

False Profits: Profiting from the wrong Prophet

Our story opens with another divine revelation from the gospel of (according to catholic tradition) Matthew. This is another attempt to prove that Jesus is fulfilling prophecy from the Hebrew Bible. In this paper, quotes appearing in red are from the Greek writings of the Christians, and quotes appearing in blue are those from our Hebrew Bible.

The aforementioned divine revelation appears in the twenty seventh chapter of Mathew. First let us set up the story at hand. Jesus has been betrayed by Judas, who has conspired with the chief priests to arrest Jesus based on false evidence.

Matthew 27:1-8:

When the morning was come, all the chief priests and elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death:

And when they had bound him, they led [him] away, and delivered him to Pontius Pilate the governor.

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the **thirty pieces of silver** to the **chief priests** and elders,

Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [is that] to us? see thou [to that].

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

And the chief priests took the silver pieces, and said, It is not lawful for to put them into the treasury, because it is the price of blood.

And they took counsel, and bought with them the potter's field, to bury strangers in.

Wherefore that field was called, The field of blood, unto this day.

Now all of these events did not occur by chance. Matthew drops some very interesting information on us. In the very next verse of our story we find our divine revelation.

Matthew 27:9

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by **Jeremiah the prophet**, saying, And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him that was valued, whom they of the children of Israel did value.

Nice prophecy. Does anyone know where in the book of Jeremiah this prophecy appears?

Don't feel bad, it doesn't exist in Jeremiah. Furthermore, It was never said anywhere in the Hebrew bible by Jeremiah. The author of Matthew is once again perplexed by his unfamiliarity with Jewish history, Jewish Law, and Hebrew.

The sum of thirty silver pieces is found in the Hebrew bible, but it is not a prophecy and it is not by Jeremiah. If you had a Christian study bible, it would tell you on the bottom of the page in Matthew, that this verse can be found in Zechariah 11:12-13.

Zechariah 11:12-13

And I said to [the people], "If it is proper in your eyes, give Me My fee, and if not, refrain." So they weighed out My fee: **thirty of silver**. { shloshim kasef } Hashem said to me, "Throw it to the treasurer of the Precious Stronghold, which I have divested from them." So I threw it into the Temple of Hashem, to the treasurer.

First of all, this passage in Zechariah is not a prophecy at all. If this chapter of Zechariah is read in context, it becomes apparent that this is speaking metaphorically about Israel of the PAST, and the forthcoming destruction of Judah.

Jeremiah has nothing to do with this verse, and nothing even close to this verse can be found in any of the works of Jeremiah.

There are additional problems with this Greek testament story.

If you didn't notice it in your first reading, Matthew makes one of his common mistakes and claims there are multiple high priests.

Matthew 27:3

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the **thirty pieces of silver** to the **chief priests** and elders,

While this is certainly true of the many religions and resurrection cults surrounding Israel, the religion of the Jews has never had multiple high priests.

Another problem with this story: If he was going to the Temple to tell them about his sin, why did he not bring a sin offering, instead of trying to bring back money?

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, **repented himself**, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the **chief priests** and elders,

Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [is that] to us? see thou [to that].

Notice what the chief priests don't say, is more important than what they do say. What they don't say is "Where is your blood offering for your sin? We don't take cash"

The contract forged by Judas with the high priests is also suspect, and a careful examination of the story again shows this holy book of the Christians was written without knowledge of the Jews or their history.

Matthew 26:15 – KJV

And said [unto them], What will ye give me, and I will deliver him (Jesus) unto you? And they **covenanted** with him for **thirty pieces of silver**.

Matthew 26:15 – Young's Literal Translation, NASB, ASV, HNV, Oxford English Bible, etc.

What are ye willing to give me, and I will deliver him up to you?' and they **weighed out** to him **thirty silverlings**

Matthew 26:15 - GREEK

αρχιερεις ειπεν τι θελετε μοι δουναι καγω υμιν παραδωσω αυτον
οι δε εστησαν αυτω τριακοντα αργυρια

The word in Greek is esthsan εστησαν meaning to stand. It carries another meaning in this context. Histemi (root of esthsan) - **to weigh: money to one (because in very early times before the introduction of coinage, the metals used to be weighed) STRONG'S 2476. (I don't recommend STRONG'S for HEBREW roots.)**

This word does not mean covenanted. Surprisingly, we can find confirmation of this in the NT itself. Luke has a verse dealing with money being covenanted.

Luke 22:5

And they were glad, and **covenanted** to give him **money**

Luke 22:5 Greek

αυτοις και εγαρησαν και συνεθεντο αυτω αργυριον δουναι

The word used for covenanted here is sunevento συνεθεντο. It means covenanted. Additionally the word argurion αργυριον is the same word used by the author of Matthew, which was translated by the KJV as silver pieces. They translate the word in Luke as money.

Why would the KJV translators, along with all evangelical translations of the Greek bible render this as COVENANTED instead of weighed.

In the book of Zechariah, the money was “weighed out”, using scales. Currency did not have face value. Value was determined by weight. This is appropriate for the time of Zechariah, however, during the first century, during the Roman occupation. ALL CURRENCY held a face value. There were no merchant scales. The author of Matthew blows it again by not understanding anything about Jewish life, or Jewish customs. His copy and paste job on the book of Zechariah shows his intent to CONSTRUCT his theology using bits and pieces of the Hebrew Bible, rather than recording actual events, or writing his book through “divine inspiration.”

Just one more question to ask in regards to the thirty silver pieces. Did Judas take the silver pieces from the priests and acquire a field with them Acts 1:18, or did he return the silver pieces and then hang himself Matthew 27:5?

Acts 1:18

Now this man purchased a field with the reward of iniquity; and falling headlong, he burst asunder in the midst, and all his bowels gushed out.

Matthew 27:5

And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

My theory is that he bought the field, climbed a tree with a branch hanging over a cliff, tried to hang himself, the rope broke, and he fell on some sharp rocks below, at which point his innards burst out. But of course this is an entirely different topic in the fiction that is the new testament. Come home to Torah, we are waiting for you.

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