

Messianic Prophecies

Old Testament Predictions Fulfilled in Christ

An expansive study of Messianic prophecies - Old Testament predictions concerning the Messiah's coming, ministry, suffering, and triumph, all fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Prophecies of His Coming

Born of a Virgin — The Sign of Immanuel

Seven hundred years before Christ's birth, Isaiah prophesied that a virgin would conceive and bear a son called Immanuel—'God with us.' This miraculous sign was fulfilled when the Holy Spirit overshadowed Mary, and she conceived without knowing a man. The virgin birth is essential to Christ's sinless humanity and deity. He was not born of natural generation, inheriting Adam's sin, but was holy from conception. Matthew explicitly cites Isaiah's prophecy as fulfilled in Jesus' birth. God truly became man—Immanuel—dwelling among His people.

Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:22-23

Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Luke 1:34-35

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

Galatians 4:4

But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.

Genesis 3:15

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Born in Bethlehem — Out of Thee Shall Come a Ruler

Micah prophesied that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem Ephratah, though it was little among the thousands of Judah. His goings forth were from of old, from everlasting—indicating the Messiah's eternal preexistence. When the Magi sought the newborn King, the chief priests and scribes immediately pointed to Bethlehem based on Micah's prophecy. Caesar's census providentially brought Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem at the appointed time. The humble birth in David's city fulfilled both the prophecy of location and the prophecy of David's greater Son.

Micah 5:2

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Matthew 2:4-6

And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Luke 2:4-7

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son.

John 7:42

Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?

Called Out of Egypt — My Son from Egypt

Hosea's prophecy 'Out of Egypt have I called my son' originally referred to Israel's exodus, but Matthew applies it to Christ—the true Israel, the perfect Son. When

Joseph fled to Egypt with Mary and the child Jesus to escape Herod's massacre, they remained until Herod's death. The return from Egypt fulfilled Hosea's words. As Israel was called out of Egypt to become God's son and servant, so Christ, the true Israel, came out of Egypt to accomplish what Israel could not. He succeeded where Israel failed.

Hosea 11:1

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt.

Matthew 2:14-15

When he arose, he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: And was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son.

Matthew 2:19-21

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life. And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel.

Numbers 24:8

God brought him forth out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn: he shall eat up the nations his enemies, and shall break their bones, and pierce them through with his arrows.

Prophecies of His Ministry

A Prophet Like Moses — The Prophet Whom They Must Hear

Moses prophesied that God would raise up a Prophet like him from among the brethren—and commanded Israel to heed this Prophet. Peter and Stephen both identified Jesus as this Prophet. Like Moses, Jesus was preserved from death as an infant, performed miraculous signs, mediated a covenant, and led God's people. Yet Jesus is greater than Moses: Moses was a servant in God's house; Christ is the Son over His own house. Moses brought the Law; Christ brings grace and truth. All who refuse to hear this Prophet will be destroyed.

Deuteronomy 18:15

The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.

Deuteronomy 18:18-19

I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Acts 3:22-23

For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.

Acts 7:37

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear.

John 6:14

Then those men, when they had seen the miracle that Jesus did, said, This is of a truth that prophet that should come into the world.

Preaching in Galilee — Light to Those in Darkness

Isaiah prophesied that Galilee of the Gentiles, the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, would see a great light. This land, first to be conquered by Assyria, would be first to see Messiah's glory. Matthew notes that Jesus' ministry in Galilee—beginning in Capernaum—fulfilled this prophecy. The people who sat in darkness saw great light; upon those in the shadow of death, light dawned. Christ's primary ministry was not in religious Jerusalem but in despised Galilee, bringing light to those considered spiritually inferior.

Isaiah 9:1-2

Nevertheless the dimness shall not be such as was in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict her by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

Matthew 4:13-16

And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zabulon and Nephthalim: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, The land of Zabulon, and the land of Nephthalim, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.

John 8:12

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 1:4-5

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

Teaching in Parables — Dark Sayings of Old

The Psalmist prophesied that Messiah would open His mouth in parables, uttering dark sayings from of old. Matthew explicitly cites this as fulfilled in Jesus' parabolic teaching. Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, revealing mysteries hidden from the foundation of the world to His disciples while concealing truth from the hard-hearted. The parables were not merely illustrations but vehicles of revelation and judgment—revealing the secrets of the kingdom to some while hardening others in their unbelief.

Psalm 78:2

I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old.

Matthew 13:34-35

All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.

Matthew 13:10-11

And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables? He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Mark 4:33-34

And with many such parables spake he the word unto them, as they were able to hear it. But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.

Prophecies of His Suffering

Betrayed by a Friend — Mine Own Familiar Friend

David prophesied that Messiah would be betrayed by His own familiar friend who ate bread with Him. Jesus explicitly applied this to Judas at the Last Supper. The betrayal price—thirty pieces of silver—was also prophesied, as was its ultimate use to purchase a potter's field. Zechariah foretold this as the 'goodly price' at which Messiah was valued. The treachery of Judas fulfilled multiple prophecies, demonstrating that even Christ's betrayal occurred according to God's determined counsel.

Psalm 41:9

Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, which did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.

John 13:18

I speak not of you all: I know whom I have chosen: but that the scripture may be fulfilled, He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me.

Zechariah 11:12-13

And I said unto them, If ye think good, give me my price; and if not, forbear. So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver. And the LORD said unto me, Cast it unto the potter: a goodly price that I was prised at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the LORD.

Matthew 26:14-16

Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went unto the chief priests, And said unto them, What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.

Matthew 27:9-10

Then was fulfilled that which was spoken by Jeremy 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; And gave them for the potter's field.

Forsaken by God — My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?

Psalm 22 begins with the cry Jesus uttered on the cross: 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?' This psalm, written a thousand years before crucifixion existed, describes it in remarkable detail: hands and feet pierced, bones out of joint, casting lots for garments. The forsaking was real—at the cross, the Father turned His face from the Son who had become sin for us. Christ experienced the full weight of divine abandonment that sinners deserve. Yet the psalm ends in triumph, pointing to the resurrection victory.

Psalm 22:1

My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?

Psalm 22:16-18

For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

John 19:23-24

Then the soldiers, when they had crucified Jesus, took his garments, and made four parts... They said therefore among themselves, Let us not rend it, but cast lots for it, whose it shall be: that the scripture might be fulfilled.

2 Corinthians 5:21

For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.

The Suffering Servant — Wounded for Our Transgressions

Isaiah 53 stands as the most detailed prophecy of Christ's atoning death, written seven centuries before Calvary. The Servant would be despised and rejected, a man of sorrows. He would be wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; by His stripes we are healed. The Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed yet opened not His mouth. He made His grave with the wicked and the rich. He made His soul an offering for sin. Philip used this passage to preach Jesus to the Ethiopian eunuch.

Isaiah 53:3-6

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:9-10

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin.

Acts 8:32-35

The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter... Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus.

1 Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Prophecies of His Triumph

The Resurrection Foretold — Thou Wilt Not Leave My Soul in Hell

David prophesied that God would not leave the Messiah's soul in Sheol nor allow His Holy One to see corruption. Peter at Pentecost declared this fulfilled in Christ's resurrection—David died and saw corruption, but the One he prophesied about did not. Christ's body did not decay in the tomb; on the third day He rose victoriously. The resurrection vindicates Christ's person and work, proving Him to be the Son of

God with power. Death could not hold Him because He had conquered sin, the sting of death.

Psalm 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

Acts 2:25-31

For David speaketh concerning him... Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption... He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

Acts 13:35-37

Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption: But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

Romans 1:4

And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ascension and Session — Sit Thou at My Right Hand

Psalm 110, the most quoted psalm in the New Testament, prophesies Messiah's ascension and heavenly session. The LORD said to David's Lord, 'Sit at my right hand until I make thine enemies thy footstool.' Jesus used this psalm to demonstrate His deity—David calls Him Lord. Peter declared this fulfilled in Christ's ascension. He now sits at God's right hand, ruling until all enemies are subdued. From this throne He exercises His priesthood after the order of Melchizedek, interceding for His people forever.

Psalm 110:1

The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Matthew 22:43-45

He saith unto them, How then doth David in spirit call him Lord, saying, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, till I make thine enemies thy footstool? If David then call him Lord, how is he his son?

Acts 2:34-36

For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Hebrews 1:13

But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool?

Hebrews 10:12-13

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.

Psalm 110:4

The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

His Eternal Kingdom — His Kingdom Shall Have No End

Daniel saw one like a Son of Man coming with the clouds of heaven, receiving an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away. The stone cut without hands struck the image and became a great mountain filling the earth—the kingdom of God crushing all earthly kingdoms. Gabriel announced to Mary that God would give Jesus the throne of His father David, and of His kingdom there shall be no end. Christ's kingdom is not of this world, yet it conquers all worldly powers and endures eternally.

Daniel 7:13-14

I saw in the night visions, and, behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

Luke 1:32-33

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Revelation 11:15

And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder... Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

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