

PREMILLENNIALISM:
JESUS ON THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHETS

3,500 years ago, Moses instructed Israelites to expect a prophet who would supersede him and whose words must be heard (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). Peter, an apostle of Christ, quoted Moses' words and identified this ultimate prophet as Jesus, the Son of God (Acts 3:22-23, 26). So, in him we have the one who supersedes not only Moses, but everyone else God ever sent to speak to mankind (Hebrews 1:1-2).

Jesus, then, is this transcending one, the prophet of prophets, the very embodiment of heaven's majesty (Colossians 2:8-10). Therefore, what Jesus said about the prophecies of the Old Testament was true, authoritative, and must be heard if one is to serve God acceptably.

What did Jesus say regarding the O.T. prophets and their prophecies of his coming, his mission, and his fulfillment of it? Did he say, as does the premillennialist, that his first coming did not fulfill those predictions made in O.T. times? If not, what did he say on this subject?

Jesus was approaching Jerusalem for the last time prior to his crucifixion. He was, in fact, going there for that very purpose, to offer himself in sacrifice for the sins of all mankind. At this point, Jesus took his apostles aside and told them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again" (Luke 18:31-33).

What would Jesus do? Suffer, die and rise from the dead! And what would this accomplish? Everything the prophets had written concerning him!

Following these earth shaking events, Jesus spoke again to the apostles. Again, he referred to the fulfillment of everything written concerning him in the Law of Moses, the prophets, and the Psalms—the entirety of the O.T. as classified by the Jews. And, again, he told them these writings were fulfilled in his suffering and resurrection and said this provided for the preaching of repentance and remission of sins to all nations in his name, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:44-47).

Thus, in direct contradiction to the premillennial contention that the fulfillment of the O.T. prophets concerning him await his second coming, Jesus said he fulfilled them in his first coming. In his own dying words, Jesus said, "It is finished!" (John 19:28). —Jerry F. Bassett