

Year C #737
Foretold Beforehand
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Hello! This is Dorothy -

I want to talk to you today about our lovely Lord Jesus Christ. Some people seem to think that the Gospel of our Lord all began in the New Testament, but the Old Testament is full of talking about the Lord. The Lord, the Messiah. You say, "But why do I need to know all this if I am living here today?" You see, it is one Word. God does not divide and section it off for different people or groups with the idea that you should read this and other people should read that. The Word is totally complete. One of the signs that I know I am born again is that not only do I have the peace of God and know that my sins have been forgiven, but as I open the Word of God, by His Holy Spirit, I find that whether I am reading in "The Old Testament" or "The New Testament," it is the Word of God. It speaks to my heart. Also, I find that one section relates to the other section.

I am so grateful that as a young Christian, I did not have other Christians - born again believers- around me. I attended a very liberal church which did and said the things which seemed right on the outside but I certainly didn't understand what the Gospel was on the inside. So, when I came to know the Lord Jesus, I talked to Him. I called upon Him and He always answered me through the Word of God. I soon found that to draw close to the Lord, I needed

to be in the Word of God. I found it was my solace, my comfort, my direction. Also, I knew my prayers were being answered, and the Lord was encouraging me and teaching me from the Word. I cannot think of anything more amazing than to turn to the Word of God and find God meets me there and speaks to me. I find, too, that what I am reading in the Old Testament, is always revealed then in the New Testament, and the New Testament is linked to the Old Testament. I find that I am turning the pages of the Bible to and fro. I was blessed, as a very young Christian, to have a Bible. In that Bible, there was what we call a marginal reference down through the column between the two lines of Scripture on one page. As I would read those little references, I was so helped, because I would find that what I was reading was explained in another section. I do not know how you go about reading the Word of God, but God wants to teach you individually. He wants to share just what you need for today.

I remember reading in the **Book of Daniel**. It seemed very full and very heavy and I thought, "What is it all about?" But there was this little word that said so much to me. It is in **Daniel 9, verse 26**. It showed that way back in the Old Testament, there was going to be One to come, our Lord Jesus, the Messiah, and He was going to suddenly die! What was so comforting was to see in the Old Testament, that little phrase . . . **cut off** . . . which meant to die.

It is in the verse that says - **Daniel 9** -

26 **And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself . . .** In other words, it is explaining He would suddenly be killed. As we turn to the New Testament, we know He was crucified. This was the central point of the Old Testament.

Again, in **Zechariah 13:7**, when the Messiah came, He was the Shepherd of His people. . . . **smite the shepherd.** . . . means the Shepherd will be killed and the sheep scattered. This did not take people suddenly by surprise, because down through the ages, God revealed through His Word that this is exactly what was going to happen.

One of the most amazing psalms in the whole of the Bible is **Psalm 22**. I remember reading it many years ago. I was reading it with somebody who had just come to know the Lord. They said, “How could you read from the Old Testament words that say . . . **they pierced my hands and feet.** . . . when at the time of the writing of the psalms, there was no such thing as the crucifixion? It was not the torture of the day; it was not known. In fact, in the Old Testament, people were stoned to death. How come suddenly we are reading about the Messiah being crucified?” I remember saying that the most amazing thing about Scripture is that it all links together.

I want to invite you to get alone with the Lord every day. That little

book, *Food for Faith* will help you to see how to do this. Send for that free copy for yourself. But, most of all, get into the Word and let the Holy Spirit speak to you and show how one Scripture links to another Scripture.

In Jesus' precious Name. Amen.