had to be fulfilled.

Jesus is not an addition to Scripture — He is its fulfillment.

2. From Genesis to Malachi, the Old Testament points forward to a coming Redeemer. The New Testament reveals that Redeemer as Christ.

Application

When you read the Bible, you are not reading disconnected stories. You are reading one unified story of redemption centered on Jesus.

Prayer

Lord, open my eyes to see Christ throughout all of Scripture.

Reflection

- Do you read the Bible as one unified story?

- How does knowing Jesus fulfills Scripture increase your confidence in it?

DAY 2

The Promised Birthplace

Key Scriptures:

- Micah 5:2
- Matthew 2:1

Teaching

1. Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem – a small, seemingly insignificant town.
2. Centuries later, Jesus was born there. Even a Roman census became the instrument God used to fulfill His Word.

This was not coincidence. It was sovereignty.

Application

God controls even ordinary events to accomplish extraordinary purposes. If He orchestrated empires to fulfill prophecy, He can orchestrate your circumstances too.

Prayer

Father, help me trust that You are working through even the ordinary details of my life.

Reflection

- Where have you seen God work through unexpected circumstances?

- Do you believe God is active in your present situation?

DAY 3

The Divine Child

Key Scriptures:

- Isaiah 7:14; 9:6–7
- Matthew 1:22–23

Teaching

1. Isaiah foretold a virgin-born child called Immanuel — “God with us.” He would reign with divine authority and everlasting peace.
Jesus fulfills this completely. He is fully God and fully man.
2. The Messiah did not merely bring a message from God — He brought God’s presence.

Application

- Christianity is not about distant religion. It is about God coming near.
- Jesus is not just Savior — He is Immanuel.

Prayer

Jesus, thank You for coming near. Help me live aware of Your presence.

Reflection

- What does it mean personally that God came near in Christ?

- How should that shape your daily walk?

DAY 4

The Suffering Messiah

Key Scriptures:

- Psalms 22
- John 19:23–24

Teaching

1. Psalm 22 describes:
 - Mockery
 - Pierced hands and feet
 - Divided garments
2. Written centuries before crucifixion was practiced, this psalm vividly portrays Christ’s suffering.
3. God knew the cost of redemption long before the cross.
The crucifixion was not chaos — it was fulfillment.

Application

- The cross was not God reacting. It was God redeeming.
- Your salvation was not improvised — it was planned.

Prayer

Father, thank You that my redemption was part of Your plan from the beginning.

Reflection

- How does Psalm 22 deepen your understanding of the cross?

- What does it reveal about God’s foreknowledge and love?

DAY 5

The Humble King

Key Scriptures:

- Zechariah 9:9
- Matthew 21:1–11

Teaching

1. Zechariah foretold a king arriving on a donkey — humble and bringing salvation.
2. Jesus fulfilled this when He entered Jerusalem not as a conquering warrior, but as a servant-king.
3. God's kingdom does not advance through force, but through humility and sacrifice.

Application

- We often expect power to look loud and dominant. But Christ shows that true authority is humble and obedient.
- Following Jesus means embracing His kind of kingdom.

Prayer

Lord, shape my heart to reflect Your humility.

Reflection

- Where are you tempted to pursue power the world's way?

- How can you reflect Christ's humility this week?

WEEK 4
PROPHECY
FOR THE
CHURCH TODAY



Week 4: Prophecy for the Church Today

Theme: The role of prophecy in the New Testament church and how believers practice discernment under the authority of Scripture.

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 2:17–18
- 1 Corinthians 14:1–3
- Romans 12:6
- 1 Thessalonians 5:20–21
- 1 John 4:1

Why Prophecy in the Church Matters

1. After seeing fulfilled prophecy in Christ, believers must understand how prophecy functions today. The New Testament teaches that the Holy Spirit continues to work within the church, but always in alignment with the completed Word of God.
2. Prophecy in the New Testament is not about adding new Scripture or predicting new redemptive history. Instead, it strengthens, encourages, and builds up believers.

Understanding this protects the church from confusion, emotionalism, and false teaching.

New Testament Teaching on Prophecy

1. Prophecy at Pentecost

- Passage: Acts 2:17–18
 - Peter explains that the outpouring of the Spirit fulfills Joel's prophecy. The Spirit is now poured out on all believers.
 - This marks a shift from the Old Testament, where prophecy was limited to specific individuals, to the New Testament church where the Spirit indwells all believers.
- **Reflection:**

God is active among His people. But His activity always aligns with His revealed Word.

2. The Purpose: Edification and Encouragement

- Passage: 1 Corinthians 14:1–3
 - Paul teaches that prophecy strengthens, encourages, and comforts the church.
 - Prophecy is not for spectacle. It is not for attention. It is for building up the body of Christ.
- Reflection:
Spiritual gifts are meant to serve others, not elevate self.

3. Using the Gift Properly

- Passage: Romans 12:6
 - Believers are instructed to use gifts “in proportion to faith.” This implies humility and submission to apostolic teaching.
New Testament prophecy operates under Scripture — not above it.
- Reflection:
True spiritual maturity submits to biblical authority.

Discernment and Testing

- Passages:
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:20–21
 - 1 John 4:1
 - Believers are commanded to test everything.
This shows that New Testament prophecy must be evaluated. Unlike Old Testament prophetic revelation (which became Scripture), New Testament expressions must align with already revealed truth.
 - Anything that contradicts Scripture must be rejected.
- Reflection:
 - Discernment is not doubt — it is obedience to God’s Word.

Differences Between Old and New Testament Prophecy

Old Testament prophecy:

- Delivered authoritative revelation from God
- Established covenant truth
- Became part of Scripture

New Testament prophecy:

- Functions within the completed revelation of Christ
- Encourages and strengthens believers
- Must be tested against Scripture

The foundation of the church is the apostolic teaching preserved in Scripture.

Reliability and Authority of Scripture

- Prophecy today never replaces or adds to the Bible.
- The Spirit who inspires and guides believers is the same Spirit who inspired Scripture. Therefore, He will never contradict it.
This protects the church from false claims and emotional manipulation.
- God’s Word remains the final authority.

Practical Application

- Listening for God’s guidance begins with daily immersion in His Word.
- Practicing discernment requires:
 - Biblical literacy
 - Humility
 - Accountability within the church

Devotional Application

- Personal Reflection
 - How do you discern truth in a culture filled with competing spiritual voices?
 - Do you prioritize Scripture as the ultimate standard?

DAY 1

The Promise of the Spirit

Key Scriptures:

- Acts 2:17–18

Teaching

1. At Pentecost, Peter quoted the prophet Joel that God would pour out His Spirit, and sons and daughters would prophesy. This marked a shift. In the Old Testament, the Spirit empowered specific individuals at specific times. In the New Testament, the Spirit indwells all believers.
2. Prophecy becomes part of the Spirit’s work in building the Church.

Application

- God is not silent. Through His Spirit and His Word, He continues to guide and build His people.
- The question is not whether God speaks — it’s whether we are listening biblically.

Prayer

Holy Spirit, help me be sensitive to Your leading through Scripture.

Reflection

- Do you live aware of the Spirit’s presence?

- How does Pentecost change your understanding of prophecy?

DAY 2

The Purpose: Edification, Not Spectacle

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 14:1–3

Teaching

1. Paul explains that prophecy in the church is for:
 - Edification
 - Encouragement
 - Comfort
2. It is not about attention or spectacle. It is about strengthening believers.
3. New Testament prophecy serves the body — it does not replace Scripture, and it does not add new doctrine.

Application

- Ask yourself: Does what I hear build up the church and align with Scripture?
- True spiritual gifts strengthen others, not elevate self.

Prayer

Lord, use me to encourage and build up others in truth.

Reflection

- Are you using your gifts to strengthen others?

- Do you prioritize edification over emotion?

DAY 3

Old Testament vs. New Testament Prophecy

Key Scriptures:

- Romans 12:6

Teaching

1. Old Testament prophets spoke with divine authority — their words were Scripture.
2. New Testament prophecy operates under apostolic teaching and must align with revealed Scripture.

Key differences:

- OT prophecy established covenant truth.
 - NT prophecy functions within already revealed truth.
 - OT prophecy carried binding authority.
 - NT prophecy must be tested.
3. The foundation of the Church is the completed Word of God.

Application

- We do not seek new revelation — we seek faithful understanding of what God has already revealed.
- Scripture remains the final authority.

Prayer

Father, guard my heart from confusing emotion with revelation.

Reflection

- Do you value Scripture as final authority?

- Where might you be tempted to elevate experience over truth?

DAY 4

Testing and Discernment

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Corinthians 14:1–3

Teaching

1. Not every spiritual claim is from God.
2. The New Testament repeatedly calls believers to discernment.

True prophecy:

- Aligns with Scripture
 - Exalts Christ
 - Produces godly fruit
 - Builds up the church
3. A noisy world requires rooted believers.

Application

- Discernment is not cynicism. It is biblical maturity.
- We test not because we doubt God — but because we trust His Word.

Prayer

Lord, give me wisdom to recognize truth and reject error.

Reflection

- What voices influence your spiritual thinking?

- Are you testing them against Scripture?

DAY 5

Listening for God’s Voice Today

Key Scriptures:

- 2 Timothy 3:16–17
- Psalm 119:105

Teaching

1. God speaks today – primarily through His Word illuminated by the Spirit.
2. We do not chase mystical experiences. We root ourselves in Scripture.
3. As you grow in the Word, you grow in discernment.
4. Prophecy today never contradicts the Bible. It submits to it.

Application

- If you want to hear God clearly, saturate yourself in Scripture.
- The Spirit leads believers through the Word He inspired.

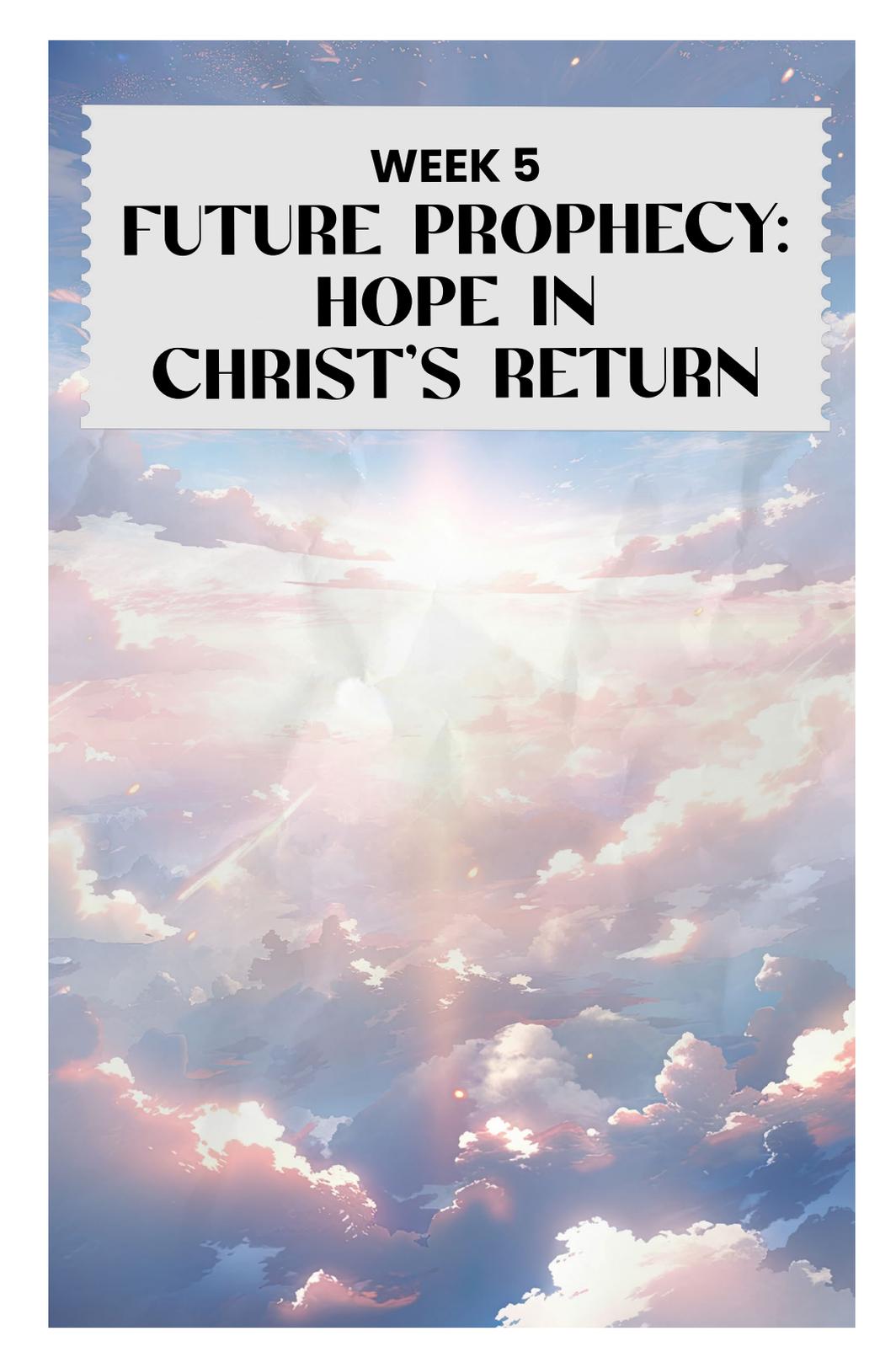
Prayer

Lord, deepen my love for Your Word. Train my heart to recognize Your voice in it.

Reflection

- How consistent is your time in Scripture?

- What practical step can you take this week to grow in discernment?

The background of the entire page is a composite image. The top portion shows a dark, starry space with streaks of light and small orange particles. Below this, a bright sun is positioned in the center, casting a powerful glow across a vast expanse of colorful, multi-layered clouds. The clouds are rendered in shades of blue, white, and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is one of awe and divine light.

WEEK 5
FUTURE PROPHECY:
HOPE IN
CHRIST'S RETURN

WEEK 5 — Future Prophecy: Hope in Christ's Return

Theme: Eschatological prophecy produces confidence, endurance, and holy living — not fear.

I. The Promise of Christ's Return

- **Primary Text:**
 - Matthew 24
- **Focus:**
 - Jesus clearly promises His visible return.
 - Warnings against deception.
 - Call to watchfulness and readiness.
 - The certainty of fulfillment (just as past prophecies were fulfilled).
- **Theological Emphasis:**
 - History is moving toward Christ's return.
 - Prophecy about the future is as trustworthy as prophecy already fulfilled.

2. The Resurrection and Gathering of Believers

- **Primary Text:**
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18
- **Focus:**
 - The Lord descends.
 - The dead in Christ rise.
 - Believers are gathered to Him.
 - "Encourage one another with these words."
- **Theological Emphasis:**
 - Christian hope is bodily resurrection.
 - Future prophecy comforts grieving believers.
 - Death is not the end of the story.

3. Judgment and Final Justice

- **Primary Text:**
 - Matthew 24:30–31
 - (Optional expansion: Revelation 20)
- **Focus:**
 - Christ returns in glory.
 - Final separation of righteousness and rebellion.
 - God's justice is ultimate and perfect.
- **Theological Emphasis:**
 - Evil does not win.
 - Justice may be delayed, but it is certain.
 - Prophecy assures believers that wrongs will be made right.

4. The New Heaven and New Earth

- **Primary Text:**
 - Revelation 21:1–4
- **Focus:**
 - New creation.
 - God dwelling with His people.
 - No more death, mourning, crying, or pain.
- **Theological Emphasis:**
 - Prophecy ends in restoration, not destruction.
 - The goal of history is redeemed creation.
 - Eternal fellowship with God is the believer's destiny.

5. Living in Light of Eternity

- **Primary Text:**
 - Matthew 24:42
 - Revelation 22:12
- **Focus:**
 - Watchfulness.
 - Faithfulness.
 - Accountability.
 - Holy living motivated by hope.
- **Theological Emphasis:**
 - Eschatology shapes ethics.
 - Future prophecy influences present obedience.
 - Hope transforms daily decisions.

Week 5 Big Ideas

1. Christ will return.
2. Believers will be resurrected and gathered.
3. Justice will be final and complete.
4. Creation will be restored.
5. Eternal hope should shape daily life.

DAY 1

The Promise of His Return

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 24

Teaching

1. In Matthew 24, Jesus speaks about future tribulation, deception, and His visible return. He warns of false messiahs and tells believers to stay watchful.
2. The emphasis is not on predicting dates — but on readiness.
3. Jesus makes it clear: He will return. History is moving toward a person, not chaos.

Application

- Christ’s return is not meant to create panic — it is meant to produce faithfulness.
- If you knew Christ was returning soon, what would change in your life?

Prayer

Lord, help me live watchfully and faithfully as I wait for You.

Reflection

- Do you think about Christ’s return regularly?

- What distractions pull your focus away from eternity?

DAY 4

The New Heaven and New Earth

Key Scriptures:

- Revelation 21:1–4

Teaching

1. John sees a new heaven and new earth. God dwells with His people. There is no more death, mourning, crying, or pain.
2. This is not escape from creation — it is restoration of creation.
3. The Bible begins in a garden and ends in a redeemed city.
4. Prophecy does not end in destruction — it ends in renewal.

Application

- The future of believers is not uncertainty — it is restoration.
- Whatever suffering you endure now is temporary.

Prayer

Jesus, fix my heart on the coming restoration.

Reflection

- What suffering feels heavy right now?

- How does Revelation 21 reshape your perspective?

DAY 5

Living With Eternity in Mind

Key Scriptures:

- Matthew 24:42
- Revelation 22:12

Teaching

1. Jesus calls believers to stay awake and ready.
2. Future prophecy is not given so we speculate, but it is given so we prepare.
3. Hope in Christ transforms daily decisions:
 - How you spend time
 - How you treat people
 - How you handle suffering
 - How you pursue holiness

Application

- If Christ is returning, your life matters eternally.
- Live today in light of forever. Eschatology is not escape, but it is motivation for faithful living.

Prayer

Lord, help me live faithfully until You return.

Reflection

- What daily habits need to change in light of eternity?

- How can you reflect eternal hope to others this week?



THE PROMISED CHRIST

BY WILL THOMAS
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