PROPHETIAE DE CHRISTO

Prophecies Fulfilled in Christ

The whole Old Testament looks forward to the Messias. In words spoken by Moses, David and the Prophets, God revealed in advance His lineage, birthplace, life, Passion, death and glory, so that when He came He might be recognised.

"All things must needs be fulfilled which are written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me." — Luke 24:44



The Prophet Isaias, who foretold the Virgin Birth and the Suffering Servant.

After His Resurrection, Our Lord walked with two disciples to Emmaus, "and beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded to them in all the scriptures the things that were concerning him" (Lk 24:27).

These prophecies, written centuries before His birth, were fulfilled in one Person. The Fathers and the First Vatican Council point to them, with the miracles, as a sure sign that the Christian revelation is from God. Psalm numbers follow the Vulgate and Douay-Rheims (one less than most modern Bibles for Ps 10–147); 2 Kgs = 2 Samuel.

His Lineage and Birth

The Prophecy	Old Testament	The Fulfilment	New Testament
"The Seed of the woman shall crush the serpent's head"	Gen 3:15	Christ, born of the Woman, conquers Satan	Gal 4:4; Apoc 12
"In thy seed shall all nations be blessed"	Gen 22:18	Jesus is the son of Abraham	Mt 1:1; Gal 3:16
"The sceptre shall not be taken away from Juda"	Gen 49:10	Born of the tribe of Juda when Juda had lost its own kings	Lk 3:33; Heb 7:14
"I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever"	2 Kgs 7:12–16	"The Lord God shall give unto him the throne of David"	Lk 1:32–33
"Behold a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son: Emmanuel"	Is 7:14	Conceived of the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary	Mt 1:22–23
"And thou, Bethlehem Ephrata… out of thee shall he come forth"	Mic 5:2	Born in Bethlehem of Juda	Mt 2:1–6; Lk 2:4–7
"The kings of Arabia and of Saba shall bring gifts"	Ps 71:10; Is 60:6	The Magi adore Him with gold, frankincense and myrrh	Mt 2:11
"Rachel weeping for her children"	Jer 31:15	Herod slays the Holy Innocents	Mt 2:16–18
"Out of Egypt have I called my son"	Os 11:1	The Holy Family returns from Egypt	Mt 2:15

His Life and Ministry

The Prophecy	Old Testament	The Fulfilment	New Testament
"The voice of one crying in the desert: Prepare ye the way"	Is 40:3; Mal 3:1	St John the Baptist, the Forerunner	Mt 3:1–3
"The land of Zabulon and Nephthalim… hath seen a great light"	Is 9:1–2	Christ begins His preaching in Galilee	Mt 4:13–16
"The Lord will raise up a prophet like unto me"	Deut 18:15	Jesus is the Prophet greater than Moses	Acts 3:22; Jn 6:14
"The eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf"	Is 35:5–6	His miracles of healing	Mt 11:4–5
"I will open my mouth in parables"	Ps 77:2	He taught the multitudes in parables	Mt 13:34–35
"Thy king will come to thee… riding upon an ass"	Zach 9:9	His triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday	Mt 21:4–5
"The zeal of thy house hath eaten me up"	Ps 68:10	He drives the money-changers from the Temple	Jn 2:17

His Passion and Death

The Prophecy	Old Testament	The Fulfilment	New Testament
"The man of my peace… who ate my bread, hath supplanted me"	Ps 40:10	Betrayed by Judas, one of the Twelve	Jn 13:18
"They weighed for my wages thirty pieces of silver… to the potter"	Zach 11:12–13	The price of betrayal buys the potter's field	Mt 26:15; 27:3–10
"Strike the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered"	Zach 13:7	The Apostles flee in Gethsemane	Mt 26:31, 56
"He was led as a sheep to the slaughter, and opened not his mouth"	Is 53:7	Silent before Caiphas, Pilate and Herod	Mt 27:12–14
"I have given my body to the strikers… and spitting"	Is 50:6	Scourged, struck and spat upon	Mt 26:67; 27:26–30
"They have dug my hands and feet"	Ps 21:17	Nailed to the Cross	Jn 20:25–27
"They parted my garments… and upon my vesture they cast lots"	Ps 21:19	The soldiers divide His garments	Jn 19:23–24
"He was reputed with the wicked"	Is 53:12	Crucified between two thieves	Mk 15:27–28
"In my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink"	Ps 68:22	Offered gall and vinegar on the Cross	Mt 27:34, 48; Jn 19:28–29
"You shall not break a bone of him"	Ex 12:46; Ps 33:21	His legs are not broken, like the Paschal lamb	Jn 19:33, 36
"They shall look upon me, whom they have pierced"	Zach 12:10	His side is opened with a lance	Jn 19:34, 37
"He shall give… the rich for his death"	Is 53:9	Buried in the new tomb of rich Joseph of Arimathea	Mt 27:57–60

His Glory and Priesthood

The Prophecy	Old Testament	The Fulfilment	New Testament
"Thou wilt not give thy holy one to see corruption"	Ps 15:10	He rises from the dead on the third day	Acts 2:27–31
"As Jonas was in the belly of the fish three days"	Jon 2:1	"So shall the Son of man be in the heart of the earth"	Mt 12:40
"Thou hast ascended on high… thou hast received gifts"	Ps 67:19	His Ascension and the sending of the Holy Ghost	Eph 4:8; Acts 2:33
"Sit thou at my right hand"	Ps 109:1	He sits at the right hand of the Father	Mk 16:19; Heb 1:13
"Thou art a priest for ever according to the order of Melchisedech"	Ps 109:4	The eternal High Priest, who offers Himself under bread and wine	Heb 5:6; 7:17
"In every place there is a clean oblation offered to my name"	Mal 1:11	The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, offered from sunrise to sunset	Council of Trent, Sess. XXII
"I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh"	Joel 2:28	Pentecost	Acts 2:16–17

Types of Christ

Besides spoken prophecies, persons and events of the Old Testament prefigured Him.

Isaac
Carries the wood up Mount Moria to be sacrificed by his father (Gen 22).

Joseph
Sold by his brothers for silver, he saves them from famine (Gen 37–45).

The Paschal Lamb
Its blood on the doorposts saves Israel from death (Ex 12).

The Manna
Bread from heaven in the desert: "I am the living bread" (Jn 6:49–51).

The Brazen Serpent
Lifted up on a pole to heal all who look on it (Num 21; Jn 3:14).

Jonas
Three days in the fish, then cast up alive (Mt 12:40).

"NOVUM IN VETERE LATET, VETUS IN NOVO PATET"

St Augustine: "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old is made plain in the New." The two Testaments are one book about one Christ.