

✚ We have seen that despite what Jesus says here people somehow think that Jesus' death was accidental, a sad misfortune, or a miscalculation. Many books have been written indicating they believed Jesus was well-intentioned but naïve and misguided. Things did not go wrong, they went right, right on schedule. Not only does Jesus tell them this multiple times. He also points out that this something the Scriptures have been saying for a thousand years by this point, Luke 18:31. In fact, Jesus reiterates this after He is crucified and resurrected, Luke 24:25-26. Foolish is what we are if we fail to see that this is the single greatest thing that has ever been done for us and single most important thing in the entire Bible. This is the pinnacle of all that God has said and done. Many of the prophecies of Jesus' great work of salvation were spoken in the past tense. His own words that He would speak from the cross were quoted in Psalm 22:1. The purpose of His death was given to us in Isaiah 53:4-6. All of these verses were spoken in the past tense, the decision for Jesus to die and pay for our sins was finalized before the foundation of the world. Before God scheduled the heavens and earth, land and sea, light, moon and sun, and He scheduled the death of His Son, Revelation 13:8. There is nothing more past tense than eternity past!

**1. God so much wanted us to know the importance of this and the certainty of this that He pre-scribes and predicts through His prophets, things that seem to us unnecessary.**

- ✓ Let me say, they seem unnecessary but only because we don't really know what we need. God does nothing unnecessary or superfluous. He only does what we need Him to do, He does nothing for Himself because He has no needs; He does everything for us. For us, He goes into great detail about this event of His Son laying His life down because He doesn't want us to miss it. He loves us how much? So much that He goes way overboard making sure we don't miss it, John 3:16. He tells us that the only way to Him is through an innocent substitute and then He tells us where this will happen in Genesis 22:14. He tells us what and where and when. Do you know when? Passover, a single day on the Jewish calendar. The day the Jews were released from Egypt and the blood of lamb came between them and certain death. God made them rehearse this day having them celebrate the event every year for the past 3500 years. Not just the day but the place, every able-bodied male was to celebrate Passover in Jerusalem on pain of death, but not just the day and the place but the means, an innocent sacrifice. 3,500 times they have repeated what, when and where the sacrifice of God would be. You'd think that would be enough, right? But it wasn't. The entire sacrificial system was to show and tell you about the one sacrifice of Jesus, thousands per year, daily in the temple, over and over and over. You'd think that would be enough, but God continued to paint the details of this portrait of our salvation. He goes on to tell through His prophets how this sacrifice would occur, that God's Son would be hung for the world to see. God tells Moses to do weird thing for Israel during their wilderness wanderings. An impaled serpent on a pole that saved them from the death, Numbers 21:8. Jesus clarifies this for us in John 3:14-15. Jews didn't kill by piercing they killed but by stoning, so a long time before it happened we knew that this would take place at the hands of a people who executed by piercing, the way the Romans used, Zechariah 12:10. Did we need to know this detail? Apparently we did.

**2. We know what, where, when and how and many other details.**

- ✓ Like the fact that He would ride in on donkey on Palm Sunday, Zechariah 9:9, remember that Jesus rode a young donkey that had never been ridden before. The fact that His disciples would desert Him predicted in Zechariah 13:7. They all swore they would never do that to Jesus, but Jesus said, "Oh yes you will because the prophets have written it." The fact that Judas would get paid 30 pieces of silver to betray Him were predicted in Zechariah 11:12. The fact that they would cast lots for His clothes was written in Psalm 22:18. The fact that they'd give Him vinegar to drink was predicted in Psalm 69:21. Did we really need to know all of this?

**3. He does all of this so that people won't miss it, but did they?, two applications of all this information for us to make.**

- 1) God wants us to know what's important, He goes way out of His way to communicate the things that matter for us in His Book. The answers are in His book and right questions are in His Book. Right questions come from understanding our real needs are, we need to be in His book because we need to know our real needs.
  - 2) We are incapable of knowing what's important without God helping us. The most mind-bending part of this entire passage is how far Jesus' disciples were from reality, Luke 18:34.
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