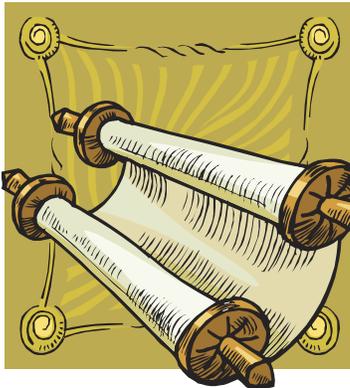




Jesus Appears on the Road to Emmaus



Jesus' life, death, and resurrection fulfilled all of the promises that God had made throughout the ages. Jesus appeared to two of His followers to explain how all the pieces of this great puzzle fit together.

Day #1: Full Picture

Do you have a jigsaw puzzle at home? Ask your mom or dad to get one piece of a puzzle. Now examine that piece. Without looking at the picture on the box, try to imagine what the completed puzzle looks like. This won't be hard if you have seen that puzzle before. But what if you had never seen it before? Would you be able to figure out what the entire puzzle looks like? If you received more and more pieces, you might get a clearer idea. But still, without seeing the entire picture, imagining the completed puzzle would be very difficult.

From the first sin of Adam and Eve, God had promised to send a Savior who would crush sin (Genesis 3:15). Through the years, God sent prophets to tell things about the Savior. God didn't give them the entire picture at once. These bits of information were almost like puzzle pieces to God's people. When the people received a fact about the Savior, it was as if they looked at that piece and then imagined the rest of the picture.

For example, they heard God's promise that the Savior would reign on a throne forever (Isaiah 9:7). They imagined that the Savior would be an earthly king with a crown and robe. In their minds, many people had created the wrong picture, so when Jesus came, they did not believe that He was the Savior. Even those who did believe in Him did not understand the full picture.

When Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead, the picture was finally complete (John 19:30). But His followers still did not understand it. So Jesus would come to them once again to explain how He fulfilled every single promise God had made.

 We are telling you the good news. What God promised our people long ago He has done for us, their children. He has raised up Jesus. - Acts 13:32-33a

Day #1 continued:

 God had YOU in mind before the creation of the world. He knew when you would be born and even how many hairs you would have on your head! (Psalm 139:16, Matthew 10:30) He knew that you would choose to sin and be separated from Him. He knew that you would be completely helpless to save yourself from the punishment of sin. He knew He would make a way for you to be made right with Him. Praise God for His goodness, His love, and His ability to do for you what you could not do for yourself.

Day #2: One in a Zillion

The pieces of information about the Savior that God had given throughout the ages are called prophecies. A prophecy tells what is going to happen ahead of time. There are over 300 prophecies about the Savior in the Bible, and Jesus fulfilled every single one of them.

Just to get an idea of how amazing this is, let's put it this way: If the Superbowl was going to be played tomorrow, and you guessed which team was going to win, that is no big deal. You knew which two teams were going to play, so you had a one in two chance of getting it right. If you guessed the right score, that would be far more impressive, because there are unlimited possibilities for a football score. But what if you could correctly predict **every** score of your favorite team for the next 10 years? Add in predicting the weather for each game, as well as the outcome of the presidential elections for the next 50 years. That would be a little closer to how many prophecies about the Savior were fulfilled by Jesus.

The prophecies were far more complex than just picking the winner of a football game. If we talk in scientific terms, the chances of one man fulfilling just 8 of the prophecies is one out of 100,000,000,000,000,000 (Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks*). Simply put, it is just about impossible! But Jesus fulfilled ALL of them.

These are not predictions, like guessing the score of a big game. No mere man could have made these predictions hundreds of years before the events took place.

 Above all, here is what you must understand. No prophecy in Scripture ever came from a prophet's own understanding. It never came simply because a prophet wanted it to. Instead, the Holy Spirit guided the prophets as they spoke. So prophecy comes from God. - 2 Peter 1:20-21

 Could there be any other explanation for Jesus fulfilling all of the prophecies, other than He is the Savior, the Son of God? How can you explain this to a friend? (Become familiar with the prophecies that God made.)

Day #3: The Two

After Jesus was raised to life, He appeared to Mary Magdalene. She fell to her knees and praised Him, and then she ran off to tell the disciples the wonderful news that Jesus was alive!

That same day, He appeared to two other unsuspecting people. These two men were also followers of Jesus. More than likely, they had come to Jerusalem for the Passover feast just like thousands of other Jews. Surely they rejoiced when Jesus was welcomed with palm branches and they looked forward to Jesus becoming an earthly King. Just like the disciples, these men were shocked and deeply saddened when Jesus was arrested, tried, and crucified.

These men decided to leave Jerusalem and go to a village called Emmaus. We aren't told why they were going to Emmaus. Perhaps it was their hometown, or maybe they were going to stay with friends. As the two overwhelmed believers walked, they talked about all that had happened over the past week. The One they thought would be crowned King was killed at the hands of an angry mob. And now they heard that the tomb was empty. What did it all mean?

Then a Stranger came, seemingly out of nowhere. He walked up beside them. They didn't recognize that it was Jesus. He asked what they were discussing. Of course, He knew the answer to His own question. But, like the perfect teacher He was, He asked questions to force His students to think, and realize they did not have all the answers.

 *Jesus explained to them what was said about Himself in all the Scriptures. He began with Moses and all the Prophets. - Luke 24:13-27*

 Jesus does not want us struggling to understand His truth. He longs for us to know Him fully. If there is something you don't understand, ask Him for wisdom and He will gladly fill you! (James 1:5)

Day #4: Prophecies

Let's look at just a few of the prophecies about the Savior that God gave in the Old Testament. All of these prophecies were written hundreds, in some cases, thousands, of years before Jesus was born. These are the things Jesus would have explained to the two men.

 **OT prophecy:** Malachi 3:1 says a messenger will prepare the way for the Savior.

Fulfillment: *And (John) will prepare the way for the Lord. - Luke 1:17a*

OT prophecy: Micah 5:2 says the Savior would be born in Bethlehem.

Fulfillment: *So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the Child to be born. - Luke 2:4, 6*

Day #4 continued:

OT prophecy: Isaiah 35:5-6 says He will heal people with miracles.

Fulfillment: *At that very time Jesus healed many people. They had illnesses, sicknesses and evil spirits. He also gave sight to many who were blind. - Luke 7:21*

OT prophecy: Zechariah 11:13 says the Savior would be betrayed for 30 silver coins.

Fulfillment: *One of the Twelve went to the chief priests. His name was Judas Iscariot. He asked, "What will you give me if I hand Jesus over to you?" So they counted out 30 silver coins for Him. - Matthew 26:14-15*



This list could go on and on and on. God gave the prophecies so that when they came true, people would believe that Jesus was the One sent from God to take away our sin and to give us new life. Ask your parents to help you look up more prophecies, and you will find their fulfillment in Jesus. (A good list can be found at http://www.bible.org/page.php?page_id=580)

Day #5: Jesus Revealed

Jesus explained all of the prophecies about Himself to the two men walking on the road, because He wanted them to believe in Him. He wanted them to understand the full picture of how He takes away sin and gives new life. As this Stranger taught them, the hearts of the two men became more and more excited (John 24:32). When they got to the village, they invited the Stranger to stay and eat with them.



He joined them at the table. Then He took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and began to give it to them. Their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. But then He disappeared from their sight. - Luke 24:30-31

Finally they recognized Jesus. Then, just as quickly as He had appeared, Jesus left them. The two believers were so excited that they ran right back to Jerusalem - where they had started! They wanted to tell the disciples what had happened.

Then the two of them told what had happened to them on the way. They told how they had recognized Jesus when he broke the bread. - Luke 24:35



Do a little role-playing. If you had been one of the two men to whom Jesus appeared and poured out His amazing truth, what would you have said to the disciples? How would you describe what you saw and heard? Let your mom or dad pretend to be a disciple.

Now, role-play a little more. What if one of your friends at school asked you why you believe in Jesus? What would you say? Let your mom or dad be the "friend." Try to explain to him or her what you have seen and heard that made you put your trust in Jesus.

Just as Jesus explained His truth to His followers, He sends us to tell the Good News to the people in our lives (John 20:21).