

The Messiah in the Old Testament

**What kind of Messiah were the Prophets of the Old Testament picturing?
What would he look like?**

Goals:

1. To understand how Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.
 2. To be able to show a Jewish person who the Messiah was prophesied to be from the Old Testament.
 3. To strengthen our faith and understanding of Old Testament prophecies concerning the Messiah.
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I. The Uniqueness of Messiah's Birth:

- A. The first Messianic prophecy in the Bible = A promise that the serpent's head-crusher would come from "the seed of the woman":

Genesis 3:14-15

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life;

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

- B. The Seed of the *Woman*???

1. Unusual in scripture, because lineage was determined by the man.
2. Women were rarely mentioned in Biblical history unless they did something that specifically effected Israel or its history (Rehab, Ruth, Debra).

- C. The Sign of the Woman:

Isaiah 7:14

"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel."

1. A SIGN is something unusual, not normal... something miraculous or attention getting.
2. Rabbi's today try to tell us that the Hebrew word for "virgin" that Isaiah used (almah) only means young woman.
 - a. But how would that be unusual and a sign? Young women always give birth to children. It Happens all the time!
 - b. Isaiah uses the word "almah" which can mean young women, maiden, or virgin.
 - c. While "bethulah" is the better Hebrew word for virgin, "almah" can also mean virgin when in the context of a young unmarried women.
 - d. Almah is used in 6 other places in the Hebrew Scriptures, and it always means virgin.
 - e. About 250 years before Christ, 70 Jewish scholars got together to translate the Old Testament into Greek (i.e. the Septuagint) they translated alma (Hebrew) = parthenos (Greek), which always and only means virgin.

3. This virgin birth explains Gen 3:15 - it has to be the woman's seed (Jesus) that crushes the head of Satan, for she was a virgin and no man was involved in the birth.

II. The Birth Place of Messiah

Micah 5:2

"But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity."

- A. Micah tells us that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem
 B. This was common knowledge for the Rabbis of Jesus Day:

Matthew 2:1-6,

"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, ² "Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They said to him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet: ⁶ 'AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL."

- C. Messiah's Origins are from long ago, from the days of eternity – (will discuss this more later).

III. The Lineage of Messiah

- A. The seed line came down through Seth, Noah, Shem, and eventually Abraham - through whom all the nations of the earth would be blessed.

Genesis 12:1-3

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go forth from your country, And from your relatives And from your father's house, To the land which I will show you;

² And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

³ And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed."

- B. Of Abraham's sons, the promised seed was to come through Isaac:

Genesis 21:12

¹² But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the lad and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be called.

Genesis 26:2-4

² The LORD appeared to him (*Isaac*) and said, "Do not go down to Egypt; stay in the land of which I shall tell you.

³ "Sojourn in this land and I will be with you and bless you, for to you and to your descendants I will give all these lands, and I will establish the oath which I swore to your father Abraham.

⁴ "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven, and will give your descendants all these lands; and by your descendants all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

Romans 9:6-9

⁶ But *it is* not as though the word of God has failed. For they are not all Israel who are *descended* from Israel;

⁷ nor are they all children because they are Abraham's descendants, but: "THROUGH ISAAC YOUR DESCENDANTS WILL BE NAMED."

⁸ That is, it is not the children of the flesh who are children of God, but the children of the promise are regarded as descendants.

⁹ For this is the word of promise: "AT THIS TIME I WILL COME, AND SARAH SHALL HAVE A SON."

C. And of Isaac's two sons - the seed would be of Jacob:

Genesis 28:10-15

¹⁰ Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

¹³ And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie, I will give it to you and to your descendants.

¹⁴ "Your descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you."

Romans 9:10-13

¹⁰ And not only this, but there was Rebekah also, when she had conceived *twins* by one man, our father Isaac;

¹¹ for though *the twins* were not yet born and had not done anything good or bad, so that God's purpose according to *His* choice would stand, not because of works but because of Him who calls, ¹² it was said to her, "THE OLDER WILL SERVE THE YOUNGER."

¹³ Just as it is written, "JACOB I LOVED, BUT ESAU I HATED."

D. Jacob would then become Israel:

Genesis 35:9-12

⁹ Then God appeared to Jacob again when he came from Paddan-aram, and He blessed him.

¹⁰ God said to him, "Your name is Jacob; You shall no longer be called Jacob, But Israel shall be your name." Thus He called him Israel.

¹¹ God also said to him, "I am God Almighty; Be fruitful and multiply; A nation and a company of nations shall come from you, And kings shall come forth from you.

¹² "The land which I gave to Abraham and Isaac, I will give it to you, And I will give the land to your descendants after you."

1. Within Israel, and no other nation, was the prophetic shout of a king among them:

- Balak, King of Moab, summons Balaam to curse Israel:

Numbers 23:18-21

¹⁸ Then he took up his discourse and said, "Arise, O Balak, and hear; Give ear to me, O son of Zippor!"

²⁰ "Behold, I have received *a command* to bless; When He has blessed, then I cannot revoke it.

²¹ "He has not observed misfortune in Jacob; Nor has He seen trouble in Israel; The LORD his God is with him, And the shout of a king is among them.

Numbers 24:2-9

² And Balaam lifted up his eyes and saw Israel camping tribe by tribe; and the Spirit of God came upon him.

³ He took up his discourse and said... And his seed *will be* by many waters, And his king shall be higher than Agag, And his kingdom shall be exalted.

⁹ "He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him? Blessed is everyone who blesses you, And cursed is everyone who curses you."

2. This king from Israel will come with the sign of a star (1ST coming) and a scepter (2nd coming):

Numbers 24:15; 17-19

¹⁵ He took up his discourse and said, "...I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near; A star shall come forth from Jacob, A scepter shall rise from Israel, And shall crush through the forehead of Moab, And tear down all the sons of Sheth.

¹⁹ "One from Jacob shall have dominion."

E. But Of Israel's 12 sons it was only to be from Judah "to whom it pertains."

1. Genesis 49:8-10

⁸ "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; Your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; Your father's sons shall bow down to you.

⁹ "Judah is a lion's whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He couches, he lies down as a lion, And as a lion, who dares rouse him up?

¹⁰ "The scepter shall not depart from Judah, Nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, Until Shiloh comes, And to him *shall be* the obedience of the peoples.

2. Shiloh means "He whose right it is" or "to whom it belongs" – so verse 10 could read "Until he comes **to whom it belongs**" (the king's scepter)
3. Rabbis say this is a Messianic term: "Shiloh."

F. And from within the tribe of Judah only one Household: the **House of David**

1. There would be the particular household within Judah that the Lord would use to bring forth the ruler - "whose right it is" and "to whom it belongs."
2. God bestowed very important promises in blessing David; spoken by Nathan the prophet after the Ark of the Covenant had been brought up to Jerusalem (2 Sam 7 and 1Chr 17).

2 Samuel 7:8-16

⁸ "Now therefore, thus you shall say to My servant David, 'Thus says the LORD of hosts, "I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, to be ruler over My people Israel.

⁹ "I have been with you wherever you have gone and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make you a great name, like the names of the great men who are on the earth.

¹⁰ "I will also appoint a place for My people Israel and will plant them, that they may live in their own place and not be disturbed again, nor will the wicked afflict them any more as formerly,

¹¹ ...and I will give you rest from all your enemies...

¹² "When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom.

¹³ "He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

¹⁵ ...My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took *it* away from Saul, whom I removed from before you.

¹⁶ "Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever."

3. That son spoken here is none other than King Solomon. And through Solomon would eventually come Joseph the father of Jesus (and wife of Mary):

Mathew 1:5-7; 15-16

"Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. ⁶ Jesse was the father of David the king. David was the father of Solomon by Bathsheba who had been the wife of Uriah. ⁷ Solomon was the father of Rehoboam, Rehoboam the father of Abijah... Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob. ¹⁶ Jacob was the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, by whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah."

- a. Joseph was not his father by blood. Mary was conceived by the Holy Spirit, as a virgin - and thus Jesus is the Son of God; born by seed - reckoned of the woman (not by a man)... Gen 3:15, Isa 7:14.
4. Mary was also descended from David, but not through Solomon.
- a. David also had a son named, Nathan.
- b. Nathan, who is not in the lineage of Joseph found in Matthew chapter one, but in the lineage of Mary found in Luke chapter three:

Luke 3:23-24, 31

²³ When He began His ministry, Jesus Himself was about thirty years of age, being, as was supposed, the son of Joseph, the son of Eli, ²⁴ the son of Matthat, the son of Levi... Which was [the son] of Melea, which was [the son] of Menan, which was [the son] of Mattatha, **which was [the son] of Nathan, which was [the son] of David.**

5. Jesus had a right to the Davidic throne through his "legal" father Joseph, although not a biological descendent of Joseph.
6. Jesus also fulfilled his requirement to be "of the House of David" as a blood descendent, but on his mother's side.

Luke 1:26-35

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord *is* with you."

³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.

³¹ "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.

³² "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;

³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God."

IV. The Sufferings of Messiah

A. **Isaiah 53** – so rich and shouts of Jesus as the suffering Servant that died for His people in their place to appease the wrath of God.

1. This is the "Suffering Servant" passage.
2. This is the most powerful passage in the OT for Jewish Evangelism.

¹ Who has believed our message? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of parched ground; He has no stately form or majesty That we should look upon Him, Nor appearance that we should be attracted to Him.

³ He was despised and forsaken of men, A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; And like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

⁴ Surely our griefs He Himself bore, And our sorrows He carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken, Smitten of God, and afflicted.

⁵ But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being *fell* upon Him, And by His scourging we are healed.

⁶ All of us like sheep have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the LORD has caused the iniquity of us all To fall on Him.

⁷ He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He did not open His mouth; Like a lamb that is led to slaughter, And like a sheep that is silent before its shearers, So He did not open His mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment He was taken away; And as for His generation, who considered That He was cut off out of the land of the living For the transgression of my people, to whom the stroke *was due*?

⁹ His grave was assigned with wicked men, Yet He was with a rich man in His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was there any deceit in His mouth.

¹⁰ But the LORD was pleased To crush Him, putting *Him* to grief; If He would render Himself as a guilt offering, He will see *His* offspring, He will prolong *His* days, And the good pleasure of the LORD will prosper in His hand.

¹¹ As a result of the anguish of His soul, He will see *it and* be satisfied; By His knowledge the Righteous One, My Servant, will justify the many, As He will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore, I will allot Him a portion with the great, And He will divide the booty with the strong; Because He poured out Himself to death, And was numbered with the transgressors; Yet He Himself bore the sin of many, And interceded for the transgressors.

B. Psalm 22:1-21

“My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.

⁷ All who see me sneer at me; They separate with the lip, they wag the head.

¹³ They open wide their mouth at me, As a ravening and a roaring lion.

¹⁴ I am poured out like water, And all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; It is melted within me.

¹⁵ My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And my tongue cleaves to my jaws; And You lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶ For dogs have surrounded me; A band of evildoers has encompassed me; **They pierced my hands and my feet.**

¹⁷ I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at me;

¹⁸ They divide my garments among them, And for my clothing they cast lots.

1. Messiah forsaken by God
2. Messiah ridiculed and mocked by the people
3. His clothes gambled away by tormentors
4. Messiah suffers such agony that his bones come out of joint
5. His heart breaks with mixture of blood and water
6. Messiah's hands and feet were pierced

V. Messiah as King of Israel

A. Rabbi's taught/teach two Messiahs:

1. Messiah the son of Joseph = a suffering Messiah
2. Messiah the son of David = a reigning and conquering Messiah
3. They thought two Messiahs coming once (each), but we know it was actually was one Messiah coming twice.

B. Messianic Age

1. Isa 11:1-10

“Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,

⁴ But with righteousness He will judge the poor, And decide with fairness for the afflicted of the earth; And He will strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He will slay the wicked.

⁵ Also righteousness will be the belt about His loins, And faithfulness the belt about His waist.

⁶ And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, And the leopard will lie down with the young goat, And the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little boy will lead them.

⁹ They will not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD As the waters cover the sea.

- No dying Messiah here
- A powerful and reigning Messiah

2. Psalm 72:1-19

¹ Give the king Your judgments, O God, And Your righteousness to the king's son.

² May he judge Your people with righteousness And Your afflicted with justice.
⁷ In his days may the righteous flourish, And abundance of peace till the moon is no more.
⁸ May he also rule from sea to sea And from the River to the ends of the earth.
¹¹ And let all kings bow down before him, All nations serve him.
¹⁷ May his name endure forever; May his name increase as long as the sun *shines*; And let *men* bless themselves by him; Let all nations call him blessed.
¹⁸ Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, Who alone works wonders.
¹⁹ And blessed be His glorious name forever; And may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen, and Amen.

- The Jewish Talmud teaches this to be Messianic
- Messiah reigning in peace and prosperity

VI. Messiah would be the Son of God

A. Psa 2:7

I will surely tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to Me, ‘You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

B. Psa 2:12

Do homage to the Son, that He not become angry, and you perish in the way, For His wrath may soon be kindled. How blessed are all who take refuge in Him!

C. Psa 80:17-19

Let Your hand be upon the man of Your right hand, Upon the son of man whom You made strong for Yourself. Then we shall not turn back from You; Revive us, and we will call upon Your name. O Lord God of hosts, restore us; Cause Your face to shine upon us, and we will be saved.

D. Prov 30:4

Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son’s name? Surely you know!

VII. Messiah was to be both God and Man

A. A man... but much more than a man!

B. Isa 9:6-7

“For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.”

1. A Jewish child born who will eventually control the reigns government
2. The Messianic descendant of David who will bring peace to the earth
3. Wonderful Counselor – extraordinary, a marvel, astonishing, a wonder!
4. Mighty God – Messiah would be God
5. Everlasting Father – Messiah would be equal with the Father and from everlasting.
6. Prince of Peace – a work God is going to accomplish

7. Man and God!

C. **Isa 7:14**

“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.”

1. Son born of a virgin
2. Named Emmanuel = “with us God”
3. Man and God!

D. **Jeremiah 23:5-6**

“Behold, the days are coming,” declares the LORD, “When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king and act wisely And do justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ “In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell securely; And this is His name by which He will be called, ‘The LORD our righteousness.’”

1. A righteous branch that will reign on the throne of David
2. Will bring peace and security to Israel
3. A man, descended from David
4. Name = Yahweh our Righteousness
5. Man and God!

E. **Micah 5:2**

“But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity.”

1. From Bethlehem: human origin
2. From eternity: origins from eternity
3. Man and God!

VIII. Conclusion

A. So what kind of Messiah were the Prophets of the Old Testament picturing & what would he look like?

1. One born of the Seed of a Woman
2. Born of a Virgin
3. Born in Bethlehem
4. Lineage: Adam > Seth > Noah > Shem Abraham > Isaac > Jacob (Israel)
5. Of the tribe of Judah > House of David > Joseph/Mary
6. A Suffering Messiah, Yet a Ruler and Conquering King!
7. The Son of God!
8. Both God and Man!

B. Have we met our goals?

1. Do you better understand how Jesus fulfilled the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament?
2. Would you be able to present to a Jewish person who the Messiah was prophesied to be from the Old Testament?
3. Has your faith and understanding of the Messiah strengthened and God’s plan for the Ages?