

Messianic Prophecies And Fulfilments

For the writers of the gospels and for all true Christians, one of the main reasons for believing in Jesus Christ and the authority of the Old Testament was the way Jesus Christ in His human life fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah.

This article will include some of these main prophecies in the Old Testament and their fulfilment in the life of Jesus Christ as recorded in the New Testament.

Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2 [New King James] *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting.”*

This could only be referring to the Eternal Son of God, a prophecy that was fulfilled by Jesus the Christ in Matthew 2:1-6 and Luke 2:1-20.

Messiah was to be born of a virgin

Isaiah 7:14 [New King James] *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*

This has to be referring to Jesus the Christ because **Immanuel means “God with us.”**

This was fulfilled by Jesus Christ in Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38.

Messiah would be a prophet like Moses

Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19 [New King James] *“The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,” ... “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.”*

Moses was used by God to save His people Israel from slavery in Egypt. **The prophet who was to come would be like Moses because God would use him to bring all humans out of the slavery to sin.**

Jesus was considered a prophet by those who heard Him and the Anointed One, [Christ]. **John 7:40-42.**

Messiah was to enter Jerusalem in triumph

Zechariah 9:9 [New King James] *“Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.”*

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy and it is recorded in Matthew 21:1-9 and John 12:12-16.

Messiah was to be rejected by His own people

Isaiah 53:1, 3 [New King James] *“Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?” ... “He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.”*

These verses are in the centre of a prophecy about the coming Messiah.

Psalms 118:22 [New King James] *“The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.”*

The cornerstone gave strength to the two walls with which they were connected, and could cause a person to carelessly stumble over when turning the corner of the building, [**1 Peter 2:8**] as did the Jews.

Jesus Christ was rejected by those in authority in Judah and eventually by the people who called for His murder, on the cross.

Matthew 26:3-4; John 1:1-4, 11, 14; John 12:37-43; Acts 4:1-12.

Messiah was to be betrayed by one of His followers

Psalms 41:9 [New King James] *“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.”*

This verse is viewed in the New Testament as a prophecy of Jesus Christ’s betrayal by Judas who had spent three years listening to Jesus Christ, travelling and eating with Him, [**Mark 3:14-19**] who was trusted with the finances of the group, [**John 13:21-30**].

This prophecy was fulfilled by Judas, recorded in Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50; Luke 22:19-23; Mark 14:42-46.

Messiah was to be tried and condemned

Isaiah 53:8 [New King James] *“He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.”*

Another prophecy from the Messianic Psalm where the sinless servant of God offers Himself for sins of all humanity to make us acceptable to God the Father. Recorded in Luke 23:1-25; Matthew 27: 1-2, 11.

Messiah was to be silent before His accusers

Isaiah 53:7 [New King James] *“He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.”*

Jesus Christ was called by the apostle John, the Lamb of God, [John 1:29, 36] and apostle Peter a “lamb without blemish” [1 Peter 1:19].

This prophecy was fulfilled by Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 27:12-14; Mark 15:3-4; Luke 23:8-10.

Messiah was to be struck and spat on by His enemies

Isaiah 50:6 [New King James] *“I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”*

The Messiah did not resist this physical abuse but took it patiently and meekly, knowing what the end goal was.

Prophecy fulfilled by Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 26:67; Matthew 27:30; Mark 14:65.

The Messiah was to be mocked and insulted

Psalms 22:7-8 [New King James] *“All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, ‘He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!’”*

Being truly human Jesus Christ [the Messiah] felt a natural unwillingness to pass through such great pain, physical and mental, as prophesied throughout the Messianic Psalm. Yet His zeal to fulfil the will of God the Father and His love for all humanity prevailed.

Prophecy fulfilled by Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 27:39-44; Luke 23:11, 35.

The Messiah was to die by crucifixion

Psalms 22:14, 16-17 [New King James] *“I am poured out like water, and all My bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within Me.” ... “For dogs have surrounded Me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet; I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me.”*

This extensive scourging left the Messiah’s bones exposed and the flesh was torn off His body, before He was nailed naked to the cross.

Prophecy fulfilled by Jesus Christ as recorded in Matthew 27:26, 31; Mark 15:20, 25.

The Messiah was to suffer with criminals and pray for His enemies

Isaiah 53:12 [New King James] *“Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.”*

Although without sin the Messiah being human as well as God was able to relate to those who sin and be a substitute for their deserved death, as they repented and looked to Him as their Saviour.

Jesus Christ’s fulfilment of this prophecy is recorded in Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 23:32-34.

The Messiah was to be given vinegar and gall

Psalms 69:21 [New King James] *“They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink.”*

The vinegar and gall given to the Messiah were a faint emblem of that bitter cup which He drank up, [Matthew 26:39, 42] that we might drink the cup of salvation, [1 Corinthians 11:25].

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy and it is recorded in Matthew 27:34; John 19:28-30.

Others were to cast lots for Messiah's garments

Psalms 22:18 [New King James] *"They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."*

The Messiah's outer tunic was without a seam, a quality garment as befitting a High Priest, [Exodus 28:2-4].

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy as recorded in Matthew 27:35; John 19:23-24.

The Messiah's bones were not to be broken

Exodus 12:46 [New King James] *"In one house it shall be eaten; you shall not carry any of the flesh outside the house, nor shall you break one of its bones."*

The bones of the Passover Lamb were **not** to be broken, the lamb that depicted the Messiah, the lamb sacrificed to bring God's people out of Egypt under the Old Covenant and out of sin under the New Covenant made by Jesus Christ, [Numbers 9:12; Psalms 34:20].

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy when on the cross and it is recorded in John 19:31-36.

The Messiah was to die as a sacrifice for sin

Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10-12 [New King James] *"But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all." ... "He was taken from prison and from judgment, and who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken." ... "Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities. Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors."*

Two Hebrew words in **verse 12** indicate the extent of the result of the Messiah's sacrifice, "great," Hebrew word "rab" meaning abundant in number, "strong," Hebrew "âtsûm" meaning power because of their being numerous.

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy and it is recorded in John 1:29; John 11:49-52; Acts 10:43; Acts 13:38-39.

The Messiah was to be raised from the dead

Psalms 16:10 [New King James] *"My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption."*

As a result of this resurrection of the Messiah we all who have faith in Him will **not** be forgotten by God the Father.

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy by being resurrected from the grave. **We have record of many who personally saw and conversed with the risen Jesus Christ, Acts 2:22-32; Matthew 28:1-10; 1 Corinthians 15:3-8.**

Messiah is now at God's right hand

Psalms 110:1-7 [New King James] *“The LORD said to my Lord, ‘Sit at My right hand, till I make Your enemies Your footstool.’ The LORD shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people shall be volunteers in the day of Your power; in the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth. The LORD has sworn and will not relent, ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.’ The Lord is at Your right hand; He shall execute kings in the day of His wrath. He shall judge among the nations, He shall fill the places with dead bodies, He shall execute the heads of many countries. He shall drink of the brook by the wayside; therefore He shall lift up the head.”*

This is one of the most quoted Psalms in the New Testament because of its clear reference to the Messiah, and His future work mostly prophetic of Jesus Christ's Second Coming.

Jesus Christ fulfilled this prophecy in His First Coming, Mark 16:19; Luke 24:50-51.

Jesus Christ also quoted this Psalm in Matthew 22:41-45, applying them to Himself.

Jesus Christ will fulfil this prophecy in Psalms 110:1 the final destruction of the wicked, [Revelation chapters 6-9].

Psalms 110:2 Jesus Christ's reign on earth, [Revelation 20:1-7].

Psalms 110:3-4 tells of Jesus Christ's priestly work for His people, [Hebrews chapters 5-8].

Psalms 110:5-6 tells of the final battle on earth when Jesus Christ will overcome all the forces of evil, [Revelation 19:11-21].

All of these prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord are powerful proof that God's Word, the Christian Bible, is divinely inspired, and we need to know its prophecies and its promises.

This is **only** possible through the active presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

John 16:13 [New King James] *“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”*

Note the last words of this scripture and promise.

But God will only send the Holy Spirit to those who obey His Word, the Christian Bible, [Acts 5:32].

Please meditate on what we have just studied, also download and study the article on this website *‘The Christian Bible Speaks With Divine Authority’* [listed under the main title *‘Authority of the Christian Bible’*].

You will be extremely grateful that you made such a decision.