

- ↳ We saw last time that the Cross is the pinnacle of the Bible and pinnacle of human history. Everything in the Old Testament looks forward to this event, and from here on everything looks back to it, Matthew 20:28. This was a decision of the Trinity, and it was carried out by them according to their schedule, Luke 18:31. The only thing that is certain in this world is what God has said through His prophets.
-

1. The promises of the Old Testament

- ✓ Jesus says that His betrayal, His being handed over to the Gentiles, His mistreatment and scourging, and His execution and resurrection were all predicted. All were fulfilled in the New Testament, but where were they all promised? Then He took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things which are written through the prophets about the Son of Man will be accomplished", Luke 18:31. "All things written in the prophets" is not referring to any of the New Testament writings. All these things that Jesus fulfilled were predicted explicitly and accurately in the Old Testament. Everything is looking forward to Jesus' sacrifice, so the foreshadowing of this begins early. Adam and Eve sinned and they were warned that they would surely die because of it, but they weren't the first thing in all of God's creation to die. The first thing in all of God's creation to die was an innocent substitute, Genesis 3:21.
- ✓ In the next chapter, we saw that Cain is not accepted because he doesn't bring the blood of an innocent substitute when he comes to worship God. We learn that sincerity isn't enough for us to be accepted by God, it requires the death of an innocent substitute. We are told its going to be the death of innocent substitute that saves us and then we are told where this sacrifice was to take place. Abraham was told... He said, "Take now your son, your only son, whom you love, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you.", Genesis 22:2. Talk about a time for a substitute! And that is what happened, see Genesis 22:10-13. Abraham got the message and relayed it to us in Genesis 22:14. Not just anything, but an innocent substitute. Not just anywhere, but on Lord's Mountain. This same mountain has at its peak a place called Golgotha which is where Jesus is headed in Luke 18 to fulfill all these things that have been said. This should be no shock since, as we saw last time, Jesus, "The Innocent Substitute", was slain from the foundation of the world. "All who dwell on the earth will worship him, *everyone* whose name has not been written from the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who has been slain.", Revelation 13:8. It was always to be, "The next day he *saw Jesus coming to him and *said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!", John 1:29. It was for this reason that many of the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled were stated in the past tense. Psalm 22 is such an amazing prophecy. It tells how Jesus felt as He hung on the cross, something that we are not told in the New Testament. It gives us Jesus' own words that He would speak from the cross: Psalm 22:1. It tells us about crucifixion nearly 1000 years before its ever invented: Psalm 22:16, 18. Also, it is all described in the past tense.

Isaiah 53 is another amazing prophecy of His innocent sacrifice, note Isaiah 53:4-6. All in the past tense because the decision for Jesus to die and pay for our sins was finalized before the foundation of the world. The certainty of Jesus' sacrifice, in innocence, on the mountain of God, taking your place and mine. He didn't just foresee Jesus innocent sacrifice but our salvation, Ephesians 1:4-5. Nothing stands between us and what God has for us.
