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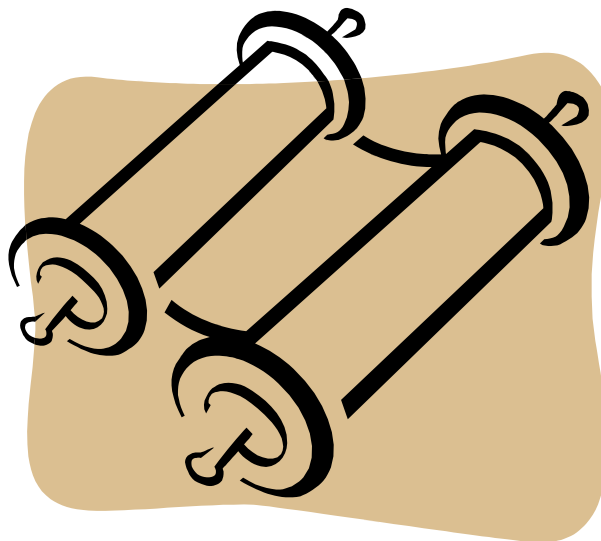
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The Jewish Messiah

Prophecies of the Bible and how Jesus fulfilled them



Who has ascended into heaven, or descended?

Who has gathered the wind in his fists?

Who has bound the waters in a garment?

Who has established all the ends of the earth?

*What is his name, and what is his son's name? –
If you know?*

Proverbs 30:1-4

Messiah” is Hebrew and “Christ” is Greek for “Anointed One.” God, through his prophets, anointed with oil the chosen kings of Israel. According to Daniel 7, the Messiah would be the greatest anointed king—the King of Kings. About him, Daniel wrote: “As my vision continued that night, I saw someone like a **son of man coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, honor, and sovereignty over all the nations of the world, so that people of every race and nation and language worshiped him. His rule is eternal—it will never end. His kingdom will never be destroyed” Daniel 7:13-14.

Daniel’s “Son of Man” was a title commonly used by the Jews when referring to the Messiah. Jesus fulfilled the role perfectly even though the Jewish rulers in Jerusalem couldn’t see it. During his trial, when the High Priest asked Jesus if he was the Messiah, he answered: “You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you will see the **Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power, and coming on the clouds of heaven**” (Matthew 26:64 & Mark 14:62). There could be no question in the minds of his listeners when Jesus used this key Messianic Scripture to declare that he was, indeed, the Messiah. They made the connection, but they did not believe him and convicted him of blasphemy.

Jesus referred to himself 84 times as ‘the Son of Man’ thus associating himself with Daniel’s Messianic title. When teaching his disciples, he said: “When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory” Matthew 25:31.

The day Jesus rode into Jerusalem to the Messianic praises of a crowd of Passover pilgrims, he fulfilled a key Scripture – Zechariah 9:9:

“Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.”

PERFECT FULLFILLMENT—HISTORICAL PROOF

The four gospels record several times that Jesus said he was fulfilling a prophecy of the Scriptures thus indicating he was the Messiah. Two branches in the stream of Messianic prophecy reveal:

- 1) prophecies of a kingly, triumphant Messiah;
- 2) prophecies of a suffering, redeemer-Messiah, righteous and bringing salvation. The Hebrew name Yeshua (Jesus) means God's Salvation.

Although the Scriptures foretold Jesus' mission, hindsight revealed that the Messiah was meant to suffer as the atonement for humankind's sin, return to heaven in glory, send his Holy Spirit to reign in the hearts of his own thereby spreading his Kingdom of light. And, in the fullness of time, specifically, after the "times of the Gentiles" have been fulfilled, Jesus will return in person to reign on David's throne. As recorded in Luke 21:23-24, Jesus prophesied: "There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled."

A couple of days before his crucifixion, Jesus prophesied while standing in the temple: "You will not see me here again until you learn to say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.'" As it is, the Jewish nation hasn't learned Jesus is their Messiah, but the Scriptures reveal that they will before he returns to the temple. Today, both Jews and Christians look forward to the temple being rebuilt so that the Messiah will come.

One day everyone will know and bow to Jesus as Messiah and Lord – as the Old Testament and New Testament words reveal:

1) Isaiah 45:22-23: "By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear."

2) Apostle Paul in Romans 14:9-11: "For this very reason, the Messiah (Christ) died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. ... For we will all

stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will confess to God.'

According to Luke 24:27, Jesus taught the disciples that he fulfilled Messianic prophecies: "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself."

In Luke: 24:44-49: "He said to them, 'This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.' Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them, 'This is what is written: "The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." You are witnesses of these things.'"

To the Jewish rulers, Jesus said: "If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me." (John 5:46).

The apostles taught that Jesus fulfilled the following Old Testament prophecies:

- "But this is how God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, saying that his Messiah would suffer" (Acts 3:18).
- "As his custom was, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. 'This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Messiah,' he said" (Acts 17:2-3).
- "For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that the Messiah died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures" (1Corinthians 15:3-4).

The following is a partial list of prophecies about the Messiah

- 1) **A prophet like unto Moses.** This was prophesied by Moses, himself: “The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the Lord your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.’ And the Lord said to me: ‘What they have spoken is good. I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear my words, which he speaks in my name, I will require it of him’” (Deuteronomy 18:15-19).
- 2) Like Moses, the Messiah would be a leader, a prophet, a lawgiver, a deliverer, a teacher, a priest, an anointed one, a mediator, a human, and one of God’s chosen people (a Jew) performing the role of intermediary between God and man—speaking the words of God. Both Moses and Jesus performed many miracles validating their message. As infants, both their lives were threatened by evil kings, and both were supernaturally protected from harm. Both spent their early years in Egypt. Both taught new truths from God. Both cured lepers (Numbers 12:10-15; Matthew 8:2-3) and confronted demonic powers. Both were initially doubted in their roles by their siblings. Moses lifted up the brazen serpent to heal all his people who had faith; Jesus was lifted up on the cross to heal all who would have faith in him. Moses appointed 70 elders to rule Israel (Numbers 11:16-17); Jesus appointed 70 disciples to teach the nations (Luke 10:1, 17). And there are many other parallels between the lives of Moses and Jesus.
- 3) **The Messiah would be a descendant of Noah’s son, Shem.** Noah said, “Blessed be the Lord God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant” (Genesis 9:26-27). Chapter 10 goes on to list descendants of Shem, noting that he was an ancestor of Eber (Luke 3:35), the founder of the Hebrew race.
- 4) He would be a descendant of **Shem** named **Abraham** (Genesis 22:18; 12: 17; 22). Fulfilled: See Christ’s genealogy in Matthew 1.
- 5) More specifically, he would be a descendant of **Abraham’s** son, **Isaac**, not Ishmael (Genesis 17; 21).

Fulfilled: See Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1.

- 6) **More specifically, he would be a descendant of Isaac's son, Jacob**, not Esau (Genesis 28; 35:10-12; Numbers 24:17). Fulfilled: See Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1.
- 7) **More specifically, he would be a descendant of Judah**, not of the other eleven brothers of Jacob. Fulfilled: See Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1.
- 8) **More specifically, he would be a descendant of the family of Jesse** in the tribe of Benjamin (Isaiah 11:1-5). Fulfilled: See Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1 and Luke 3:23-38.
- 9) **More specifically, he would be of the house of David** (2 Samuel 7:12-16; Jeremiah 23:5; Psalm 89:3-4). Fulfilled: See Christ's genealogy in Matthew 1; Luke 1:27, 32, 69. Note: Since the Jewish genealogical records were destroyed in 70 A.D., along with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple, it would not be possible for a Messiah imposter who was born later to prove his lineage back to David and thus fulfill this prophecy.
- 10) **He will be born in a small city called Bethlehem**, specifically the one formerly known as Ephrath (Micah 5:2). Fulfilled: Luke 2:4-20.
- 11) **He will be born of a virgin** (Isaiah 7:14). Fulfilled: Matthew 1; Luke 1.
- 12) **The Messiah would be the "seed of a woman" come to destroy the work of the Devil**. God prophesied to the

serpent Satan, "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). The implication was that Eve's descendant would undo the damage that Satan had caused.

- 13) The "seed of the woman" can only be an allusion to a future descendant of Eve who would have no human father. Biologically, a woman produces no seed, and except in this case biblical usage always speaks only of the seed of men. This promised seed would, therefore, have to be miraculously implanted in the womb. In this way, he would not inherit the sin nature which would disqualify every son of Adam from becoming a Savior from sin. This prophecy thus clearly anticipates the future virgin birth of Christ.
- 14) **He will be a priest after the order of Melchizedek** (Psalm 110:4). Fulfilled: Hebrews 5:6
- 15) **The scepter shall not pass from the tribe of Judah until the Messiah comes**. He will come before Israel loses its right to judge her own people. The patriarch Jacob prophesied this: "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be" (Genesis 49:10). As Dr. Henry M. Morris' *The Defender's Bible* explains: This

important prophecy has been strikingly fulfilled. Although Judah was neither Jacob's firstborn son nor the son who would produce the priestly tribe, he was the son through whom God would fulfill his promises to Israel and to the world. The leadership, according to Jacob, was to go to Judah, but this did not happen for over 600 years. Moses came from Levi, Joshua from Ephraim, Gideon from Manasseh, Samson from Dan, Samuel from Ephraim and Saul from Benjamin. But when David finally became king, Judah held the scepter and did not relinquish it until after Shiloh came. "Shiloh" is a name for the Messiah, probably related to the Hebrew word for "peace" (*shalom*) and meaning in effect, "the one who brings peace." According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the Sanhedrin of Israel lost the right to truly judge its own people when it lost the right to pass death penalties in 11 A.D. (Josephus, *Antiquities*, Book 17, Chapter 13). Jesus Christ was certainly born before 11 A.D.

- 16) **He will come while the temple of Jerusalem is standing** (Malachi 3:1; Psalm 118:26; Daniel 9:26; Zechariah 11:13; Haggai 2:7-9). Fulfilled: Matthew 21:12, etc. (Note: The temple did not exist at certain periods in Jewish history, and it was finally destroyed in 70 A.D.)
- 17) **He will perform many miracles** (Isaiah 35:5-6). Fulfillment: See list of "Miracles Recorded in the Gospels."

- 18) **He will open the eyes of the blind** (Isaiah 29:18). Fulfillment: Matthew 9:27-31; 12:22; 20:29; Mark 8:22-26; 10:46; Luke 11:14; 18:35; John 9:1-7.
- 19) **He will speak in parables** (Psalm 78:2). Fulfillment: Matthew 13:34.
- 20) **The Gentiles will believe in him, while his own people (the Jews) will reject him** (Isaiah 8:14; 28:16; 49:6; 50:6; 60:3; Psalms 22:7-8; 118:22). Fulfillment: 1 Peter 2:7.
- 21) **A messenger (a man of the wilderness) will prepare the way for him** (Isaiah 40:3; Malachi 3:1). See John the Baptist (Matthew 3:1-3; 11:10; John 1:23; Luke 1:17).
- 22) **The exact day he revealed himself publicly to Israel**—and subsequent death. The precise timing of Jesus' crucifixion was also given to the Jews when God revealed to the prophet Daniel (9:24) how the Jews could calculate the day of the revealing of the Messiah. Talking of a 490 year period, the prophet foresaw that it would begin "from the going forth of the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem" (9:25). In the book of Nehemiah we learn that this command was given "in the month Nisan (on the Hebrew calendar), in the twentieth year of the king" (2:1). The king was Artaxerxes Longimanus who ruled from 465 to 425 B.C. The prophet Daniel said that 483 years from that date, the Messiah would be revealed to Israel, but he would then "be cut off, but not for

himself" (9:26). This prophecy refers to the crucifixion when Jesus died, or was cut off, for the sins of the world. 483 years later, to the day, was Sunday, April 6, 32 A.D. On that day, which we commemorate as Palm Sunday, Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and revealed himself as Israel's Messiah. He was killed four days later, thus fulfilling the prophecy that he would be revealed and then slain.

- 23) **He will enter Jerusalem riding a donkey** (the colt of an ass) (Zechariah 9:9). Fulfillment: Matt. 21:5; Luke 19:32-37.
- 24) **He will be hated for no reason** (Psalm 69:4). Fulfillment: John 15:25.
- 25) **He will be betrayed** (Psalm 41:9). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:3-10.
- 26) **More specifically, he will be betrayed by a friend** (Psalm 41:9). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:3-10; 26:47-48.
- 27) **The price of his betrayal will be thirty pieces of silver** (Zechariah 11:12). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:3-10.
- 28) **The betrayal money will be cast onto the floor** (Zechariah 11:13). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:5.
- 29) **More specifically, it will be cast onto the floor of the Temple** (Zechariah 11:13). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:3-10.
- 30) **The betrayal money will be used to buy a potter's field** (Zechariah 11:13). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:6-10.
- 31) **He will not open his mouth to defend himself** (Isaiah 53:7). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:12.
- 32) **He will be beaten and spit upon** (Isaiah 50:6). Fulfillment: Matthew 26:67; 27:26-30.
- 33) **He will be "numbered with the transgressors"** (Isaiah 53:12). Fulfillment: Jesus was crucified as a criminal in between two thieves (Matthew 27:38).
- 34) **He will be pierced** (Zechariah 12:10). Fulfillment: John 19:34
- 35) **His hands and feet will be pierced** (Psalm 22:16; cf. Zechariah 12:10; Galatians 3:13).
- 36) **Crucifixion foretold.** Psalm 22 graphically prophecies the Messiah's manner of death. At the time the psalm was written (and long after), the penalty for blasphemy was stoning. However, at the time Jesus was condemned by the Sanhedrin, it no longer had the legal right to put people to death. Thus, the case was taken to the Roman governor Pontius Pilate who crucified him according to Roman custom.
- 37) **The Jewish Passover sacrifice and Jesus' sacrificial death coincide exactly.** The date on which Jesus was crucified coincided precisely with the Jewish Passover. Jesus became the Passover Lamb, "without blemish."

At the first Passover, described in Exodus 12, God instructed the Israelites to kill a lamb with no blemishes and to put its blood on their door posts. When the angel of death passed through Egypt where the Israelites were being held as slaves, the angel would pass by any house that had the blood of a Passover lamb on its door posts. Jesus fulfilled Moses' prophecy of the Passover Lamb because it is through his unblemished, sinless blood that we can be saved from, or passed over by, death.

- 38) **His bones will not be broken** (Psalm 34:20; Exodus 12) states that the Passover lamb's bones are not to be broken.). Fulfillment: John 19:33.
- 39) **They will divide his clothing and cast lots for them** (Psalm 22:18). Fulfillment: John 19:23-24.
- 40) **He will be given vinegar and gall to drink** (Psalm 69:21). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:34, 48.

- 41) **He will say: "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"** (Psalm 22:1). Fulfillment: Matthew 27:46.
- 42) **He will be buried with the rich** (Isaiah 53:9). Fulfillment: Matthew 27.
- 43) **He will not decay** (Psalm 16:10). Fulfillment: Acts 2:31
- 44) **He will be resurrected from the dead** (Psalm 16:10). Fulfillment: Acts 2:31.
- 45) **He will ascend into heaven** (Psalm 68:18). Fulfillment: Acts 1:9.
- 46) **He will be seated at the right hand of God** (Psalm 110:1). Fulfillment: Hebrews 1:3.
- 47) **He will be the Son of God** (Psalm 2:7). Fulfilled: Matthew 3:17.

"Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in his fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is his name, and what is his son's name?—If you know?

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