

Surrey Chapel Fellowship Group – Bible Overview Session 4

The last two Sunday services have covered both Old Testament – the Prophets – and New Testament – The Gospels. Though they are separated by hundreds of years, they are closely connected; the words of the Prophets are fulfilled in the Gospels. “Everything must be fulfilled that has been written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms” (Luke 24:44). Nowhere in the Old Testament is this so clear – or is it? A closer look reveals that the fulfilments are not always as straightforward as we might think! Let’s examine some prophetic fulfilments in Matthew’s gospel particularly familiar at this time of year.

Here are some principles of prophetic writings....

- 1) The Prophets words sometimes had one simple fulfilments. But offer they had multiple “layers” - immediate fulfilments (there and then in history), intermediate fulfilments (the first coming of Christ), and ultimate fulfilment (the last day)
- 2) They often used symbolic language
- 3) When Gospel writers refer to a “fulfilment” they often refer to the *whole context of the prophecy*, not just the verses quoted

Either (if you are feeling clever)

Complete the table below, comparing Matthew fulfilment with the original context. Are you convinced by Matthew’s connection? Be honest! And what are the implications for how we should understand Jesus

Prophecy	Fulfilment(s)	Convinced?	Implications
Matthew 1:20-22 & Isaiah 7:14	1)A child born normally to a young woman in Isaiah’s day. 2)The birth of Christ to the virgin Mary		In Christ, God himself is with us. He can save us from our sins.
Matthew 2:3-6 & Micah 5:2			<i>What were Israel’s King’s supposed to do?</i>
Matthew 2:13-15 & Hosea 11:1	<i>What is Hosea actually talking talking about?</i>		
Matthew 2:16-18 & Jeremiah 31:15			<i>Revelation 12:17!</i>
Matthew 2:21-23 & Isaiah 11:1 (NB The Hebrew word for branch is “Nazir”)		<i>If not, look at Number 6:1-4, or John 1:46.Any help?</i>	

Or (if you like pictures...)



Make connections between the “Christmas” prophecies and the present day real life situation pictured here. What are the implications for how we view these things?

Matt 1:20-22 & Isaiah 7:14

Matthew 2:3-6 & Micah 5:2

Matthew 2:13-15 & Hosea 11:1

Matthew 2:16-18 & Jeremiah 31:15

Matthew 2:21-23 & Isaiah 11:1, 10-11 (*NB The Hebrew word for branch is “Nazir”*)

