

## C2C33 – The Coming MESSIAH

From Genesis to Malachi, the Old Testament anticipates the coming of Israel's Messiah.

**As if unveiling a giant puzzle, ancient Scriptures predicted Messiah's birth, his life, his death and his resurrection, all of which was fulfilled in the coming of Jesus Christ!**

Still other prophecies tell us of things yet to come including the **2<sup>nd</sup> coming** of Christ and the **glory of the millennial Kingdom** which will follow.

We began this series with the story of the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus on resurrection Sunday. As they travelled with heavy hearts and deep discouragement at Jesus' crucifixion, **the risen Lord Himself** joined them in their journey and said to them,

*[Luke 24:25-27] ... "How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Christ have to suffer these things and then enter His glory?"*

*And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, He explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself.'*

And while they did not recognise him at first, later they spoke together of their hearts burning within them as Jesus shared the meaning of these ancient texts.

Today, as we near the end of this series, I want to trace out briefly some of the texts from which Jesus must have shared. As I do, I want to clarify a couple of things:

- The words **MESSIAH** and **CHRIST** are basically interchangeable.
  - **Messiah** is based on the Heb word **Mashiach** = "the anointed one"  
(Found only in Daniel 9:25-26 in OT.)  
**In common use by Jews** by the time of the birth of Jesus - for a King and priest who would deliver from sin and oppression
  - **CHRIST** comes from the Greek word **Christos** = "the anointed one" John 1:41; 4:25

When we consider Messianic Prophecy, there are **some basic observations** to consider:

- **The language of Messianic Prophecy is often OBSCURE.** It can only be interpreted in light of the entire content of the Bible.
- **Figurative language is often used** (though the truth it conveys is usually clear) e.g. ***[Isa 11:1] A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit = Messiah will be a descendant of Jesse***
- **Future predictions are often spoken of as past or present.** e.g. ***[Isa 53:3] He WAS despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he WAS despised, and we esteemed him not.***
- **So sure is the prophecy** that it speaks as if it has already having taken place, though, as in this case, it was written 700 year before the events happened.

- **Messianic prophecy tends to reveal key points in the time and ministry of Messiah and does not necessarily include all the intermediate steps between.** e.g. ***[Isa 61:1-2] The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, 2. to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour AND the day of vengeance of our God...***

**As a result, care must be taken to understand the message the author intended to convey.**

With these rules of interpretation in mind, let's briefly trace the **Messianic Line** through the OT. We begin in the earliest chapters in the Bible.

**Having just deceived Adam and Eve and prompted them to disobey God, God, in turn, cursed the SERPENT with these words:**

***(Gen 3:14-15) "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust 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 your head, and you shall bruise His heel."***

If we didn't have later revelation with which to link these words, they would be **somewhat obscure as to their application** but as we see the plan of salvation opened up, we come to understand **these words could only be applied to Messiah.**

As children were then born to Adam and Eve, we can simply follow **the physical line of Messiah through Seth and then eventually Noah.**

**The next major name for us to consider is that of Abraham, where God made the 1<sup>st</sup> of many incredible prophecies.** He told Abraham,

***(Gen 12:2-3) "I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."***

**What an amazing promise! ... that every person on earth would be blessed through his offspring!**

And this promise was **passed on through Isaac** of whom God said: ***(Gen 21:12) "... it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned"*** and then **through Jacob**, again where it was said, ***(Gen 28:14) "... All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring."***

And then out of **Jacob's 12 sons**, it was through the tribe of **Judah that God sovereignly chose** who would be in the line of Messiah.

As Jacob's life was coming to an end, he told his sons: ***(Gen 49:10) "The sceptre will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his."***

Surely, these are AMAZING prophecies as God was tracing out the birth line for the coming Messiah!

**From the tribe of Judah, there came Boaz** [who married **Ruth**]. They had a son **Obed**, who in turn had **Jesse**, and Jesse's son was **David**.

**Concerning Jesse**, **Isaiah** the prophet would later write: ***(Isa 11:1-2) A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD—***

***(Isa 11:10) In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his place of rest will be glorious.***

And then Jesse's son, **David**, was chosen as the one through whom another incredible promise was made: ***(2 Sam 7:16) "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."***

**Wow! FOREVER is a long time!** This is a special dynasty... someone from the family is going to rule forever!

**Some 300 years later**, again through **Isaiah**, God gave two crucial pieces of information to be added to the gradually unfolding revelation of Messiah: ***(Isa 7:14) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.***

Messiah would be born of a VIRGIN and he would have the title ***“Immanuel;” God with us!***

Now the mystery of God’s way was deepening as **the Spiritual and the Physical were linked!**

***(Isa 9:6-7) For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this.***

And so in line with prophecies concerning the house and kingdom and throne of David, one would anticipate its fulfilment to be smooth and even orchestrated to come together as God had foretold! But its fulfilment was far from simple!

**In fact, no man could have put the pieces of revealed information together in a way that could make sense! It had to be a GOD thing!**

What do we mean?

**After David died, the kingdom was ruled by Solomon** and after Solomon’s time, the kingdom was shattered! It was split into two parts: Israel in the North (10 tribes) and Judah (along with Benjamin) in the South! The splitting of the Kingdom wasn’t the problem! The line of David continued through Judah (as the prophecies had said).

**The PROBLEM came in the time of the 18<sup>th</sup> King of Judah - a king whose name was Jehoiakim. This was now a little less than 600 years before the coming of Christ.**

**Jehoiakim was an evil king** and when God sent word to him about his behaviour through a **scroll written by Jeremiah** the Prophet, Jehoiakim burned it and ignored its warning!

And so this is what the Lord said concerning this man: ***(Jer 36:30-31) "... He will have no one to sit on the throne of David; his body will be thrown out and exposed to the heat by day and the frost by night. I will punish him and his children and his attendants for their wickedness..."***

While *Jehoiakim* had a son whose name was ***Jehoiachin (also known as Jeconiah or Coniah)***, he was subsequently captured and carried to Babylon with exiles when Jerusalem fell in 586 BC. Of this man it was prophesied: ***(Jer 22:30) This is what the LORD says: "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."***

**So then, how would it be possible for Messiah to be of the line of David and have the right to the throne when the physical line of Kings ended with Coniah?**

## **How could God fulfil His promises?**

The answer lies in a most remarkable God-controlled way!

In the NT we can read two different genealogies of CHRIST— that recorded in **Matthew 1** telling the genealogy of **JOSEPH** and that recorded in **Luke 3** giving the line of descent of **MARY**. Of course, what we discover here is that **BOTH** were descendants of David!

**READ: Matt 1:6, 16**

**(Son of Joseph, Son of Jacob, ...SON of SOLOMON)**

**Joseph was from the line of Solomon.** So, as to God's promise, the **ROYAL** line of those who could **LEGALLY** sit on the throne was traced to Joseph and then to his ***legal*** son, **JESUS**.

**The physical seed of David (his blood line) however is NOT passed through Solomon but through his BROTHER, Nathan, through whose line came MARY and then her physical son, JESUS.**

**READ: Luke 3:23-24, 31**

(Son of Joseph, Son of Heli, ... SON OF NATHAN)

The understanding we have is that Heli was the *“Father-in-law”* of Joseph, Joseph’s own father being Jacob (according to Matthew).

Thus the promises made to David and to Solomon are literally fulfilled in only one possible person, JESUS, called CHRIST!

And here too we see part of the purpose of the Virgin Birth!

**IF JESUS HAD BEEN THE PHYSICAL DESCENDANT OF JOSEPH, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN DISQUALIFIED** from sitting on the THRONE BY THE CURSE pronounced UPON JEHOIAKIM and his descendants!

How amazing is that!  
How great is our God!  
How beyond searching out are His Ways!

Even Jewish scholars recognise that Messiah must be [proven by genealogy to be] a descendant of David... but then, the seal to this story as to who can claim the mantle of MESSIAH... comes in the course of subsequent HISTORY.

In AD 70 with the fall of Jerusalem, all the genealogical records of the Jews were destroyed. There is no longer existing any ancient genealogical record apart from that in the NT!

**ONLY JESUS COULD FULFILL THE REQUIREMENTS OF SCRIPTURE TO BE CALLED THE MESSIAH – THE CHRIST – THE ANOINTED ONE**