

"Contend Earnestly For the Faith" Part 5

by Erik Olsen

"...contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." – Jude 3

--INTRO:

--The fictitious portrait of Christ promoted by most false teachers cannot be reconciled with the massive body of prophecy that was preserved by the nation of Israel and widely circulated throughout the Greek Empire over 200 years before the birth of Christ (circulated in the *Septuagint* – the Greek translation of the Old Testament)

--examples of Jesus and the apostle Paul speaking about the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy:

--Luke 18:31-33: "Then He [Jesus] took the twelve aside and said to them, "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and all things that are written by the prophets concerning the Son of Man will be accomplished. 32 For He will be delivered to the Gentiles and will be mocked and insulted and spit upon. 33 They will scourge Him and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again."

--Luke 24:25-27: "Then He [Jesus] said to them, 'O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?' 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself."

--Acts 24:10-14 [Paul speaking while on trial before governor Felix] Then Paul, after the governor had nodded to him to speak, answered: "Inasmuch as I know that you have been for many years a judge of this nation, I do the more cheerfully answer for myself, 11 because you may ascertain that it is no more than twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem to worship. 12 And they neither found me in the temple disputing with anyone nor inciting the crowd, either in the synagogues or in the city. 13 Nor can they prove the things of which they now accuse me. 14 But this I confess to you, that according to the Way which they call a sect, so I worship the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the Law and in the Prophets."

--If the prophecies are so clear, then why did Israel reject Christ, and for that matter, why do most people reject Christ?

--Matthew 13:14-17: Jesus said, "In them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; 15 For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them.' 16 But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; 17 **for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous men desired to see what you see, and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.**"

--Hebrews 3:12-12: "Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; 13 but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. 14 For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, 15 **while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."** ...*allusion to Israel's unbelief (in spite of their miraculous deliverance from Egypt) when God wanted to give them the Promise Land (Numbers 14:1-10)*

--Ephesians 4:17-18: "They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God **because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts.**"

--Example Messianic prophecies:

--God would become a man and be born to a virgin

Isaiah 7:14 Matthew 1:20-23; John 1:1-3, 14

--He would be a descendant of David and legal heir to the throne of David

Isaiah 9:6-7 Matthew 1:6, 16-17; Romans 1:1-4

--He would be born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 ... Matthew 2:1

--His birth would trigger a massacre of infant boys

Jeremiah 31:15 ... Matthew 2:16-18

--He would come out of Egypt

Hosea 11:1 ... Matthew 2:14-15

--He would come from the region of Galilee

Isaiah 9:1-2 ... Matthew 4:13-16

--His ministry would include Gentiles

Genesis 22:15-18; Isaiah 42:6 ... Luke 2:25-32

- His ministry would deliver spiritual captives
Isaiah 61:1-2 ... Luke 4:16-21
- He would present Himself as Israel's King riding into Jerusalem on a donkey
Zechariah 9:9 ... Matthew 21:1-11
- the exact day that Christ presented Himself as King was foretold by Daniel in the 70 Weeks Prophecy
Daniel 9:25 ... Matthew 21:1-11
- He would be despised, rejected, and hated without cause
Isaiah 53:3; Isaiah 49:7; Psalm 69:4 ... John 15:24-25
- the rulers of Israel would reject Him
Psalm 118:22 ... Matthew 21:42-46; John 7:40-49
- He would be rejected by His own brothers
Psalms 69:8 ... John 7:1-5
- His disciples would scatter
Zechariah 13:7 ... Matthew 26:31
- His hands and feet would be pierced
Psalm 22:16; Isaiah 53:5-6 ... John 20:25
- He would suffer for the sins of others
Isaiah 53:5-6 ... Romans 4:25; 1 Cor. 15:3
- His bones would not be broken
Psalm 22:17; Psalm 34:20 ... John 19:31-37
- His clothes would be gambled for
Psalm 22:18 ... Matthew 27:35
- He would be assigned a grave with the wicked but buried in a rich man's tomb
Isaiah 53:9 ... Matthew 27:57-60
- He would rise from the grave and sit at the right hand of God the Father
Psalms 16:9-11 ... **Acts 2:22-47**