

The Prophecy of the Seventy Weeks – 5

People wondered whether Jesus was “*the Prophet*” whose coming Moses had predicted - whether he was the Messiah. In accordance with the words of Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:22**, Jesus responded to the request for a sign that he was a true prophet from God –

- “*No sign will be given ... except the sign of the prophet Jonah. 40 For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth*” **Matthew 12:39-40**.

Remembering his words, the authorities took steps after Jesus was buried to prevent any interference with the grave until the third day had passed - **Matthew 27:63-66**. Nevertheless, just before dawn on Sunday there was a great earthquake, the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, and a brilliant figure in blinding light sat on the stone.

- The guards all fainted with shock, and upon recovering, discovered the body was gone. Some of them, having reported this to the authorities, received a large bribe to spread the story that the disciples had come and stolen the body during the night while the guards were sleeping at their post - **Matthew 28:15** - those rejecting the Messiahship of Jesus thus admitting that the body was in fact gone according to “*the sign of the prophet Jonah*”. Nor did the authorities ever produce the body which they claimed had been stolen.

David wrote that “*The Lord [God] said to my Lord = Strong 0113, Hebrew adon = ruler, ‘Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool’.*” - **Psalms 110:1**. David’s “lord” or sovereign is the one before whom “*all kings shall fall down before Him; All nations shall serve Him*” - **Psalms 72:11**.

- After spending several weeks appearing to the disciples, the resurrected Jesus met them on the Mount of Olives, in view of Jerusalem, spoke a few words and ascended out of their sight, disappearing into the clouds. Immediately two angels appeared, promising that Jesus would return in the same manner that he left - **Acts 1:6-12**, to descend on the Mount of Olives, in accordance with **Zechariah 14:4**.

After Messiah’s ascension, “*the people of the prince shall come*” - **Daniel 9:26**, who were first led by Vespasian, and “*shall destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary*” (Temple) afterwards by Titus in AD 70. Messiah, called “*the prophet*” in **Deuteronomy 18:18**, like all other prophets, was empowered by God to give a sign to show that he was authentic:

- “*When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing (predicted event) does not happen or come to pass, that is the thing which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously; you shall not be afraid of him*” - **Deuteronomy 18:22**.
- “*The sign of the prophet Jonah*” was a short-term prediction given by Jesus, which was fulfilled at his resurrection. Jesus gave a longer-term forecast concerning the impending accomplishment of Daniel’s prophecy of the Abomination of Desolation. In his **Mount Olivet prophecy** Jesus provided some key advice to his disciples, which if they heeded, would save them from the dreadful consequences of the Jewish revolt against the Roman empire AD 66-70 -

“*When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation - Daniel 9:26-27 - is near. 21 Then let those in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her (Jerusalem) depart...*” - **Luke 21:20-24**.
More next time, God willing.