

Vicarious Sacrifice: Jesus Informs Disciples that “All things” in the Tanakh Were Written about Him, Luke 24:44; He Opens Their Minds to Understand the Scripture: *Suniēmi*: “to comprehend by assembling individual facts into an organized whole”; Prophecies of the Passion & Resurrection of Christ in 2 Messianic Psalms: 22:16–18 & 16:9–10; Peter Begins His Sermon to the Crowd, Acts 2:22–23

The Final Commission:

Luke 24:44–49

- The eleven disciples have now gathered with Jesus in Jerusalem. This is nearing the end of the forty-day period and thus approaching the ascension.
- He reminds them that in the Incarnation, all Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Him:

Luke 24:44 - Now He said to them: “These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled.”

v. 45 - Then He opened their minds to understand [συνίημι (*suniēmi*): “to comprehend by the assembling of individual facts into an organized whole”] the Scriptures.

- These two verses indicate that the disciples were not allowed to fully comprehend the impact of biblical prophecy or doctrines that would become pertinent in the new assignments.
- Jesus brought to their attention that in each of the three divisions of the Tanakh, there are prophecies concerning Him and through Him they were fulfilled.
- These eleven men heard the Lord tell them on three occasions that He would be arrested by the Jews, handed over to the Gentiles, surged, crucified, and resurrected on the third day. Now He tells them again:

Luke 24:46 - He said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day.”

- The clause “It is written” obviously refers to the Old Testament. Not a syllable of the New Testament has been composed. So if it has been written, where precisely?
- Psalm 22, a Messianic Psalm, contains a number of prophecies regarding the Passion of Messiah. These three verses are significant:

Psalm 22:16 - Dogs [**Goyim: Roman military**] have surrounded Me; a band of evil doers [**Jewish religious establishment**] has encompassed Me. They have pierced My hands and My feet [**crucifixion**]. (See Luke 23:33)

v. 17 - I can count all My bones [**the nude body of the Lord was stretched and distended by the posture imposed upon it by the cross**]. They look, they stare at Me; (See Luke 23:35)

v. 18 - They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing, they cast lots. (See Luke 23:34b)

- The resurrection of Messiah is not widely covered in the Old Testament, but we are able to discern from the Messianic Psalms the prophecy:

Psalm 16:9 - Therefore my heart is glad and my glory rejoices; My flesh also will dwell securely.

v. 10 - For You will not abandon My soul in Sheol; nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.

- This passage was used by Peter on the day of Pentecost to explain the resurrection of our Lord. His sermon was delivered following the advent of the Holy Spirit and the commotion the gift of languages caused in the streets of Jerusalem.

Acts 2:22 - “Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene [**begins by pointing out the humanity of Jesus, the Incarnation, & reasons for the First Advent**], a Man presented to you by God by means of miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves know [**by means of Old Testament prophecies**].

v. 23 - “He being delivered [**by the predetermined salvation plan of God**] by the divine decree in eternity past and by the foreknowledge of God [**nothing can be foreknown until it is first decreed**], and by means of godless men you have crucified and executed Him.”

NOTE: The crucifixion was in the plan of God in eternity past and programmed into the divine decree, but it was carried out in time by the free will of heathen men both Jew and Gentile.

† The King James reads “determinate counsel.” “Determinate” is the perfect passive participle of the verb ὀρίζω (*horizō*): “appointed.” The present tense indicates that this appointment occurred in eternity past with results that go on forever. The passive voice relates to the recipient of the appointment, Jesus Christ, which He accepted. The word “council” is the noun βουλή (*boulē*) which refers to the divine decree. In eternity past, Jesus Christ was assigned the duty of becoming the substitutionary vicarious sacrifice for the sins of the human race. This assignment and His willing acceptance were inserted into the divine decree.