

The Messiah Announced

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The prophecies in the Torah and in the Prophets

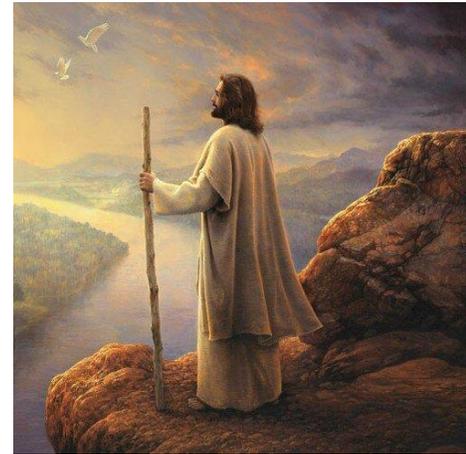
God has announced in the Torah and the Prophets the coming of the Messiah by describing his traits of life, his way of being, his actions. The Apostles, when they saw Jesus, were aware of this

- *“We have found him of whom Moses in the Law and the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph, from Nazareth.” (John 1,45)*

Later, after his resurrection, Jesus Himself explained to them the prophecies concerning him

- *“Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer before entering into his glory? Then, starting with Moses and going through all the prophets, he explained to them the passages throughout the Scriptures that were about himself.” (Luc 24,25-27)*

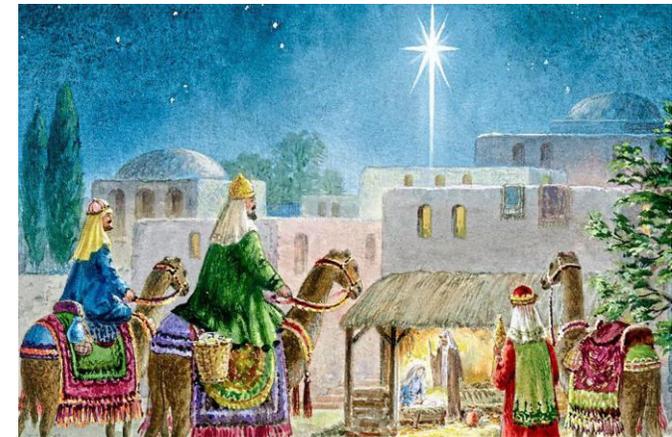
Of what prophecies did Jesus speak of to his Apostles?



Place of birth and action of the Messiah

- *“But you (Bethlehem) Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of Eternity.” (Micah 5,1)*
- *“As the past humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali (Galilee), so the future will glorify the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan, the territory of the nations. The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; on the inhabitants of a country in shadow dark as death light has blazed forth.” (Isaiah 8,23 & 9,1)*

According to these prophecies (8 centuries B.C.), the Messiah will therefore be born in Bethlehem and operate in Galilee. At Jesus' birth, the high priests and the scribes knew this well, since they indicated to Herod Bethlehem as the birthplace of the Messiah (Matthew 2,3-5).

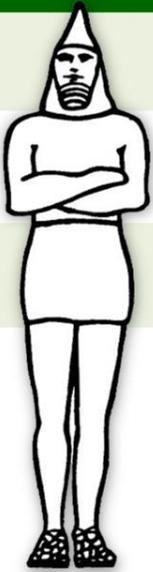


The time of the coming of the Messiah(1)

The prophet Daniel (6 centuries B.C.) interprets the vision of Nebuchadnezzar

- *“...You have had a vision, Your Majesty; this is what you saw: a statue, a great statue of extreme brightness, stood before you, terrible to see. The head of this statue was of fine gold (Babylonian empire), its chest and arms were of silver (Median-Persian empire), its belly and thighs of bronze (Greek empire), its legs of iron (Roman empire), its feet part iron, part clay (Jewish-Roman alliance)... In the days of those kings, the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which will never be destroyed, and this kingdom will not pass into the hands of another people (the spiritual Kingdom of the Christ): it will shatter and absorb all the previous kingdoms and itself last for ever - just as you saw a stone, untouched by hand, break away from the mountain and reduce iron, bronze, earthenware, silver and gold to powder. The Great God has shown the king what is to take place...” (Daniel 2,1-49)*

The time of the coming of the Messiah(2)

		KINGDOM	DATES
GOLD		BABYLON	606 - 539 BC
SILVER		MEDO-PERSIA	539 - 331 BC
BRONZE		GREECE	331 - 30 BC
IRON and CLAY		ROME	30 BC - 397 AD

According to this prophecy of Daniel, the Christ should thus appear under the Roman Empire.

The text says: *“in the days of those kings”*. Now, the last empire cited is the Roman Empire.

The characteristics of the Messiah

- *“Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one... He does not cry out or shout aloud... He does not break the crushed reed, nor quench the wavering flame...” (Isaiah 42,1-4)*
- *“See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey... He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished...” (Zechariah 9,9-10)*
- *“The spirit of Lord Yahweh has been given to me, for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison...” (Isaiah 61,1-2)*



The Messiah who is to come will not make noisy propaganda. He will be humble and modest and will suppress war. He will establish law and justice. He will heal the sick and free the bruised hearts.

The Messiah Prophet, King and Priest

Prophet

- *“Yahweh tells Moses: ... I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth... The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name shall be held answerable to me for it.” (Deuteronomy 18,18-19)*

King

- *“Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey...” (Zechariah 9,9-10)*

Priest

- *“Yahweh’s oracle to you, my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand... You are a priest of the order of Melchizedek, and for ever’.” (Psalm 110,1 & 4)*



The Messiah savior of all nations

- *“And now Yahweh has spoken, who formed me in the womb to be his servant... It is not enough for you to be my servant, to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back the survivors of Israel; I shall make you a light to the nations so that my salvation may reach the remotest parts of earth.” (Isaiah 49,5-6)*
- *“Here my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations... I, Yahweh, have called you in saving justice... I have made you a covenant of the people and light to the nations, to open the eyes of the blind...” (Isaiah 42,1 & 6)*
- *“See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you...” (Isaiah 55,5)*

The Messiah, who comes from the Jewish milieu, is the *“light of the nations”*. He carries salvation and peace to all nations of the earth. Thus fulfils the promise made to Abraham: *“All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you”* (Genesis 12,3).



The Messiah son of David. The divinity of the Messiah (1)

God said to David about his lineage:

- *“I will be a father to him and he a son to me... Yet I will not withdraw my favor from him, as I withdrew it from your predecessor. Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me and your throne be established for ever...” (2 Samuel 7,12-16)*
- *“The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the young woman is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Immanuel.” (Immanuel means: God with us) (Isaiah 7,14-15)*
- *“For there is a child born for us, a son given to us, and dominion is laid on his shoulders; and this is the name they gave him: Wonder Counselor, Mighty-God, Eternal-Father, Prince-of-Peace...” (Isaiah 9,5-6)*
- *“But you (Bethlehem) Ephrathah, the least of the clans of Judah, out of you will be born for me the one who is to rule over Israel; his origin goes back to the distant past, to the days of Eternity.” (Micah 5,1)*

The Messiah son of David. The divinity of the Messiah (2)

Daniel (6th century B.C.) confirms the eternal kingdom of the Messiah

- *“I gazed into the visions of the night. And I saw, coming on the clouds of heaven, one like a son of man. He came to the One of great age and was led into his presence. On him was conferred sovereignty, glory and kingship, and men of all peoples, nations and languages became his servants. His sovereignty is an eternal sovereignty, which shall never pass away...” (Daniel 7,13-14)*

The Messiah will be called “son of David”, in other words will be of Davidic descent.

God calls him his son. He will have an eternal kingdom and will be called “Mighty-God, Eternal-Father”.

His origins go back to the day of Eternity.



The suffering Messiah(1)

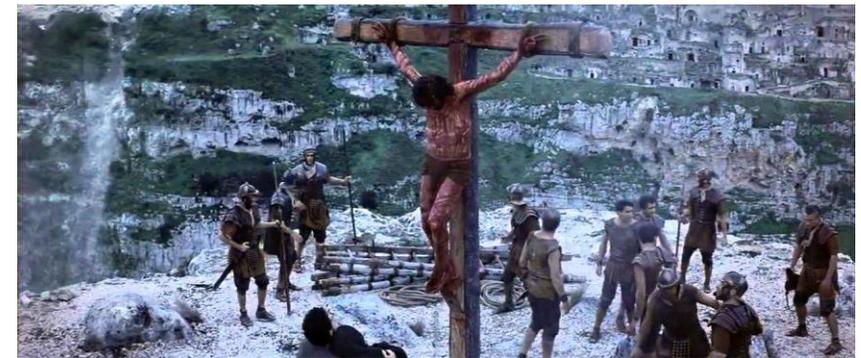
- *“Harshly dealt with, he bore it humbly, he never opened his mouth, like a lamb that is led to the slaughterhouse...” (Isaiah 53,7)*
- *“As the crowds were appalled on seeing him -so disfigured did he look that he seemed no longer human- so will the crowds be astonished at him...” (Isaiah 52,14)*
- *“... Without beauty, without majesty (we saw him), no looks to attract our eyes; a thing despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and familiar with suffering, one from whom, as it were, we averted our gaze, despised, for whom we had no regard. And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried... we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God, and brought low.” (Isaiah 53,2-4)*
- *“They pierce my hands and feet... I can count every one of my bones.” (Psalm 22,16-18)*
- *“... my bones are all disjointed... my palate is dryer than a potsherd and my tongue is stuck to my jaw.” (Psalm 22,14-15)*



The suffering Messiah(2)

- *“They gave me poison to eat instead, vinegar when I was thirsty to drink.” (Psalm 69,21)*
- *“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Psalm 22,1)*
- *“He was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed.” (Isaiah 53,5)*
- *“They will mourn over the one they have pierced.” (Zechariah 12,10)*
- *“... Yes, he was torn away from the land of the living; for our faults struck down in death.” (Isaiah 53,8)*

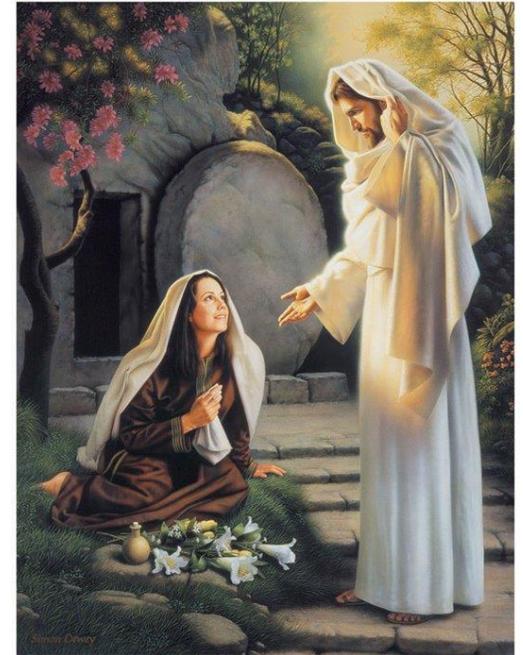
The Messiah must go through suffering and death to redeem the multitudes. All the details of Jesus' Passion had been announced by our Father in the Old Testament.



The Risen Messiah

- *“He has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us; he has struck us down, but he will bandage our wounds; after a day or two he will bring us back to life, on the third day he will raise us and we shall live in his presence.” (Hosea 6,1-3)*
- *“His soul’s anguish over he shall see the light and be content.” (Isaiah 53,11)*
- *“For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, nor allow the one you love to see corruption.” (Psalm 16,10)*

“His soul’s anguish over he shall see the light”, means he will be raised: “He will not see corruption.”



Conclusion

When Jesus of Nazareth was born in Bethlehem, he who was of David's progeny and who would during his life incarnate all the prophecies of the Old Testament, many Jews believed in Him and followed Him. However many Jews, with the Pharisees in mind, refused to believe in Him as Messiah. Why?

Because they were waiting for a military Messiah who would deliver them from the Romans by arms. They preferred to cling to their Zionist mentality with an Israeli nation as their ideal rather than to rise to the Mentality of God which foresaw a humble, universal Messiah, bringing spiritual salvation and inner peace to all nations.



For more information
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