

The Messianic Prophecies of Jesus

Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout in triumph, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; He is just and endowed with salvation, humble, and mounted on a donkey.”

Zechariah 9:9 † (*John 12:12-15*)

“But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities.....And by His scourging we are healed.....He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He did not open His mouth; like a lamb that is led to slaughter.....He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgression of my people.....His grave was assigned with wicked men, yet He was with a rich man in His death.”

Isaiah 53:5-9 † (*Mark 15:5; 1 Peter 2:24; 1 Cor 15:3,4; Matt 27:57-60*)

The above-mentioned prophecies were written concerning the Jewish Messiah by two prophets of God. Isaiah lived seven hundred years before Christ, and Zechariah wrote that the Messiah would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey – more than five hundred years before it happened. The word Messiah means “the anointed one” and throughout Jewish history, the Bible foretold Him as being their eternal King to come. During the time of Roman occupation, the people were expecting Him to conquer the invaders and set Jerusalem as the capital of the world. The prophecies read by Mishea (in the novel) all come from Isaiah 53.

From the Greek word *‘propheteia’* (and its Hebrew counterpart), prophecy means – the gift of communicating and enforcing revealed truth, to clarify something before it happens, and/or foretelling a future event. Bible prophecy implies a divine inspiration to declare the purposes of God, whether it be by rebuking and admonishing a rebellious nation (or person), comforting the afflicted, revealing hidden things, or especially foretelling things to come.

Bible scholars have documented 365 Messianic prophecies that are in the Old Testament. The first prophecy was given by God immediately after Eve confesses that the serpent deceived her into sinning in the Garden of Eden. “And I will put enmity between you (*serpent/Satan*) and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel.” (Genesis 3:15)

Four thousand years before Jesus, the Hebrew Scripture set into motion the Messianic prophecies starting with the virgin birth (the prophecy mentioned ‘her seed’ not ‘the seed of man’) and foretelling of an encounter between the Lord and Satan at the crucifixion. Remember, Jesus was ‘suspended between heaven and earth’ on the cross as He became sin. Numerous translations use the phrase ‘will crush his (Satan’s) head’.

The Biblical prophecies concerning Messiah can basically be placed into the following four categories: (1) Messiah’s birth (2) Messiah’s ministry (3) Messiah’s death and resurrection (4) Messiah’s reign as King of Kings.

Messiah’s Birth

“Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel (*God with us*),” Isaiah 7:14 † (*Matthew 1:23*)

Family ‘trees’ and family history were very important to the Jewish nation. They meticulously kept accurate records and the Old Testament provides us with many examples. A study of Jesus’ genealogy in Matthew Chapter 1 proves this beyond a doubt. An extraordinary historical event in the ancient world provided the means for Jesus being born in Bethlehem. Jesus’ earthly father Joseph (and the carpenter’s wife-to-be, Mary) lived in Nazareth. Caesar Augustus sent forth a decree for a census (for the purposes of taxation) to all who lived within the Roman Empire. This decree required Joseph to return to Bethlehem (the city of David, his ancestor) for the census. Thus, while they were in Bethlehem for the decree, Mary gave birth to the Son of God.

- Messiah would be a descendant of Noah’s son Shem (not his two brothers)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham
- Messiah would be a descendant of Isaac (not Ishmael)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Jacob (not Esau)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Judah (not his eleven brothers)
- Messiah would be a descendant of Jesse (from the tribe of Judah)
- Messiah would be a descendant of David (not his seven brothers)
- Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
- Messiah would live in Egypt and be raised in Nazareth

Messiah's ministry

“Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy.” Isaiah 35:5,6 ‡ (*Luke 7:22*)

A considerable amount of the prophecies dealt with what the Messiah was going to do once He arrived. What is also remarkable, is that the Jewish religious leaders knew very well the Scriptures identifying the work of the Messiah (Isaiah 61:1,2 ‡ (*Luke 4:17-21*), yet, as Jesus was amongst them for three years, they not only rejected Him, they ultimately had Him killed.

- Messiah would have the Spirit of the Lord upon Him
- Messiah would preach to the poor
- Messiah would heal the blind, the lame, the mute, the diseased
- Messiah would set free those who are oppressed
- Messiah would be called the ‘Good Shepherd’
- Messiah would bring a ‘new’ covenant
- Messiah would be our intercessor
- Messiah would be called a Nazarene
- Messiah would be holy, merciful, compassionate, full of wisdom
- Messiah would teach in parables

The Death and Resurrection of Messiah

“I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaves to my jaws; and you lay me in the dust of death. For dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil doers has encompassed me; they have pierced my hands and my feet.”

Psalm 22:14-16 ‡ (*Luke 24:39*)

Of the 365 Messianic prophecies recorded in the Old Testament, 130 foretell either the death or resurrection of the Messiah. A comprehensive study (suggested by the author of this novel) should always include a study of Psalms 22; Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12; and Daniel 9:24-26. David’s psalm (chapter 22) was written a thousand years before the death of Christ and identifies 11 prophecies concerning the crucifixion. Isaiah 53 is astounding itself, and Daniel 9 is nothing short of being miraculous and profound. About 570 years before the ministry of Jesus, Daniel foretells the exact day of the crucifixion.

- Messiah will be crucified with criminals Isaiah 53:12 † *Matthew 27:38*
- Messiah will be betrayed for 30 pieces of silver Zech 11:12,13 † *Matt 26:15*
- Messiah will be crucified in darkness during midday Amos 8:9 † *Matt 27:45*
- Messiah will drink vinegar wine Psalm 69:21 † *John 19:28,29*
- Messiah's garments will be 'gambled off' Psalm 22:18 † *John 19:23,24*
- Messiah will be smitten and spat upon Isaiah 50:6 † *Matt 27:30*
- Messiah betrayed by a friend Psalm 55:12-14 † *Matt 26:49,50*
- Messiah will be buried in a rich man's tomb Isaiah 53:9 † *Matt 27:57-60*
- Messiah will be resurrected Psalm 16:10 † *John 20:17*

Messiah's Return and Reign

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders; and His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness from then on and forevermore.”

Isaiah 9:6,7

If several hundred Messianic prophecies came true concerning the initial appearance and ministry of Jesus, we can be certain that the prophecies yet to come – will happen and take place. Most of these prophecies would be placed under the category of eschatology, which in Greek means, ‘the study of the last days’ of human history as we know it. Though future prophecies still to come are throughout the Scriptures, much of the book of Daniel and virtually all the book of Revelation deal with this issue. Jesus Himself spent a great deal of time discussing His ‘second coming.’

- Messiah will be ‘The Lamb upon the Throne’
- The earth will be filled with the knowledge and glory of the Lord
- There will (ultimately) be a New Heaven and a New Earth
- Jesus will return on a white horse
- Jesus will return wearing a robe dipped in blood
- Jesus will return with ‘King of Kings and Lord of Lords’ written on His thigh
- Jesus will reign from Jerusalem for 1000 years

Scripture Nuggets

“It will come about in that day,” declares the Lord GOD, “That I will make the sun go down at noon and make the earth dark in broad daylight.” Amos 8:9

“For You will not abandon My soul to Sheol; Nor will You allow Your Holy One to undergo decay.” Psalm 16:10

“For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.” Habakkuk 2:14

“Sing for joy and be glad, O daughter of Zion; for behold I am coming and I will dwell in your midst.” Declares the LORD. “Many nations will join themselves to the LORD in that day and will become My people.” Zechariah 2:10,11

“And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it is written, “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed, to proclaim the favorable Year of the LORD.” And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Luke 4:17-21

“And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30