

## MESSIAH IN THE OT

### JROC

Week 3 – Jan. 20, 2019

### The Messianic Hope in the OT

In theological circles Gen. 3:15 has been called the *protoevangelium* which means the “first gospel”. Gospel – good news. What is the good news found in Gen. 3:15? Given against the backdrop of sin and judgment, God promised hope in the provision of the resolution of sin.

In looking at Gen. 3:15 within the context of what was known at the time in the Garden of Eden, what do we observe?

God’s cursing the serpent declares that there would be continual enmity between the serpent, seen as an adversary (Ha Satan – the adversary), and the human race; that the power of the adversary would eventually be overcome by a human, and that in the process of destroying the power of the adversary, this human, the “Seed” of the woman, would suffer but would NOT die.

What did Adam and Eve understand at that time?

As we read passages that cause us to wonder...there is one word that we need to embrace: FAITH! Read Hebrews 11!

We are going to study the prophecies concerning Jesus in the OT:

- 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 (I Pet. 3:15).
  - Was is important to prove Jesus’ identity in Jesus’ day – at His first coming? How would you know this One they called Rabbi was the Promised One, the Messiah?
    - Even John the Immerser wondered if Jesus was the One for Whom they were waiting (Matt. 11:2-6).
    - And, it seemed as if the majority of the Jewish people were looking for a conquering King to overthrow Rome.
    - BUT, look at all who MARVELED at the angelic visitations (to Zacharias, to Mary, to Joseph....) and the messages coming from God in about 6 BC!

○ AND, there were those like Simeon, a devout Jew in Jerusalem (Luke 2:25-35) who was looking for “the Consolation of Israel. AND, there was Anna ( Luke 2:36-38) who was a widow for 84 years, not departing from the Temple, who...when she saw the infant Jesus brought into the Temple by Mary and Joseph – knew that He was the

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Redeemer. And Anna spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

- To prove that the Bible is a unified, inspired book with a message of redemption! We will understand the PROMISES of the Messiah and their FULFILLMENT.
  - The fulfillment...centuries/millennia after the promises were made!
- And, with our study, we’re going to grasp the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

Re: studying Messianic prophecies, one Bible teacher has offered a very BROAD rundown concerning studying Messianic prophecies that has been voiced by other teachers as well:

- We’ve been told that there are over 300 Messianic prophecies in the OT. Some are direct; some are not so direct, and some are foreshadowings/types. (Direct: He would be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah; 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. Types/ Foreshadowings: Isaac has been seen as a type of Jesus. WHY? He was obedient to his father and was willing to be sacrificed after having carried the wood to the area of Mount Moriah.)
- The teacher who suggested how to study Messianic prophecies asked in his article: “How do we find these Messianic prophecies? We’re told to study the Word of God and ask God for wisdom!?”
  - The teacher then suggested that we need to 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). BUT - what are we to understand through these kings? These human kings were NOT “THE MESSIAH”. Israel was always looking for the GREATER KING! Israel was to WAIT for “the” Messiah!
    - Learn the various titles of “the Messiah”: Servant of the Lord; Star; Branch.
    - Link OT prophecies with NT fulfillment.

What do you think of that approach?

More than discussing what may be understood as fragmented prophecies concerning Jesus in the Old Testament, this study will present the OT as...

- A Messianic document - within the OT we read of a Messianic theme.
- 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 w/ the Messiah ruling and reigning and the kingdom of God being delivered to man...and man once again being given dominion (Dan. 7:13-14, 27)

SO - how do we understand Christmas? Is Christmas part of God's plan? WHY? Who is God? God is TRANSCENDENT – He is above time and space. AND, God is IMMANENT – He is near. God is a PERSONAL God Who COMMUNICATES. God entered this world in the flesh – in Jesus, the Son of God/God the Son, the Anointed One,

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the Messiah, the Promised One. And we have been forever changed. We cannot tuck Christmas away until the following December!

The book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus on Joseph's side. This is Joseph's genealogy which proves that those within this genealogy have the right to become king. Joseph was from the tribe of Judah – the kingly line.

The beginning of the NT:

Matt. 1:1 - *The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham*: The NT begins with an OT genealogy linking Jesus with David and Abraham.

The plan of God within the narrative continues and this genealogy provides the solution to what Malachi wrote in Mal. 4:5-6 - *Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 6 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.* The solution: JESUS!

During Biblical times, the Jewish people were glued to genealogies. WHY?

“Genealogy” means origin; they were most important. Genealogies proved that a person was indeed a descendant of Abraham, Isaac (through whom the promise would come [Gen. 21:12; Rom. 9:7]. Take note of that word PROMISE; underline it; highlight it) and Jacob (the father of the 12 tribes of Israel). Genealogies recorded tribal lineage. Genealogies 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. Only those who were of the tribe of Judah could serve as kings. The Jewish people knew their lineage!

Matthew's genealogy begins with David which is very odd for a Jewish genealogy.

WHY? Genealogies either begin or end with the elder. Abraham precedes David – yet, David is first!! WHY? They knew that the Messiah would be the “Son of David”! The message in the genealogy of Jesus in Matthew 1 was indeed in neon to the Jewish people. It was announcing that the Messiah had come! When we read of Jesus being called the “Son of David” in the Gospels, that is a Messianic title!

Joseph, Mary's betrothed husband, is from the tribe of Judah and he is not noted as a king in the NT. Joseph was a Carpenter. What happened? Why wasn't Joseph a king? The kings of Israel were all wicked. And out of the 20 kings of Judah, only eight were considered righteous! A curse was placed on King Jeconiah from the tribe of Judah. Joseph came through the lineage of Jeconiah. Jeconiah was a king of Judah who was deported as part of the [Babylonian captivity](#) ([Esther 2:6](#); [1 Chronicles 3:17](#)). The curse of Jeconiah is found in [Jeremiah 22](#). 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

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descendant of Jeconiah through Joseph, 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.) DIRECTLY following Jesus' genealogy through Joseph, 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. Mary was of King David's line; she was of the tribe of Judah (Luke 3:23 [Heli]) but her lineage didn't come through David's son, King Solomon. Mary's lineage was through David's other son, Nathan And, Jeconiah was not in Nathan's lineage. Joseph was Jesus' legal father but not His physical father.

At Jesus' incarnation...when He was born in Bethlehem, He was not considered a King. AND yet, the Magi came to look for the King of the Jews and they worshipped Him as such!