

## 28.00 Prophecies about Jesus (Scriptures are many and are in the story itself)

✓ “*Check*” it out; opinion, inference, supposed conversation, or fact one can verify follows

[. . .] indicates a remark to the teacher that usually should not be read. It also indicates answers to questions.

### Visuals and Tools:

- Pictures and other visuals found at the end of this lesson. Please give credit to the sources of pictures.
- Check “Activities” and “Handwork” found below for additional materials.

### Bible Time Tips and Terms to Teach:

- *prophecy/prophecy*: to proclaim something will happen before it actually happens; the proclamation of something before it happens
- *fulfilled*: a prophecy coming true
- *babies*: must have a mother and a father in order to be born
- *virgin*: an unmarried, never-been-with-a-man woman
- *crucifixion*: the execution of someone by nailing that person to a cross
- *resurrection*: to rise from the dead. Only one Person did that and did not die again; that Person is the Lord Jesus Christ.

### Introduction/Review:

Sometimes we might say something is going to happen, but we are wrong; it doesn't happen. At other times we might say something is going to happen, and it does happen. We don't really know the future; nobody does, even people who call themselves prophets. If they have even one prophecy that doesn't come to pass, they are not getting their word from God. The only One who knows the future is God because He planned it.

What is so important about prophecies found in the Bible? They demonstrate that God is in charge, even the future, and that He can do all His holy will. His prophecies come true every single time; He is *never* wrong when He tells something before it happens. I sure can trust a God who can do that, can't you? He is great.

Where do we find God's prophecies? [In the Bible.] God's Bible prophecies are so accurate that they even name specific people and places hundreds of years before those people are born. Two examples are Josiah, whose name and actions were prophesied 350 years before his birth (I Kings 13:2; 2 Kings 23:17), and Cyrus, 170 years before his birth (Isaiah 44:28; 2 Chronicles 36:22; Ezra 1:1; 5:3).

### Story:

Bible scholars have estimated that over 300 references to 61 specific prophecies about Christ were written in the Old Testament. [Teacher, refer to your Bible books chart.] These 300 references deal with His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection, His future return to earth, and His everlasting kingdom. [Show chart.]

#### ***Jesus' birth***

##### ***Virgin born***

Isaiah 7:14 prophesies, “A *virgin* shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.” Jesus would be born of a mother but not have an earthly father. No child on earth has ever been born without both a mommy and a daddy except one—the Lord Jesus Christ. Nothing is impossible with God! Let me tell you what happened.

“God sent an angel to a young virgin. The angel's name was Gabriel. The girl's name was Mary. The angel told Mary that she was going to have a Son and even told her what to name her Son—Jesus. The angel Gabriel explained that Jesus would be great—He would be called the Son of the Most High God and would be a king who would rule forever” (<http://www.missionarlington.org/d/XMAS08-01->

VirginWillHaveBaby.pdf, shortened).

This prophecy is fulfilled in Matthew 1:18–25 and Luke 1:26–35. Mary was the mother of Jesus; God was His father.

### ***Birthplace***

Another prophecy about Jesus' birth is His birthplace. What was the name of the town where Jesus was born? [Bethlehem.] Micah 5:2 had prophesied 700 years before Christ's birth, "Thou, Bethlehem . . . out of you shall he come . . . *that is* to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth *have been* from of old, from everlasting."

Was Mary from Bethlehem? [No.] No, Mary lived in Nazareth, way up in Galilee. [Locate on map.] How was God going to get her from Nazareth to Bethlehem, a distance of 70–80 miles [as many miles as from here to Oklahoma] that would take between 4 and 7 days to travel in those days.

Well, way over here in Rome [locate on map] lived the emperor. "One day, he decided he wanted to count all of the people in his empire. So, he made a law that said everyone had to go to the town of his ancestors in order to be counted. Where was Joseph's ancestor, David, from? Bethlehem! So Joseph went to Bethlehem to be counted, and he took Mary with him. While they were in Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to Jesus. Jesus was born in Bethlehem, just as God had promised!" (<http://www.missionarlinton.org/d/XMAS08-01-VirginWillHaveBaby.pdf>, shortened).

This prophecy is fulfilled in Matthew 2:1 and 6, Luke 2:4–7, and John 7:42.

### ***Jesus' life***

Before we talk about Jesus' life, let's stop a minute and discuss Jesus' name, the *Lord Jesus Christ*. These are not first, middle, and last names. In fact, He has many other names in Scripture. Rather, these three names point out the work Jesus came to do. *Lord* signifies that He is in charge, like a king. *Jesus* indicates that He came to save His people from their sins, for *Jesus* means "one who saves." *Christ* is the Greek form of the Hebrew word *Messiah*, who is the one prophesied throughout the Old Testament who would come to earth from heaven—the God-Man who would rescue His people.

Now, how can we reduce the many things Jesus did into one short summary? Impossible, for John, a follower of Jesus and a Gospel writer said, "Now there are . . . many . . . things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written" (John 21:25).

We'll include just a few things from some Old Testament prophecies:

- Healing the blind, deaf, lame, and mute (Isaiah 29:18; 35:5–6; 42:7; Matthew 11:5; John 9:25–38). (He also even raised at least three people from death—the widow's son, Jairus' daughter, Lazarus.)
- Teaching in stories called parables (Psalm 78:1, 2; Matthew 13:34, 35)
- Being greeted as a king (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:8–10; John 12:12, 13)
- Riding into Jerusalem on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9; Matthew 21:6–9)
- Being rejected by His own people (Isaiah 53:3; Matthew 27:22, 23)

Yes, first the people accepted Jesus as King, but they soon turned against Him and wanted Him to be crucified.

### ***Jesus' death***

More prophecies about Jesus seem to be about His death than the other subjects concerning Him. So one would think His people, who studied the Old Testament, would have been informed about Messiah's death. But they had their own ideas about the Christ/Messiah. Some of His people rejected Him because they were

disappointed in Him, thinking He would immediately bring victory with Him into the world and overthrow the Romans. They didn't realize that that victory will come at Jesus' second coming at the end of the world. So they gave Him over to the Roman authorities to put Him to death, not knowing that they were fulfilling God's plan even in this.

Here are some prophecies fulfilled by Jesus in the events surrounding His death: [Teacher, you might have a Sword drill with the references in Psalms below and in the “Resurrection” section.]

- His being betrayed for 30 pieces of silver and that silver being used to buy a potter's field (Zechariah 11:12; Matthew 26:15; 27:3–10; Luke 22:5)
- His being crucified with criminals (Isaiah 53:12; Luke 23:32)
- His being thirsty on the cross and being given vinegar and gall to drink (Psalm 69:21; Matthew 27:34; John 19:28)
- Soldiers' gambling for his garments (Psalm 22:18; Matthew 27:35)
- Jesus' having no bones broken (Psalm 34:20; Numbers 9:12; John 19:33)
- His being pierced in the side (Zechariah 12:10; Psalm 22:16; John 19:34; 20:25, 27)
- His being wounded for the sins of many (Isaiah 53:5, 6, 10–12; Mark 10:45; John 6:51; Galatians 1:4; 1 John 4:10)
- His being buried with the rich (Isaiah 53:9; Matthew 27:57–60)

Why did Jesus die? To pay for the sins of those who would believe on Him—to save them from their sins. All this was prophesied years and years before it happened.

### *Jesus' resurrection*

If Jesus had stayed dead, all His suffering would all have been worthless. However, Jesus did not stay dead. Proving His sacrifice was sufficient, three days after He was crucified, He arose from the dead. [Teacher, you might want to have students look up the passages in Psalms that follow.] Several scripture verses prophesy this fact (Job 19:25–27; Psalm 16:9–11; 30:3; 49:15; 118:17, 18; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:5–7; John 20:9, 20; Acts 2:31, 32; 1 Corinthians 15:20).

### *Probability of prophecy fulfilled*

We told you at the beginning of this story that around 300 passages in the Old Testament prophesy 61 specific things about Jesus. To give you an idea of just how unlikely all these prophecies could be fulfilled in one person, “[p]rofessor of mathematics Peter Stoner gave 600 students a math probability problem that would determine the odds for one person’s fulfilling [just] eight [not 61] specific prophecies. . . .

“The students calculated that the odds against one person fulfilling all eight prophecies are astronomical—one in ten to the 21st power ( $10^{21}$  or 10 with 21 zeros. To illustrate that number, Stoner gave the following example: “First, blanket the entire Earth land mass with silver dollars 120 feet high. Second, specially mark one of those dollars and randomly bury it. Third, ask a person to travel the Earth and select the marked dollar, while blindfolded, from the trillions of other dollars.” . . .

[illegible]

One other consideration is that a total of 108 billion people have been born and have lived on the earth [https://theuijunkie.com/people-population/]. ✓Someone has estimated that of all the billions of people who

have ever lived on the earth, there is only one chance in 549,755,813,900 that a person could fulfill 39 of those prophecies ([http://brittgillette.com/WordPress/?page\\_id=21](http://brittgillette.com/WordPress/?page_id=21)). But Jesus fulfilled about 300 prophecies! That tells me our God is able to do all He says he will do.

Now, how could Jesus have fulfilled all of these specific prophecies, a mathematical impossibility? Why, our God planned it all! He is the God of the impossible! In order to make it perfectly clear that Jesus was to be the Saviour, the one to trust for salvation, He predicted His becoming a God-Man about 300 times for 61 specific prophecies!

Do you suppose you could trust a God like that? Could you trust His God-Son, who paid the price for sin? Jesus asks you to come to Him by faith and trust Him to save you from your sins.

### **Lessons from this lesson:**

- God keeps His word. It may take hundreds of years, but He keeps His promises exactly as He promised them.
- Jesus is the greatest of all men. But He is not just Man; He is God. His virgin birth and all the fulfilled prophecies about His life show that.

### **Activities:**

- Play dough: Bible; scroll
  - Review questions. (Game: Tape a looped 6" length of yarn or string to the back of each picture you have collected on Jesus' birth, life, and death. To a flannel board, stick ten pins or tacks on which to hang the pictures. A correct answer gives a student the opportunity to hang a picture under the designation of Jesus' "Birth," Life," or "Death."
1. What is the most important event in all history? [Jesus' coming to earth to die for our sins]
  2. Who was Jesus' Father? [God]
  3. In what town was Jesus born? [Bethlehem]
  4. How did Mary get from Nazareth to Bethlehem? [The Roman emperor took a census, making everyone go to the town of his ancestors]
  5. Name one prophecy about Jesus' *life* that He fulfilled. [healing, teaching in parables, hailed as king, riding a donkey into Jerusalem, rejected]
  6. Name one prophecy about Jesus' *death* on the cross that He fulfilled. [Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver, crucified with criminals, being thirsty, gambling, no broken bones, pierced, wounded for sins of many]
  7. Why did Jesus die on the cross? [To save his people from their sins]
  8. How did Jesus prove that He could save His people from their sins? [was resurrected]
  9. How many specific prophecies about Jesus are in the OT? (or you may answer how many prophecies are in the OT)? [61 specific; 300 prophecies]
  10. Describe the probability of one man fulfilling 8 to 61 prophecies. [Just about impossible]

**Memory Verse[s]:** John 3:16 (New Living Translation): "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

**Handwork:** Make a scroll out of long paper. Write one of the above prophecies on the scroll.

prophecy/prophecy

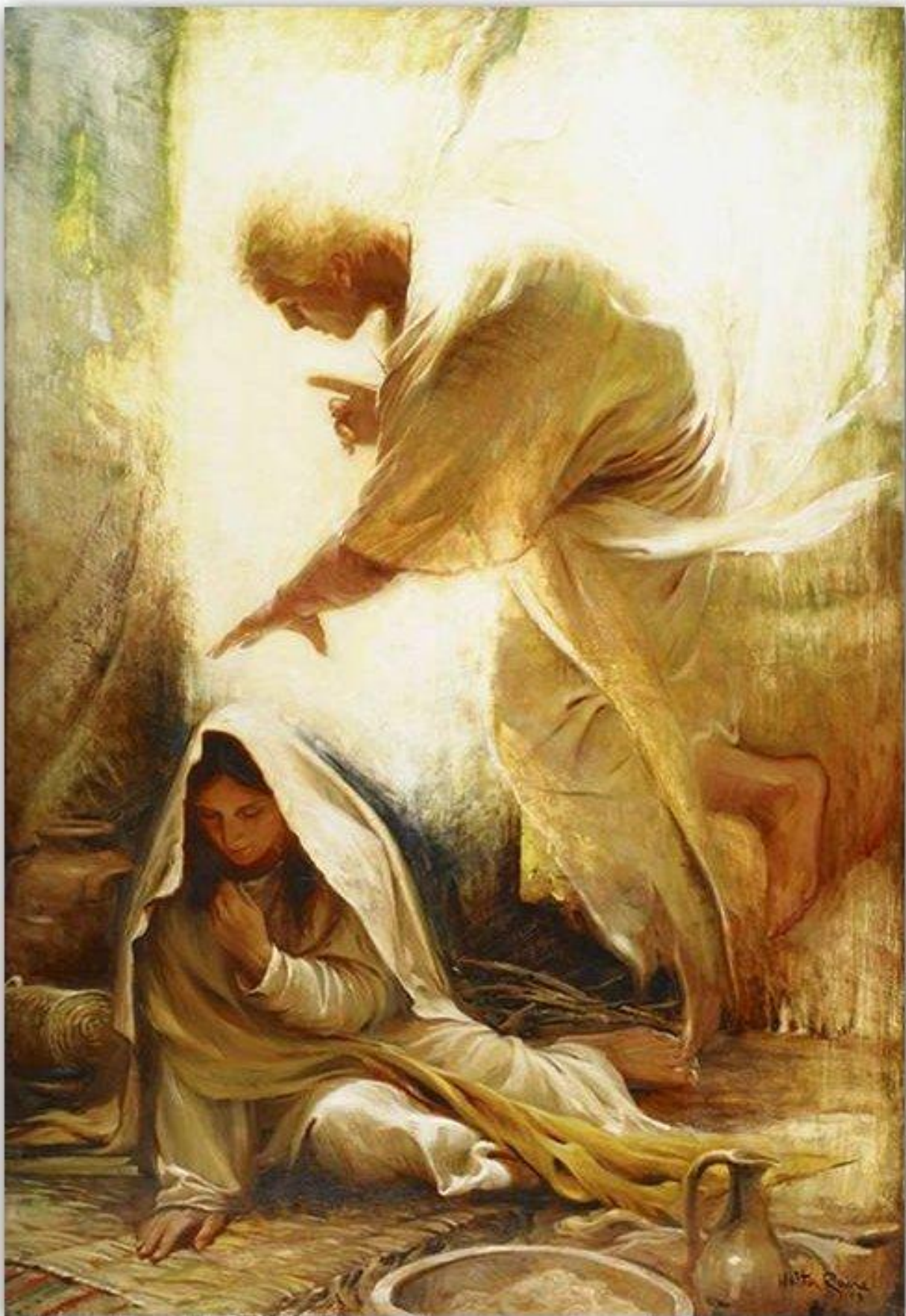
fulfilled

babies

virgin

crucifixion

resurrection



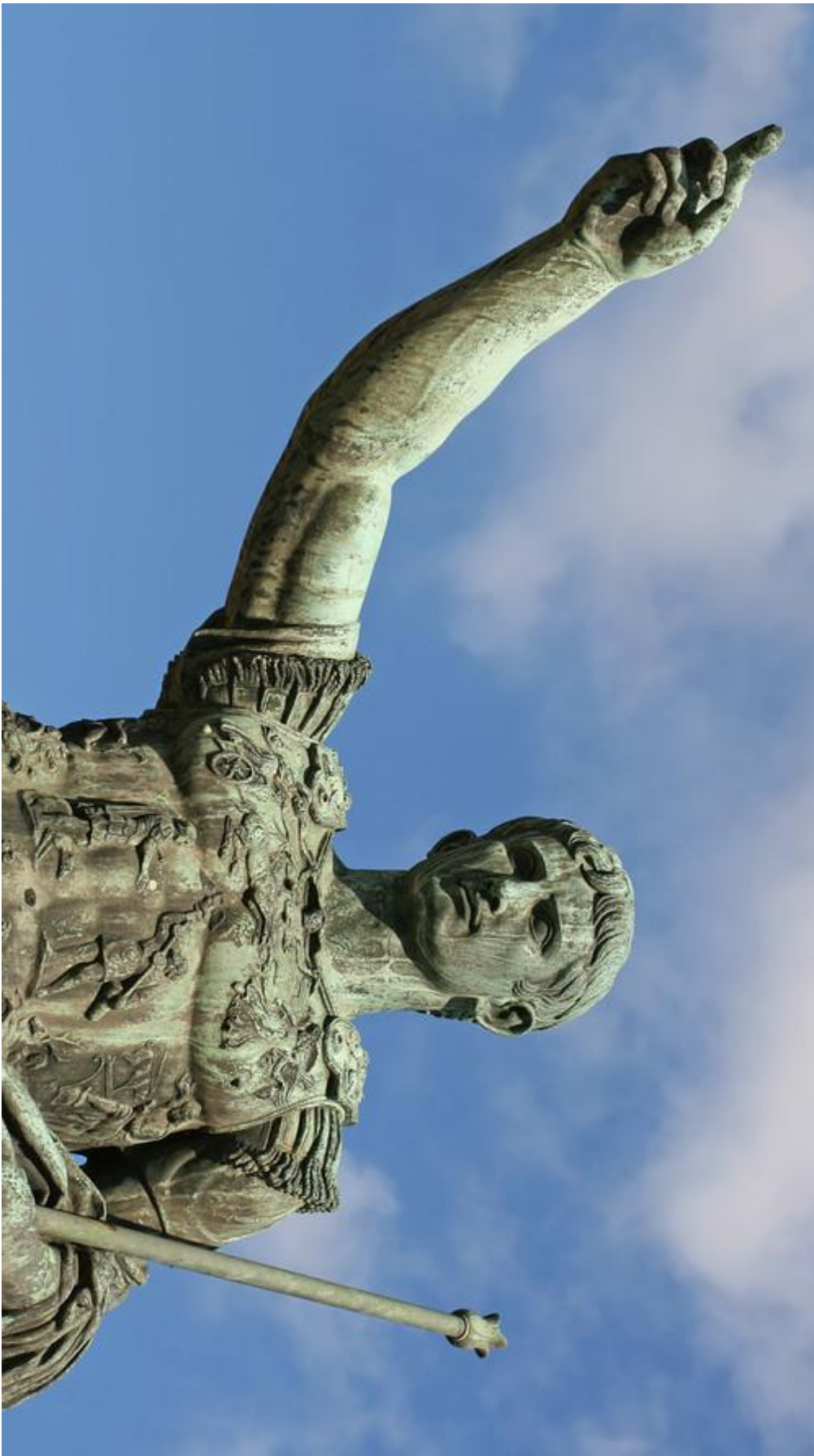
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Virgin birth





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photo of modern Bethlehem

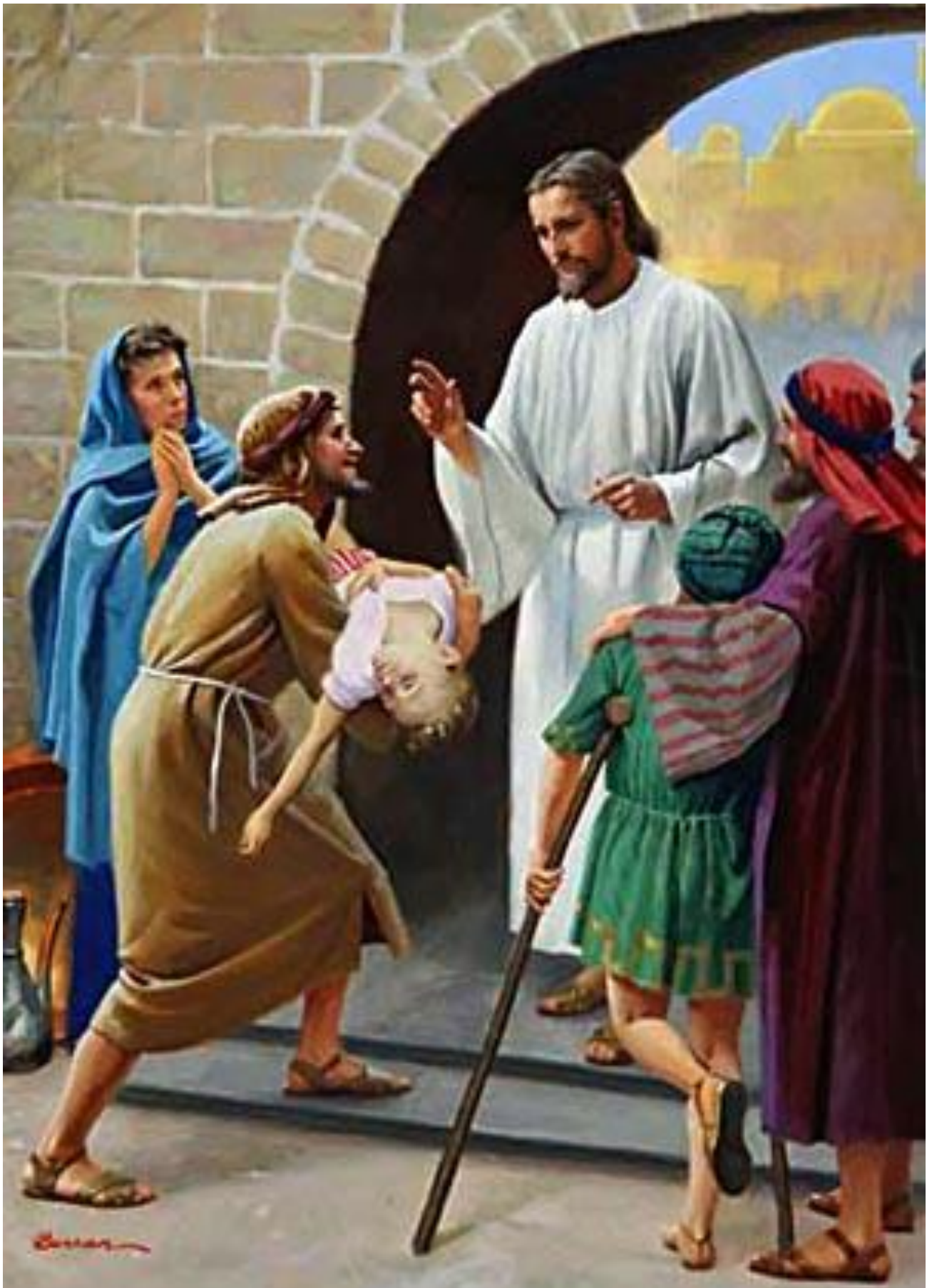


<https://www.marketwatch.com/story/richest-men-in-history-vladimir-putin-bill-gates-and-warren-buffett-arent-even-close-2017-08-09>

Statue of Caesar Augustus



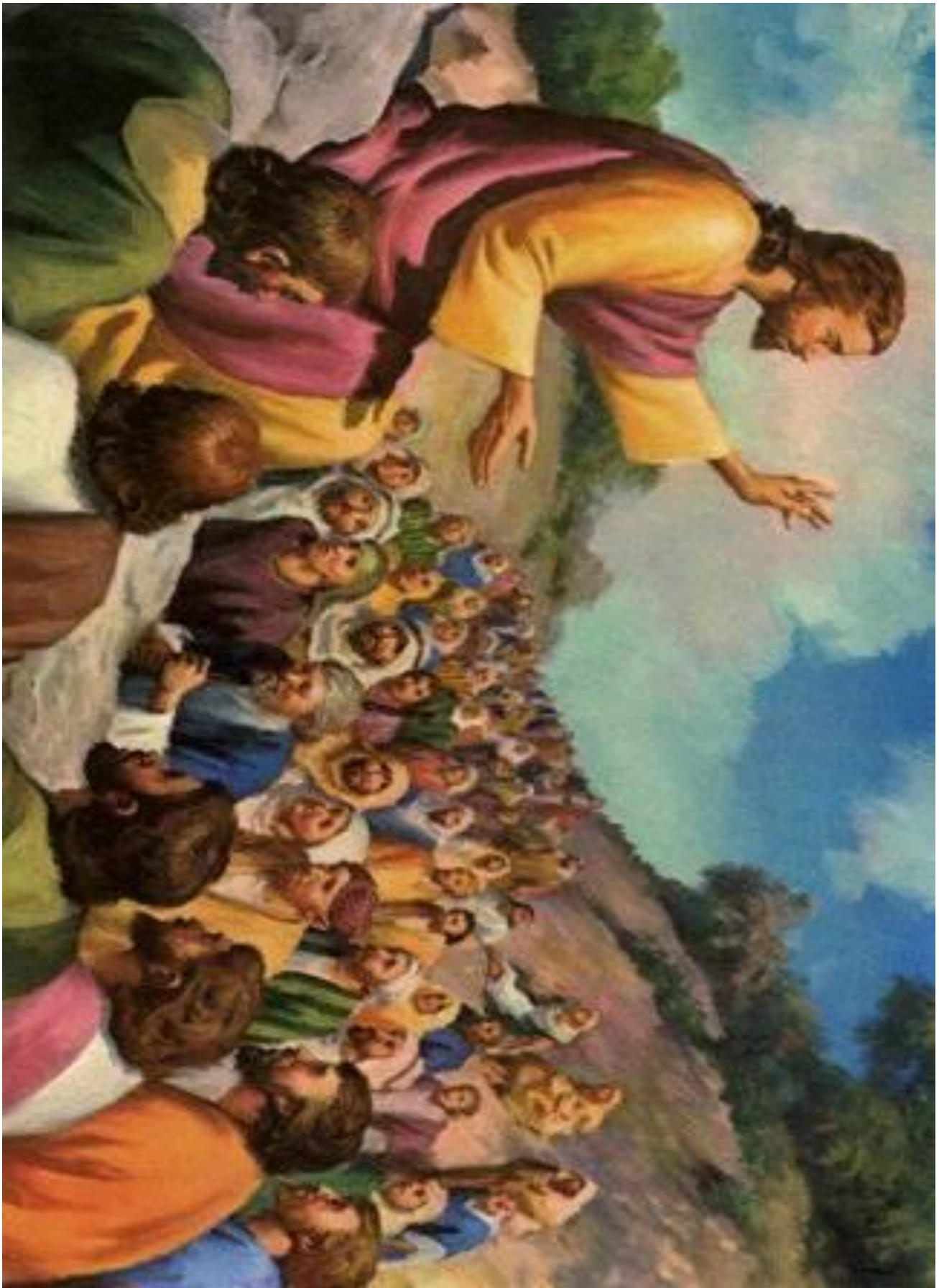




<https://citizenheaven.wordpress.com/2013/07/24/be-assured-jesus-heals-all/>

Healing





<http://www.turnbacktogod.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/The-Original-Teachings-of-Jesus-Christ.jpg>

Parables





[https://i2.wp.com/hibbster.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/6873409196\\_09c2ae649f\\_b.jpg?fit=1024%2C734](https://i2.wp.com/hibbster.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/6873409196_09c2ae649f_b.jpg?fit=1024%2C734)

Triumphal Entry





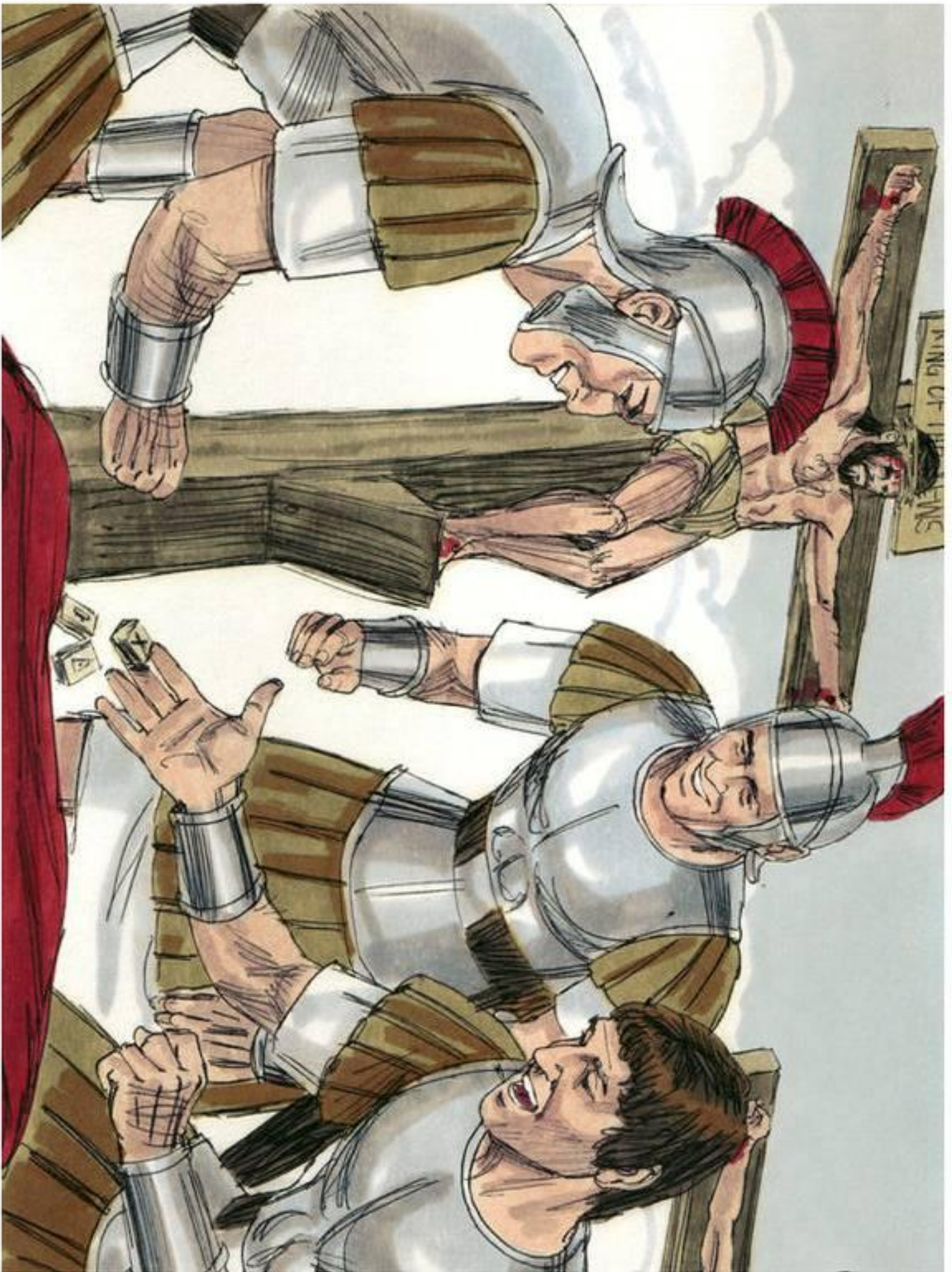




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Thirty Pieces of Silver

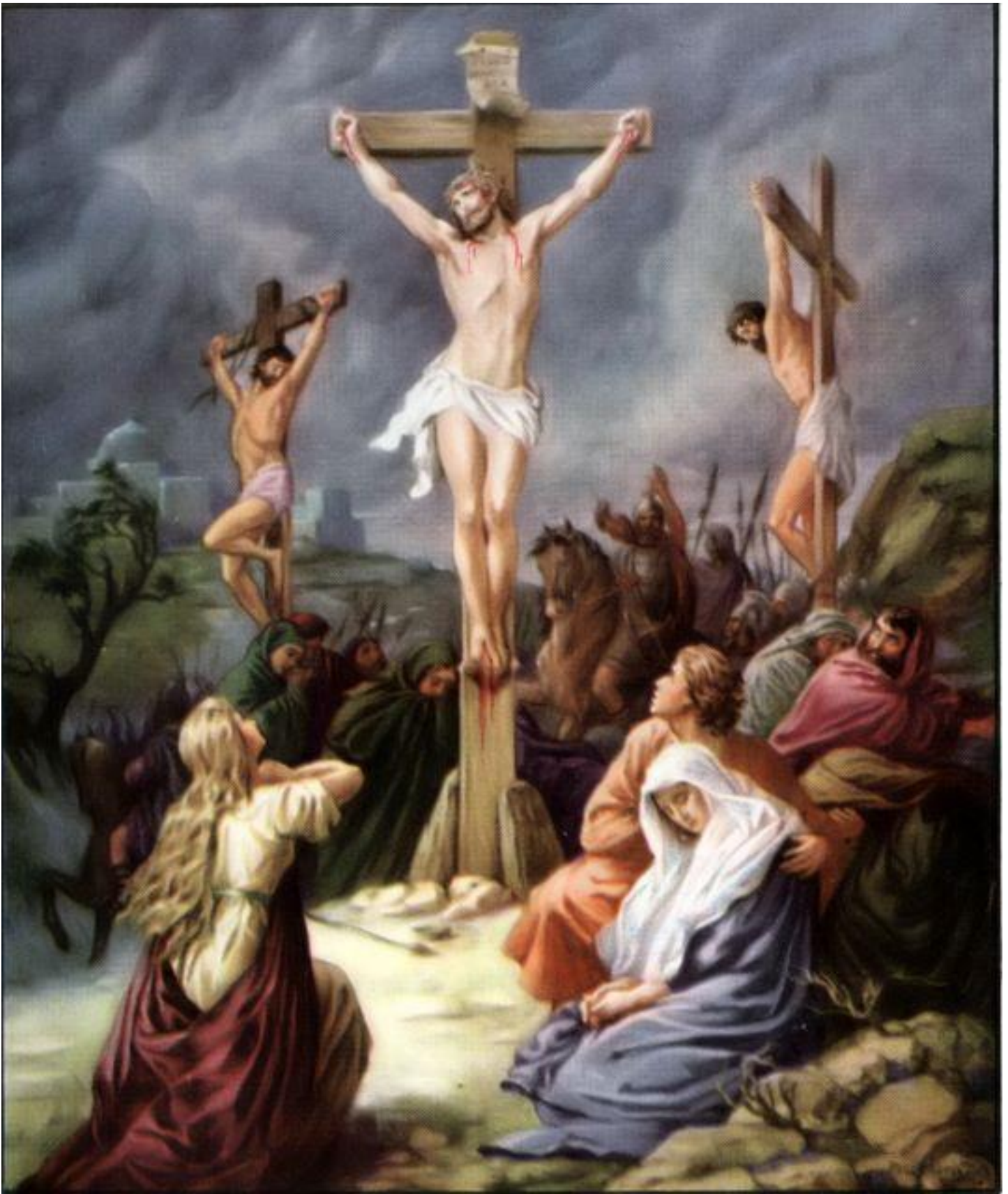




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Gambling for Jesus' Robe

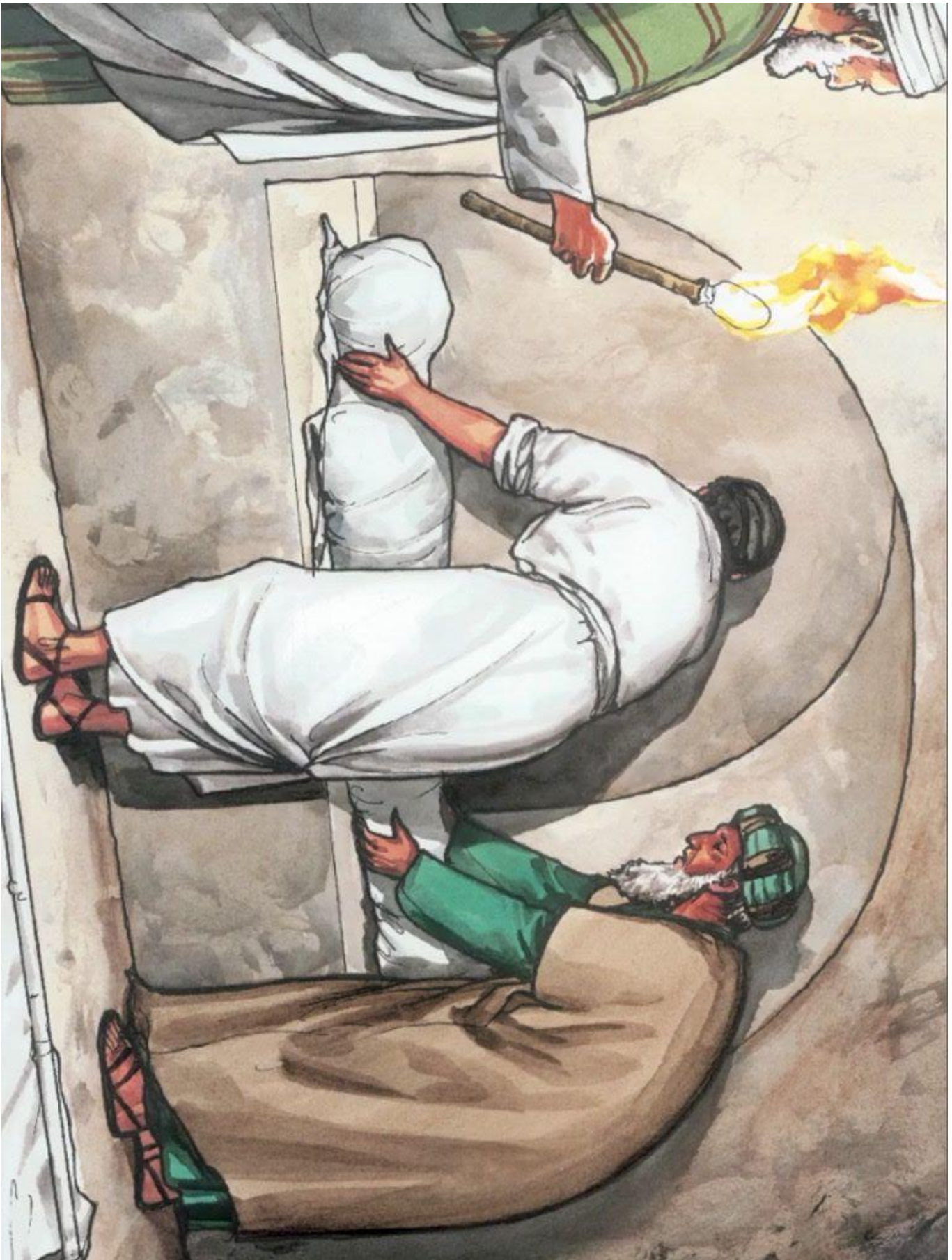




[https://childrenschurch.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/top\\_53\\_bmp.jpg](https://childrenschurch.files.wordpress.com/2012/03/top_53_bmp.jpg)

Crucifixion





[http://media.freebibleimages.org/stories/FB\\_GNPI\\_099\\_Jesus\\_Burial/overview\\_images/011-gnpi-099-jesus-burial.jpg?1470829443](http://media.freebibleimages.org/stories/FB_GNPI_099_Jesus_Burial/overview_images/011-gnpi-099-jesus-burial.jpg?1470829443)

Burial



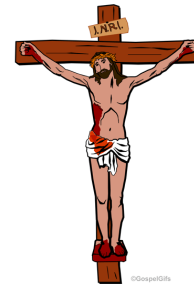


# 61 Specific Prophecies about Jesus are in 300 OT Passages

His birth



His life



His death



His resurrection

His future return to earth

His everlasting kingdom

# Lord Jesus Christ

1 / 10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000

(1 in 10 sextillion)

chances of fulfilling only

8 prophecies