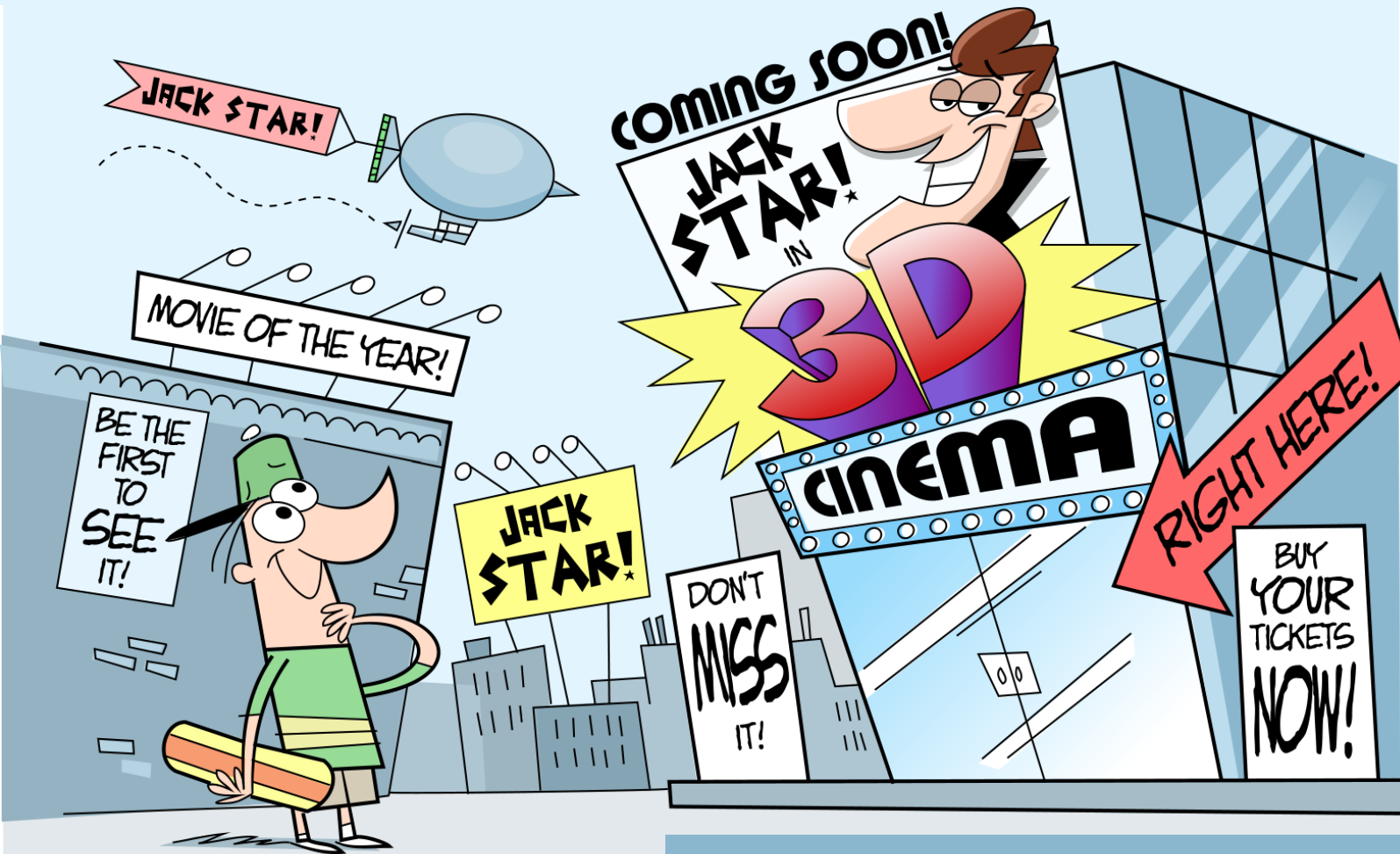


# Messianic Prophecies and Their Fulfillment

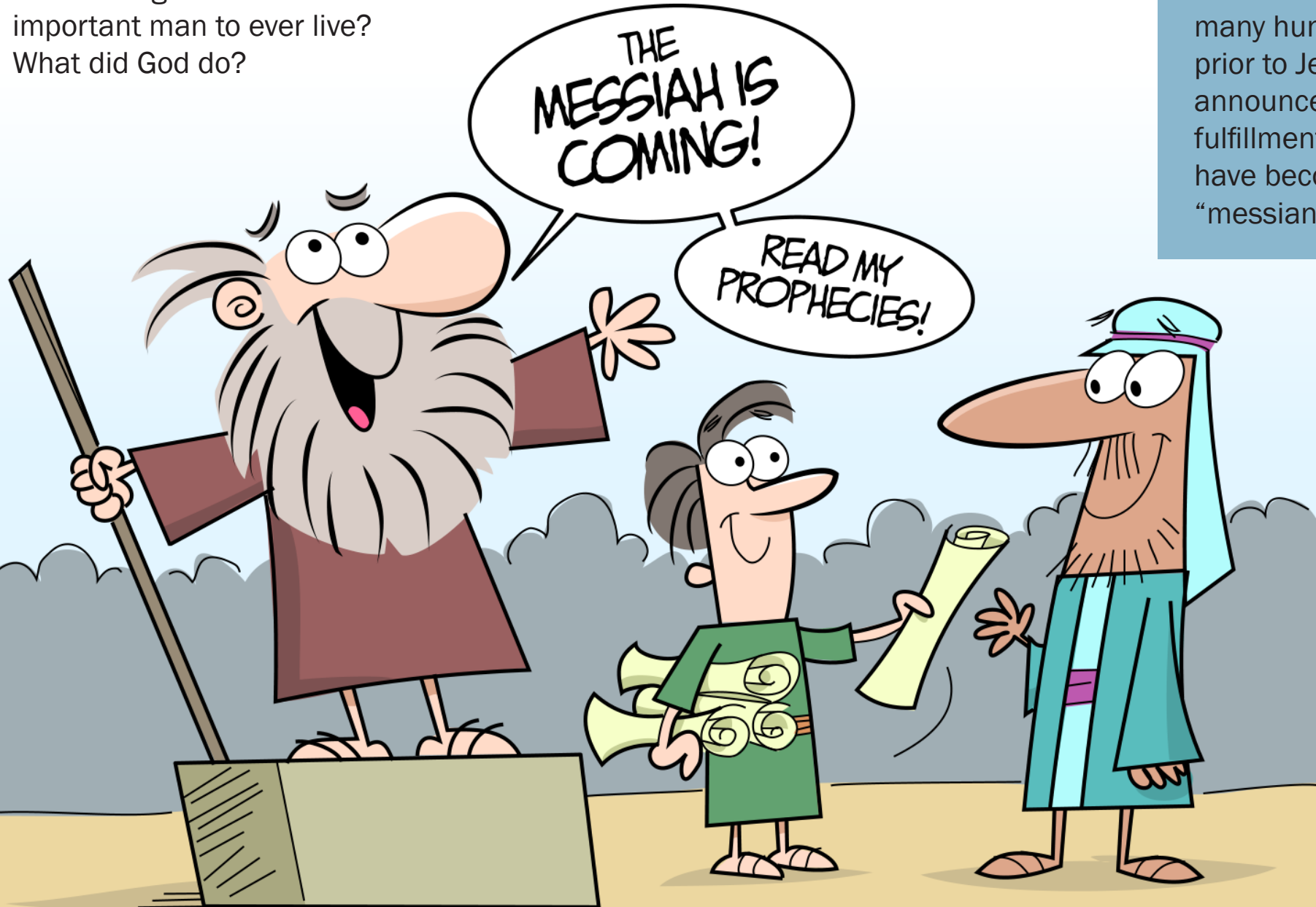


Imagine that a celebrity was coming to your town, or a long-awaited 3D movie or theatrical show was going to feature in your city. You'd probably see posters and advertisements to announce its arrival, or even write-ups about it in the printed news or on websites. A lot would go into making everyone aware so that they wouldn't miss the special event.

When something important is about to happen, particularly when it's something that everyone should know about, we draw attention to the event by announcing the news through some medium—TV, newspapers, billboards, advertising flyers, word of mouth, and likely some electronic method.

Now, imagine God wanting to announce the arrival of His own Son to earth. How would you go about announcing the life of the most important man to ever live? What did God do?

God inspired His prophets to announce the coming of His Son, Jesus Christ, many hundreds of years prior to Jesus' birth. These announcements, and their fulfillment through Jesus, have become known as "messianic prophecies."



"Messiah" comes from the Hebrew word for "anointed one." Over time it came to mean "the expected king and deliverer of the Jews." (<http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/messiah>)



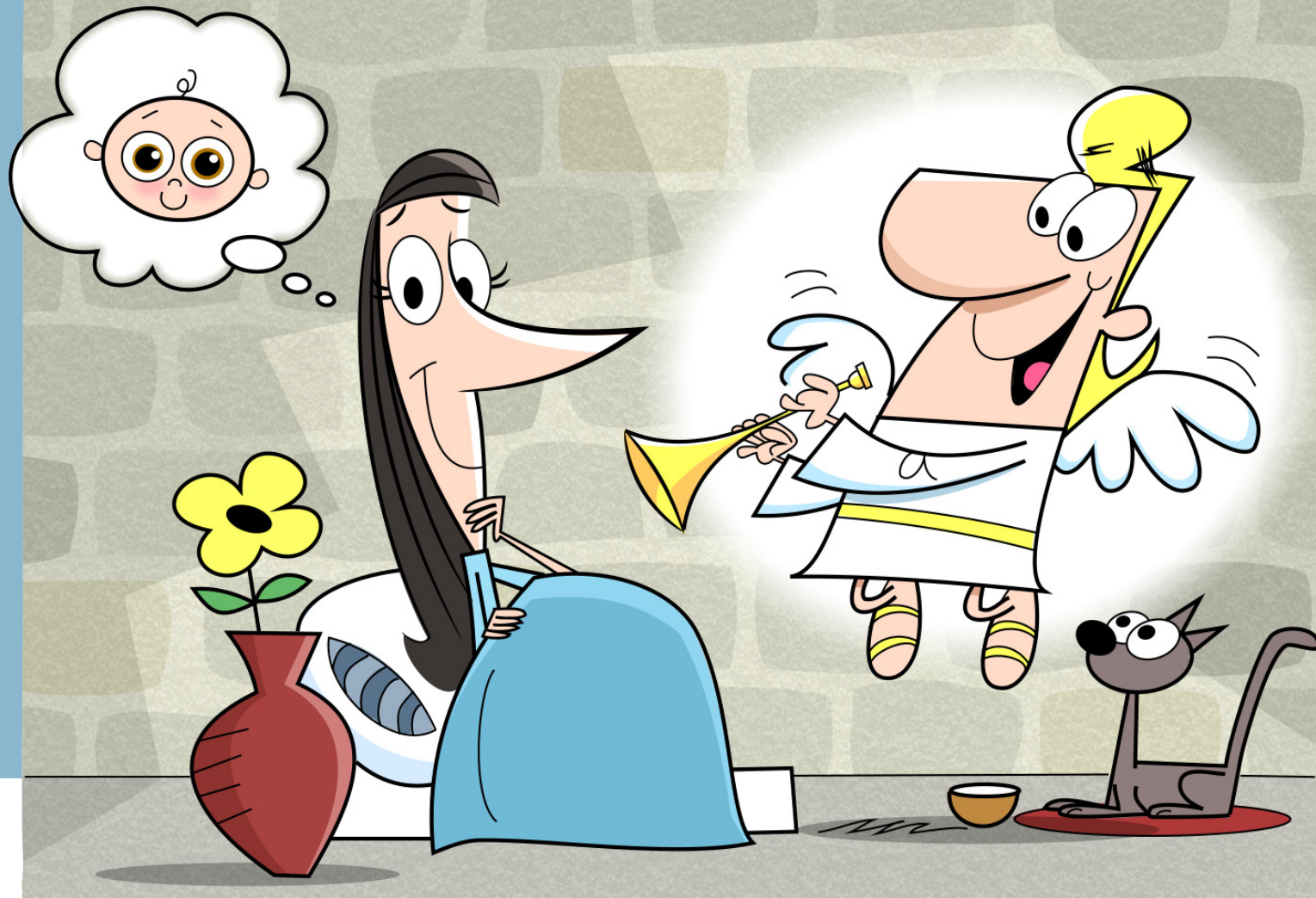
The Old Testament contains approximately 300 messianic prophecies that were fulfilled by Jesus in the New Testament, all of which were given by God to many different prophets hundreds of years before Jesus was born. While there were others who claimed to be the Messiah that the Old Testament heralded, none of them could fulfill all of the prophecies that had been given! This is an astounding example of how the writings in the Bible are divinely inspired.

In this two-part series, we'll take a closer look at a few of these amazing Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled in Jesus' birth, life, and death.



**Prophecy:** Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. (Isaiah 7:14 ESV)

**Fulfillment:** This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. ... All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel”—which means, “God with us.” (Matthew 1:18, 22–23 NIV)



**The prophet Isaiah was not talking about anyone he knew of at the time;** he was receiving a revelation from God that would help people recognize Jesus as the Messiah when He did finally come to earth. God used Isaiah many more times to relay significant details of what would happen in Jesus' life.

The Jews of Jesus' day knew of Isaiah's prophecies and were waiting for the man that Isaiah had foretold. This is why Matthew says, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet," when he tells of the unique circum-

stances of Jesus' birth. Matthew wanted to show others of the Jewish faith that Jesus had fulfilled this unique condition that had been prophesied regarding the birth of the expected Messiah.



**Prophecy:** “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” (Micah 5:2 NIV)

**Fulfillment:** Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea... (Matthew 2:1 NIV)

**The prophet Micah foretold the city in which Jesus would be born.** In fact, when Magi from the East came to worship a newly born king and went to King Herod’s court to ask for directions, King Herod’s counselors quoted Micah’s prophecy as to where the expected “Christ” (meaning Messiah) would be born. Find that story in Matthew 2:1–12.





**Prophecy:** Rejoice, O people of Zion! Shout in triumph, O people of Jerusalem! Look, your king is coming to you. He is righteous and victorious, yet he is humble, riding on a donkey—riding on a donkey's colt. (Zechariah 9:9 NLT)

**Fulfillment:** They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna!" "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the King of Israel!" Jesus found a young donkey and sat upon it, as it is written. (John 12:13–14 NIV)

They brought it to Jesus, threw their cloaks on the colt and put Jesus on it. (Luke 19:29–35 NIV)

**The scene above describes Jesus' triumphant entry** into Jerusalem shortly before the Passover feast, but the prophet Zechariah was predicting more than just that: he was also telling of the coming Messiah's nature—that Jesus would be humble, and would not be as the other earthly kings the Jews had known.



**Prophecy:** Those who hate me without reason outnumber the hairs of my head; many are my enemies without cause, those who seek to destroy me. I am forced to restore what I did not steal. (Psalm 69:4 NIV)

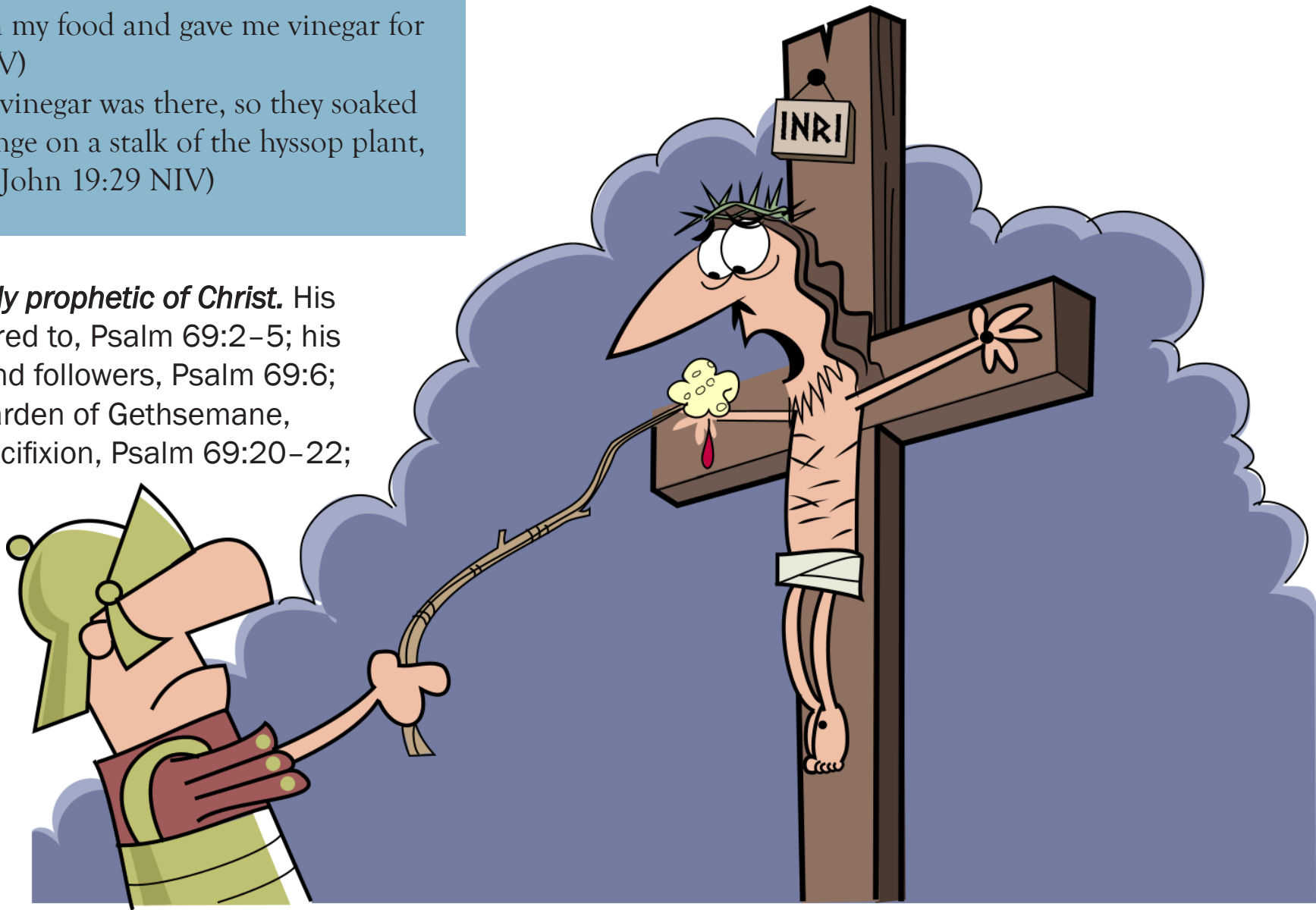
**Fulfillment:** If I had not done among them what no one else did, they would not be guilty of sin. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfill what is written in their Law: "They hated me without reason." (John 15:24-25 NIV)

*In John 15 Jesus is quoting from a Psalm of David, the entire chapter (Psalm 69) of which is widely recognized as prophecy regarding Jesus' last days and His death.*

**Prophecy:** They put gall in my food and gave me vinegar for my thirst. (Psalm 69:21 NIV)

**Fulfillment:** A jar of wine vinegar was there, so they soaked a sponge in it, put the sponge on a stalk of the hyssop plant, and lifted it to Jesus' lips. (John 19:29 NIV)

**[Psalm 69] seems entirely prophetic of Christ.** His deep abasement is referred to, Psalm 69:2–5; his prayer for his disciples and followers, Psalm 69:6; that for himself, in the garden of Gethsemane, Psalm 69:15–19; his crucifixion, Psalm 69:20–22; the vengeance of God against the Jews, from Psalm 69:23–29; the glorious manner in which he gets out of all his sufferings, Psalm 69:30; the abolition of the Mosaic rites and ceremonies, Psalm 69:31... ; and, finally, the establishment of the Gospel through the whole world, in Psalm 69:33.



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