

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

JROC – 1/6/19

WHY?

What is the OT?

The OT is the first part of the Christian Bible that tells us: Who God is; God's creation; SIN; man's separation from God because of sin (Isa. 59:2); man's bondage to sin, Satan, and death; God's plan for mankind re: redemption from bondage to sin, Satan, and death; His creation of the nations (70 – Gen. 10) and His creation of the nation of Israel; God's covenant with Abraham (the Abrahamic Covenant is UNCONDITIONAL (the fulfillment of God's promises is NOT conditional upon Israel's obedience but on God's promise that HE would deliver) and UNILATERAL (it's one-sided – the fulfillment of God's promises is dependent upon God ALONE. The FULFILLMENT of what God PROMISED Abraham is NOT contingent on Israel's obedience). In the OT we read of Israel's history and how Israel impacts the world. We read of Israel's disobedience and its consequences, Israel's exile, Israel's return to the land, and the continued disobedience of Israel in the book of Malachi. Since the Abrahamic Covenant hasn't yet been fulfilled...as the Jews don't have all the land that God promised...and Jesus hasn't yet returned to set up the Millennial Kingdom...there is a CONTINUING STORY from Genesis through the end of Revelation.

“Old” as in the OT, does NOT mean that the OT is extinct and of no purpose since we have the NT.

Who is the Messiah?

“Messiah” is the Hebrew for anointed. “Christ” is the Greek for anointed. In the OT, anointed means to be anointed with oil – to be set apart for a specific function. Many messiahs in the OT: prophets, priests, and kings were all anointed with oil. “The” Messiah is Jesus Who is Prophet (He is the Word of God; a prophet speaks a word); He is a Priest (He offered the ultimate sacrifice and that sacrifice was Himself. Currently He is our Great High Priest seated at the right hand of God the Father in heaven); and He is King – He is the King of Israel (the Magi sought to find the King of the Jews and found Jesus in a home in Bethlehem and they worshipped Him as King

In this study we're going to be digging into Scripture and discussing the prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament – before He came as Emmanuel.

WHY?

- To prove Jesus' identity. Studying Messianic prophecy in the OT is a study in apologetics – presenting a defense as to Jesus' divinity – proving that He is God – that He is the PROMISED Messiah.
- To prove that the Bible is a unified, inspired book. We will understand the PROMISES of the Messiah and their FULFILLMENT.
- And, with our study, we're going to grasp the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

A very BROAD rundown that someone wrote concerning studying Messianic prophecies:

- We've been told that there are over 300 Messianic prophecies in the OT. Some are direct; some are not so direct. (Direct: He would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah;

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He would be crucified. Indirect: *Isa. 53:9 - they made His grave with the wicked, but with the rich at His death*, He would hang between two thieves and then be buried in Joseph of Aramathea's tomb.)

- Understand the context. Is the passage speaking of a messiah or "the" Messiah? King Saul was called anointed (I Sam. 24:10); King David called himself God's anointed one (I Sam. 16:13) = because Kings were anointed. Messiah means "anointed". These human kings were NOT "THE MESSIAH".
- Learn the various titles of "the Messiah": Servant of the Lord; Star; Branch.

I'm going to present the OT as a Messianic document, written from a Messianic perspective (from eternity past through the last chapter in Revelation, God unfolds His plan of Redemption through the Redeemer Who is the Messiah) to sustain a Messianic hope (a glorious future for the world according to God's original plan!)

Is Christmas part of God's plan? YES! WHY? God entered this world in the flesh – in Jesus, the Son of God/God the Son, the Anointed One, the Messiah, the Promised One. And we have been forever changed. What do we read in the first chapter of Matthew? The book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus on Joseph's side. Joseph was from the tribe of Judah – the kingly line.

Matt. 1:1 - *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*: Matt. 1:1 is CRUCIAL to our understanding of Jesus and of the Bible! It's in NEON – due to this genealogy – that the NT is a continuation of the OT.

During Biblical times, the Jewish people put great stock in genealogies. Firstly, "genealogy" means origin. Genealogies proved that a person was indeed a descendant of Abraham, Isaac. Genealogies recorded tribal lineage. Your genealogy determined what land you rec'd based on your tribe. Genealogy was also crucial in determining the priesthood. The law specified that the priests must come from the tribe of Levi. Genealogy also helped determine who would be king - only those who were of the tribe of Judah. Luke 2:1, 3 - "*In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world ... And everyone went to his own town to register.*" That meant that each man must return to his ancestral hometown—the town from which his family had originally come. But the only way you could be sure about your ancestral hometown was to know your genealogy. The Jewish people knew their lineage!

Matthew's genealogy begins with David which is most odd for a Jewish genealogy. Genealogies either begin or end with the elder. Abraham precedes David...yet, David is first!! The people knew that the Messiah would be the "Son of David"! There was a great desire for the Messiah at this time in Israel's history.

Joseph was from King David's line as noted in the genealogy in Matt. 1. Joseph was not a King. He was a carpenter. What happened? God's plan! A curse was placed on King Jeconiah from the tribe of Judah prior to the exile to Babylon. Jeconiah, also called "Jehoiachin" (1 Chronicles 3:16, NIV) and "Coniah" (Jeremiah 22:24). As king of Judah at the time of Babylon's invading Jerusalem, he was deported as part of the Babylonian

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captivity (1 Chronicles 3:17). He is also listed in the genealogy of Jesus, in Joseph's family line (Matthew 1:12). The curse of Jeconiah is found in Jeremiah 22. First, the LORD likens the king to a signet ring on God's hand—a ring that God will pull off (verse 24). Then, God pronounces a curse: "Record this man as if childless, a man who will not prosper in his lifetime, for none of his offspring will prosper, none will sit on the throne of David or rule anymore in Judah" (verse 30). What about Jesus? Does this curse of Jeconiah invalidate Jesus' right to the throne of David? The Davidic Covenant promised that the Messiah, the "Son of David," would reign forever on King David's throne in Jerusalem (I Chron. 17:11-14). If Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah, how can Jesus be the Messiah? The Messiah would be King (Psa. 2:6-8 - *Yet I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion.*) <sup>7</sup> *"I will declare the decree: \the LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.* <sup>8</sup> *Ask of Me, and I will give You the nations for Your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for Your possession.)*

God's divine plan: directly following Jesus' genealogy through Joseph in Matthew, we read of Mary – and the solution.... Matt. 1:18 - *Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit.* The virgin birth is the solution. Joseph was Jesus' legal father but not His physical father.

What proof we have re: Jesus through both Joseph and Mary's genealogies! And, in the Bible we do NOT hear of the genealogies being opposed. The NT begins with such a strong connection to the OT. Separate yourself from the OT? Jesus didn't!

How can we separate our understanding from the OT when we read of Gabriel's visit to Zacharias who was offering incense before the veil in the Temple in Jerusalem:

Luke 1:13-17 - <sup>13</sup> *But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias, for your prayer is heard; and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.* <sup>14</sup> *And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth.* <sup>15</sup> *For he*

*will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. <sup>16</sup> And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. <sup>17</sup> He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."*

Note the connection to the book of Malachi:

Mal. 4:5-6 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. <sup>6</sup> And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.*

Some Bible scholars do not see that John the baptizer/immersed was spoken of in Malachi.

In Luke 1:17 we are told that John would *make ready a people prepared for the Lord*. Isa. 40:3 - tells us of the one who could come who would be *the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*