

The Prophecy of Matthew 2:23

He Shall Be Called a Nazarene

Introduction:

●Who could fulfill the prophecies about the Messiah?

1. Dan 9:25 – all those b_____ within a lifetime before 26 A.D.
2. Mic 5:2 – all those above born in B_____
3. Jer 23:5 – all those above that descended from D_____
4. Is 7:14 – all those above whose mother had claimed to be a virgin yet p_____ with the Christ child, which leaves one person – Jesus of Nazareth!

●Who would want to fulfill the prophecies of the Messiah?

1. Matthew records that by l_____ in Nazareth, Jesus fulfilled what was spoken through the prophets, *He shall be called a Nazarene*.
2. After understanding this passage, no one would want to be the prophesied Messiah.

A Perplexing Prophecy

●No scripture comes close to containing this phrase

1. One view – Matthew is making a p_____ on words: Nazirite and Nazarene
 - a. Jesus was not a Nazirite (Numbers 6)
 - 1) Could not touch w_____ (Matt 11:19)
 - 2) Could not go near a d_____ person (Luke 7:12-14)
 - b. Matthew cannot be making a play on words
2. Second view – Matthew is alluding to the Hebrew word for “branch” in Isaiah 11:1.
 - a. The Hebrew words compared show this view to be a big stretch to explain away a difficult passage:
 - 1) Branch - “netzer”
 - 2) Nazareth - “natzrat”
 - b. “Nazareth” or “Nazarene” cannot be found anywhere in the Old Testament.

●This is a perplexing prophecy, but take a closer look!

A Summarizing Prophecy

●Matthew uses the word “prophet” in the singular to refer to a s_____ passage of scripture

1. 1:22 – *what was spoken ...through the prophet*
2. 2:5 – *what has been written by the prophet*
3. 2:15 – *what had been spoken...through the prophet*
4. see also 2:17, 3:3, and 4:14

●Matthew used the word “prophets” in the plural to refer to s_____ prophetic passages that capture the idea, *He shall be called a Nazarene*.

●What does it mean to be called a Nazarene in the days of Jesus?

1. Jn 1:46 – Nathaniel stated that nothing g_____ could come out of Nazareth.
2. Nazareth was a village that was primarily G_____ (non-Jewish) with a small Jewish population.
 - a. Jews that lived in Nazareth were d_____ by other Jews
 - b. A Jew being called a Nazarene would be a despicable term (like the word “nigger”).

●The prophetic passages about the Messiah being despised

1. Gen 3:15 – the Savior would be b_____ on the heel
2. Dan 9:26 – the Messiah will be c_____ off and have nothing
3. Is 53:3 – *He was d_____ and forsaken*
4. Is 53:7 – *He was oppressed and a_____*
5. Is 53:9 – *His grave was assigned with w_____ men*

A Comforting Prophecy

●No one would want to spend the prime of their life in rejection but Jesus willingly did!

1. His rejection was for _____ and me
2. His rejection was for our a_____ to God

●Jesus is G_____ in the flesh (Jn 1:1,14) who came to pay for all wrongs and give e_____ life to all who turn from sin and trust in Him

1. Eternal life is defined in Jn 17:3 as k_____ Jesus (Greek word specifically means a personal relationship)
2. This is the reason for the Christmas season – born to die so that we might live in relationship to the Lord.