

Messianic Prophecies and Their Fulfillment

Prophecy: Even my close friend, whom I trusted, he who shared my bread, has lifted up his heel against me. (Psalm 41:9 NIV)

Fulfillment: And when it was evening, he came with the twelve. And as they were reclining at table and eating, Jesus said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

They began to be sorrowful and to say to him one after another, “Is it I?” He said to them, “It is one of the twelve, one who is dipping bread into the dish with me.” (Mark 14:17–20 ESV)

And immediately, while he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the scribes and the elders.



Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man. Seize him and lead him away under guard.” And when he came, he went up to him at once and said, “Rabbi!” And he kissed him. (Mark 14:43–45 ESV)

Judas was one of Jesus’ twelve disciples, whom Jesus referred to as His “friends” (see John 15:15), and who ultimately betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver.

Prophecy: They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

(Psalm 22:18 NIV)

Fulfillment: And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get. (Mark 15:24 NIV)

It never occurred in the life of David, as far as we know, or have reason to believe, that his enemies stripped him and divided his garments among themselves; and the description here, therefore, could be applicable only to some one else. It was completely fulfilled in the Saviour; and this verse, therefore, furnishes the fullest proof that the psalm refers to

him. At the same time it should be observed that these circumstances are such that an impostor could not have secured the correspondence of the events with the predic-

tion. The events referred to were not under the control of him whose garments were thus divided. They depended wholly on others; and by no art or plan could an impostor have so

arranged matters that all these things should have appeared to be fulfilled in himself.

*Notes on the Bible
by Albert Barnes [1834]
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Prophecy: He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth. (Isaiah 53:7 ESV)

Fulfillment: Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent. (Matthew 26:62–63 NIV)

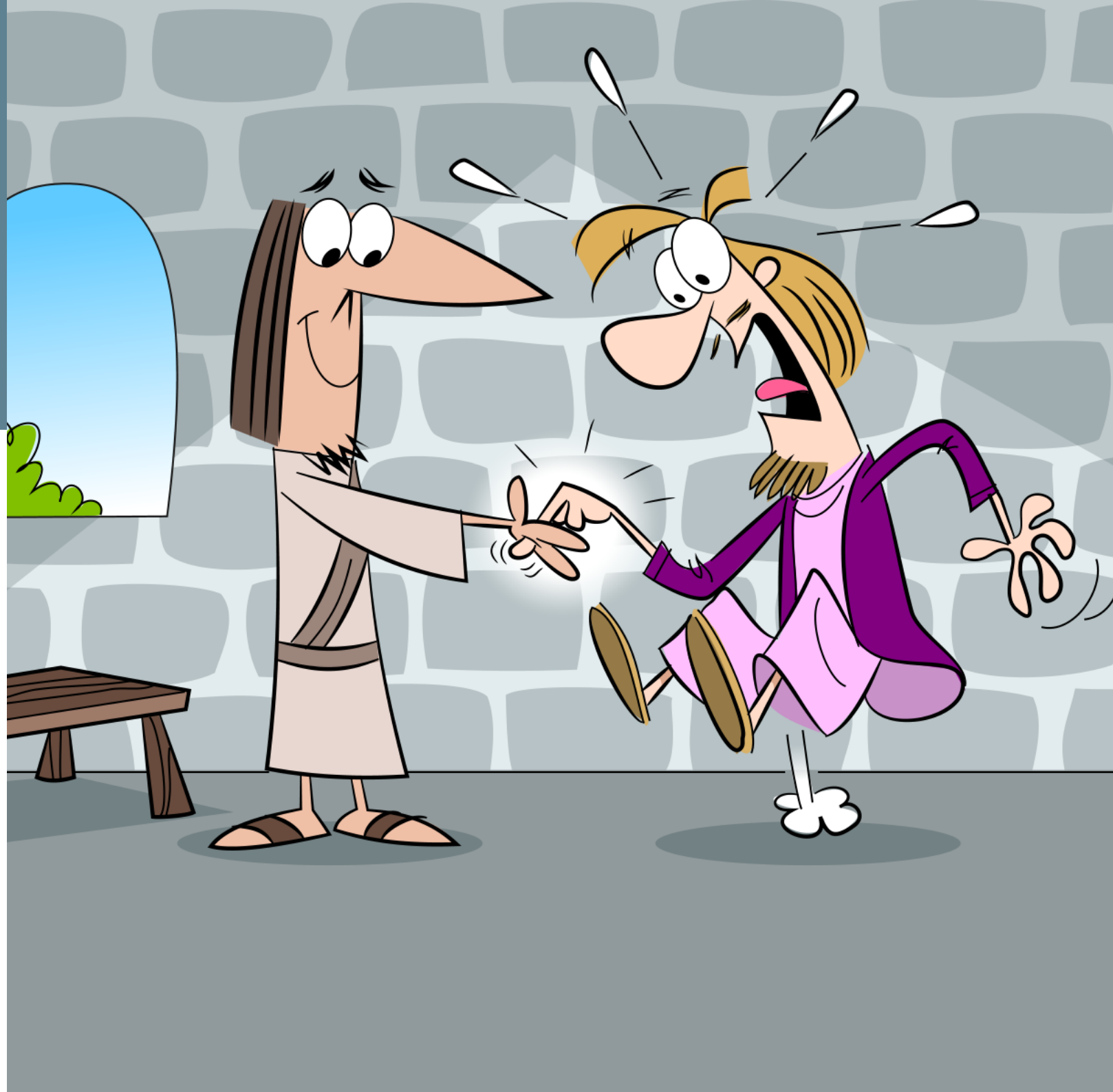
This prophecy and its fulfillment took place when Jesus was brought before Caiaphas, the high priest, after He was betrayed by Judas.



Prophecy: A band of evil men has encircled me, they have pierced my hands and my feet. (Psalm 22:16b NIV)

Fulfillment: Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe.” (John 20:27 NIV)

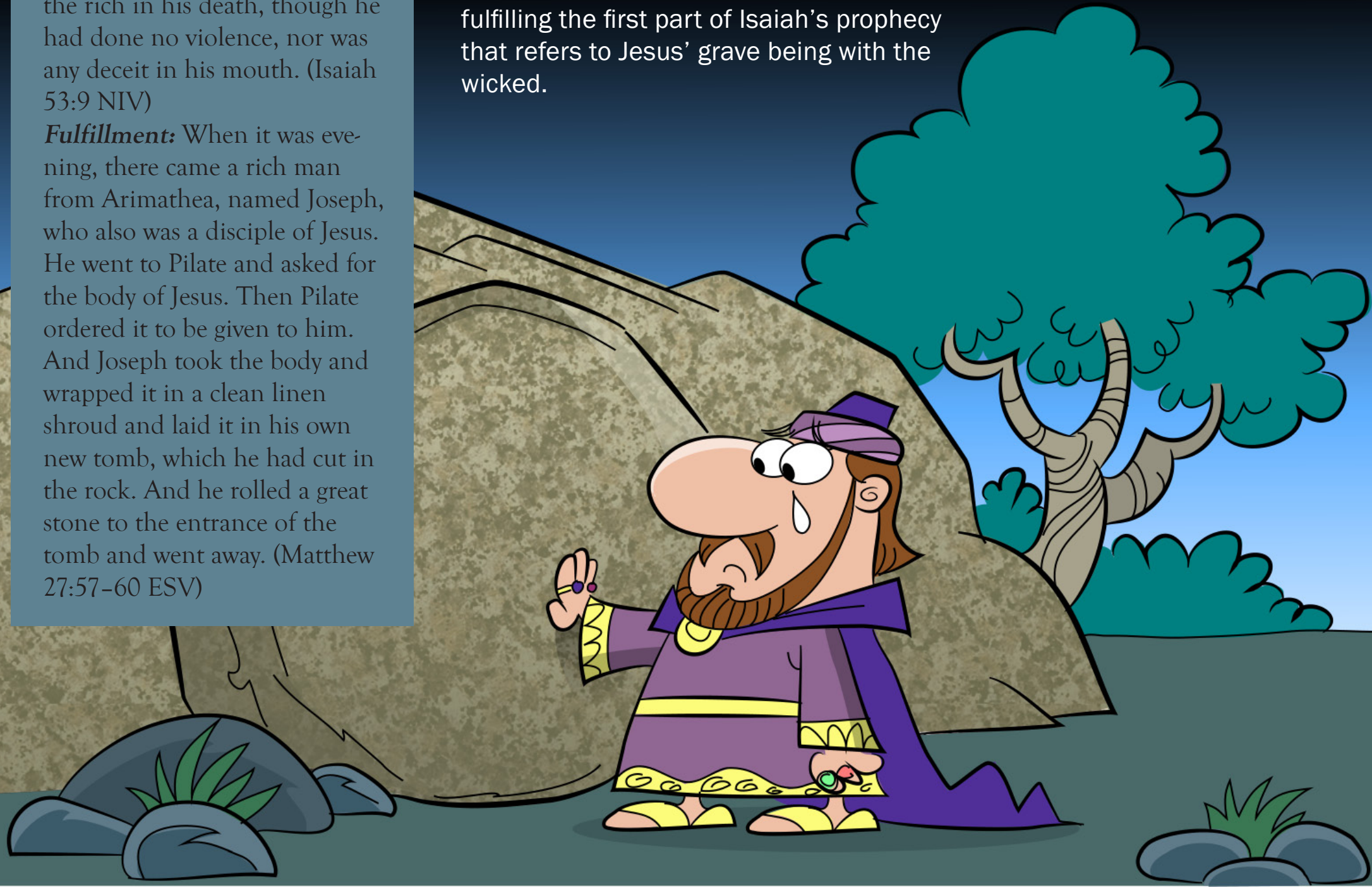
King David was not referring to himself in the verse above. As far as we know, King David’s hands and feet were never pierced in such a manner. This prophecy from the book of Psalms gives us a glimpse of the manner in which Jesus would die. Piercing of the hands and feet were common practices in crucifixion; crucifixion, however, was not in practice in King David’s day, which makes this prophecy even more remarkable.



Prophecy: He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. (Isaiah 53:9 NIV)

Fulfillment: When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. (Matthew 27:57-60 ESV)

Jesus was crucified with two robbers, fulfilling the first part of Isaiah's prophecy that refers to Jesus' grave being with the wicked.



Prophecy: For you will not leave my soul among the dead or allow your holy one to rot in the grave. (Psalm 16:10 NLT)

Fulfillment: “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried, and his tomb is here to this day. But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne. Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrec-

tion of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact.” (Acts 2:29–32 NIV)

In this scene we encounter Peter talking to the multitudes after Jesus ascended into heaven. He quotes Psalm 16:10 (see Acts 2:27) and then explains how this prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus.

And there are many more prophecies that Jesus fulfilled!

Here are a few you can look up on your own:

- Jesus’ reception: Isaiah 53:3, John 1:11
- Jesus’ sojourn in Egypt: Hosea 11:1, Matthew 2:14–15a
- Jesus’ betrayal for thirty pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:12, Matthew 26:14–15
- Whom Jesus was crucified with: Isaiah 53:12, Matthew 27:38
- How none of Jesus’ bones were broken: Psalm 34:20, John 19:33

