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Connecting The Pieces

Assembling a puzzle we look at the picture of what the completed image will look like and realize that while there are many colors and patterns they all work in harmony to form the final product. We can view the Bible the same way. The New Testament represents a fulfillment and revelation of things that were hidden in prophecy and images, sometimes referred to as types. These prophecies form the backbone of the Bible and help establish the identity of Christ as the Messiah when he came into the world. From the time that man sinned against God (**Gen 3**) there was a need for reconciliation. The scriptures tell us that the plan to redeem man was in the mind of God before the world was established (**Titus 1.2**). This thread, referred to as the scheme of redemption runs through the scriptures and gives us the ability to connect the pieces in a meaningful way. God, speaking of the seed of the woman, told the serpent “...*it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*” (**Gen 3.15**). We find in the New Testament that Christ, through his sacrifice and resurrection from the dead destroyed the power of Satan which was death (**Heb 2.14**). The scriptures reveal much about the savior as the prophets spoke of his coming. Isaiah revealed that he would be born of a virgin (**Isa 7.14**) which we find fulfilled in the New Testament (**Matt 1.18, Lk 1.26-27**). Micah tells us that he was to be born in Bethlehem (**Mic 5.2-4**) fulfilled in Luke chapter 2 as Joseph took his wife Mary to pay taxes in his home, Bethlehem. Isaiah describes the Messiah stating that there would be no beauty in him that would make him desirable in a physical sense (**Isa 53.2**). Because of his teachings he would be rejected by men and there would be those who would conclude that he was “*smitten of God*” (**Isa 53.3**). All of these things were fulfilled as we see the religious leaders of the day hating and eventually delivering him to be killed. God promised that it would be through the family of David that the Messiah would come, a fact stated as fulfilled by Peter on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2.30**). The Messiah was to be a prophet and lawgiver like Moses (**Deut 18.18**) and the people were to hear his voice. He would be filled with the spirit of wisdom (**Isa 11.1-3**)

and fulfill the things that God purposed for him to accomplish. David prophesied that he would speak in parables (**Psm 78.2**) which Christ spoke of stating this would cause many not to understand until all was revealed (**Matt 13.13-14**). The Messiah would also perform miracles many of which involved healing those who were stricken with afflictions such as blindness (**Isa 33.5-6**). John sent his disciples to Christ, asking if he was the one that was to come or if they were waiting for another. Christ replied “*Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached.*” (**Lk 7.22**). His death was also prophesied as well. He would be betrayed by a friend (**Psm 41.9**) fulfilled in the actions of Judas as he betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver (**Matt 26.25**). The manner of his death was also shown as Moses made the brazen serpent to heal the people in the wilderness. Christ spoke of this as well telling his disciples of his coming death (**Num 21.6-8, John 12.31-32**). Those who crucified him parted his garments among them as foretold as well (**Psm 22.16-18, Matt 27.35**). Finally he was to be “*numbered with the transgressors*” (**Isa 53.12**) fulfilled in the fact that he was crucified, surrounded by two thieves (**Matt 27.38**). David also prophesied that he would be resurrected (**Psm 16.10**) confirmed by Peter on Pentecost (**Acts 2.32-33**). These are only a few of the references that we could point to as illustration of the power of the Bible. No other book or religion can match this. When we look at the Bible we can see that God was at work from creation to now bringing his plan to it’s completion in the life and sacrifice of His son for the sins of the world.

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