

MESSIAH IN THE OT

Week 2 – What about Christmas?

January 29, 2019

We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, wrote, Yeshua of Nazareth (John 1:45)

Following Jesus' immersion in the Jordan which was His announcement to Israel that He had come, two of John the Baptizer's disciples followed Jesus.

John 1:38-42 - *They said to Him, "Rabbi" (which is to say, when translated, Teacher), "where are You staying?" 39 He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where He was staying, and remained with Him that day (now it was about the tenth hour). 40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah". 42 And he brought him to Jesus.*

The next day, Jesus, desiring to go to Galilee, found Philip and said, *Follow Me. ... Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found Him of whom Moses in the law, and also the prophets, wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.'*

The late Bible teacher, Chuck Missler said, we can *present Jesus as the Messiah entirely from the OT.*

Comments to Abe, the Holocaust survivor, after Abe asked: "Why can't you believe what you believe, and I'll believe what I believe?"

"I believe in the one true God, the God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I believe that God created the universe. God is the Creator. He created man and placed them in the Garden of Eden. I believe Adam and Eve sinned and were separated from God. I believe that God promised that the Jewish Messiah would come to reconcile man to God. The Messiah came to die for our sins and will return as a conquering King. I believe God called Abram and brought him to the land of Canaan which became Israel. I believe God created the nation of Israel through Jacob (Isa. 43:1) whose name was changed to Israel. I believe that while the Jewish people have been scattered throughout the world and persecuted, the modern nation of Israel is a miracle. I believe that God has chosen Israel as a nation to accomplish His purposes. I believe that God desires each Jewish and Gentile person to have a personal relationship with Him through the Jewish Messiah. The bottom line is 'how are your sins forgiven?'"

I then shared Isa. 33:14-24 with Abe concerning those who will see the King, the Messiah, on high/in heaven, will be those whose sins are forgiven. And, based on God's law in Lev. 17:11 – forgiveness of sin must always be through a BLOOD sacrifice!

Do you think the OT – the entire OT - teaches a Messianic hope?

Through this study is grasping the doctrine of the Messiah in the OT – the theme of the Messiah in the OT before Bethlehem.

WHY?

Firstly, because our study of God’s word will glorify/exalt/magnify GOD!

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Secondly, our study of the Messiah in the OT may very well cause us to love Jesus more deeply.

Thirdly, our knowledge of Jesus from the OT will give us more confidence in sharing Jesus with those who don’t yet know Him!

Fourthly, our study of the Messiah in the OT will validate/will prove the OT!

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 (I Pet. 3:15)
 - Was it important to prove Jesus’ identity in Jesus’ day – at His first coming? Matt. 3:1 – John was the herald of the Messiah – John was preaching, “Repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand.” The long-promised Kingdom of God was near because the King was near. Matt. 4:17 - Jesus was preaching, “Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand.” Jesus was essentially telling the Jewish people during His ministry on earth, “Here I am, I’m the King, I’m the Messiah.”
 - If, as some teachers state, the Messiah is not found in the OT, don’t you think the men gathering at the Jordan River would say about this stranger from Galilee, Jesus, “Who is this? How do we know You’re the Messiah? What is a Messiah anyway?”
 - In all seriousness, do you think the question on the table was, “How do we know this Jesus is the One Who has been promised?”
 - How did Philip know that Jesus was the One of Whom Moses wrote?
 - It had been 30+ years (Jesus was 30 years old when He began His ministry [Luke 3:23] since Gabriel appeared to John the Baptizer’s father, Zacharias, and spoke of Elizabeth giving birth to a son, John, who would serve God as the herald of the Messiah (Isa. 40:3); and we read of the people marveling at what Zacharias shared with them at John’s circumcision and naming ceremony. Did word spread?
 - It had been 30+ years since Gabriel appeared to Mary, a young Jewish virgin living in Nazareth, and told her that she would conceive through the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Son of the Most High.
 - It had been 30 years since the angel appeared to the Jewish shepherds in the field north of Bethlehem and told them of the birth of the One Who had been promised: *there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Messiah the Lord.*

• Luke 2:17-18 - *Now when they had seen Him, they made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. ¹⁸ And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds.*

○ If you lived in that time, how would you recognize the Messiah? How would you know this One that was being called “Rabbi” was the Promised One, the Messiah?

○ Even John the Baptizer 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.

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○ BUT, there were those who marveled at the angelic visitations and the messages coming from God in approx. 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” – the comfort, the peace 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 this infant was the Redeemer. And Anna spoke of Him to all those who looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

• We are studying the prophecies about Jesus in the OT to prove that the Bible is a unified, inspired book with a message of REDEMPTION! Some teach that it isn’t until we see Jesus in the Gospels that we can fit the prophecies together re: the Messiah. NO! We need to read the OT...understanding the intent of God in communicating with Israel and with the nations of the world at the time. God communicated in those days, in OT times, His message of REDEMPTION!

• And, with our study, we’re going to grasp the BIG PICTURE of the Bible.

CREATION FALL REDEMPTION RESTORATION

○ CREATION: God created a perfect world for man; man would have dominion (rule, nurture, serve the earth) (Gen. 1:26), and serve as God’s representative on earth

○ FALL: Man’s response: sin/rebellion (Gen. 3)

○ REDEMPTION: God provides the solution for sin (Gen. 3:15) the story of which is then unfolded throughout Scripture through to Revelation 19

○ RESTORATION: Revelation 20 and 21 – Millennial Kingdom and the new heavens and the new earth, the New Jerusalem

Suggestions re: understanding Messianic prophecies in Scripture: :

• There are over 300 Messianic prophecies in the OT. Some are direct; some indirect; 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. Isaac was obedient to his father and was willing to be sacrificed after having carried the wood to the area of Mount Moriah.
- How do we find these Messianic prophecies? Study the Word of God and ask God for wisdom!
- 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).
- 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?

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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)

Is Christmas part of God's plan? 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. We cannot tuck Christmas away until the following December!

The books of Matthew and Luke begin with the account of Jesus' incarnation. Matthew tells us about the Jewish shepherds. Luke tells us about the Gentile Magi. How do we understand the two groups? Gen. 12:3 – all are offered God's plan of Redemption. The Messiah would be for Jacob/Israel and for the Gentiles. Isa. 49:6 - *It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.* God's plan of salvation is offered to both Jews and Gentiles. Always has been.

The book of Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus on Joseph's side. This is Joseph's genealogy which proves the right to become king. Joseph was from the tribe of Judah – the kingly line. Was Joseph a king?

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! Genealogies are most significant. It's in NEON, from this genealogy, that the NT is a continuation of the OT.

The plan of God continues from the OT into the NT. AND, the first verse in Matthew 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. "Genealogy" means origin. Genealogies proved that a person was indeed a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Genealogies recorded tribal lineage. The Jewish genealogy determined what land you received 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.

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Genealogy also helped determine who would be king - only those who were of the tribe of Judah. 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"!

Why wasn't Joseph a king? Joseph was in King David's line. A curse was placed on King Jeconiah from the tribe of Judah.

Jer. 22:30 - *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.* Joseph came through the lineage of Jeconiah.

Does this curse of Jeconiah invalidate Jesus' right to the throne of David? If Jesus is a descendant of Jeconiah, how can Jesus be the Messiah? The Messiah would be King (Psa. 2:6-8). 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.

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!

This is how the NT begins with such a connection to the OT. Separate yourself from the OT? Jesus didn't!!

Luke 1:5-22 - In the days of Herod the King of Judea, we read of a "certain priest," Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth was barren and both were "well advanced in years." While Zacharias was serving before God, burning incense before the Lord in the temple, before the veil, in front of the Holy of Holies, the angel, Gabriel, appeared to Zacharias. Luke 1:13-17 - *¹³ 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. ¹⁴ And you will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord their God. ¹⁷ 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."*

Does v. 17 sound familiar? Are these the words of God through 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. 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.*

There are those who do not see that John the Baptizer was spoken of in Malachi. In Luke 1:17 we are told that John would *make ready a people prepared for the Lord.*

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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.*

When the Angel Gabriel was sent to Mary to tell her of the child she would bear, what did Gabriel share with her? Luke 1:30-33 - *Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest (Psa. 2); and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David (II Sam. 7:16. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.*

Christmas speaks to the ONE STORY of Scripture!

Questions

Was everything clear? If not, re: what do you need clarification?

Any V8 moments? Any new information? What did you learn?

Any disagreements?

How will this lesson impact your walk with the Lord?

Suggested Homework

Reread the handout with the Bible references.

Jot down your questions.

Jot down your observations of the passages.

Share what you learned with someone.

Read the handout for Week 3 prior to next Tuesday.

Write down your observations and questions re: Gen. 3:15.