

The Messianic Prophecies

...the coming of the Messiah
as foretold & prophesied in the Old Testament...

- or -

How the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ!

The Old Testament Prophecies: in Order of their Appearance in Scripture

Deuteronomy 18:18-19

I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

This prophecy was spoken by God spoke to Moses. It was given near the end of Moses' life.

Of all the Messianic Prophecies, **Deut. 18:18-19 ranks as one of the most important. Part of what makes this prophecy so important is where it appears in Scripture.**

Deut. 18:18-19 is the last of five **messianic prophecies** found in the *Pentateuch*.

"Pentateuch" is the name given to the first 5 books of the Bible ("pentateuch" means "5 Books" in Greek).

According to Tradition, Moses is the author of the Pentateuch.

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The Pentateuch's last prophecy is shown above. The first four prophecies will be listed next. Compare them to the fifth prophecy (above); see if you can spot what makes the Pentateuch's last messianic prophecy different from the first four!

Gen. 3:15

Gen. 22:18

Gen. 49:10

Num. 24:17

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The Lord God said to the serpent, "...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

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"...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

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"...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

*The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him;
and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*

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"...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

*I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not near:
a star shall come out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab and break down all the sons of Sheth*

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**What makes these
1st four prophecies...**

Gen. 3:15
Gen. 22:18
Gen. 49:10
Num. 24:17

**...different from
the last?**

The Lord God said to the serpent, "...I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

"...and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

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The first 4 prophecies give *general descriptions* of the coming **Messiah** — what He will do, what will happen because of Him, or what His status will be.

The last prophecy, **Deut. 18:18-19**, gives *personal information* about the promised **Messiah**. **Deut. 18:18-19** says that the Messiah will be a lot like Moses.

All the *messianic prophecies* describe the **Messiah** in some way, but this prophecy stands out for the way it helps identify who the **Messiah** is.

The words, “*a prophet like you*” means the **Messiah** will be a prophet, great in deed and power, and act in similar fashion to Moses.

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In the Jewish faith, Moses is considered to be the greatest of all the prophets:

Deuteronomy 34:10

And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face

In the New Testament, Jesus is clearly identified as the long-awaited prophet “like Moses” who fulfilled the messianic prophecy of **Deut. 18:18-19.**

Acts 3:22

This is the Moses who said to the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers.

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In Stephen's long testimony in Acts 7:2-53, he made reference to Moses:

Acts 7:37

Moses said, 'The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you.'

By recalling that prophecy, Stephen was making a point. The Jewish forefathers refused to listen to Moses and rejected him — which is exactly what happened to Jesus! In every way, Jesus was like Moses!

Acts 7:39

Our fathers refused to obey him, but thrust him aside...

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The verses from Acts say clearly and plainly that Jesus is the “*prophet like Moses*” who was to come. Elsewhere in the New Testament, this claim is still made, but with subtle comparisons.

A Jewish person would definitely pick up on the connection between **Deut. 18:18-19** and Jesus. **Luke 9:31** is a good example.

Luke 9:31

*...who appeared in glory and spoke of his **departure**, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem*

In **Luke 9:31**, the word “*departure*” is a poor translation. The exact translation of the Greek word behind “*departure*” is...

“exodus.”

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The word “*exodus*” makes **Luke 9:31** a subtle, yet specific comparison to **Moses**. Other verses are more subtle with their comparisons.

When **Moses** parted the Red Sea, a strong wind blew when he held up his arms, and the waters divided. **Jesus** did one greater than **Moses** by stopping the wind and making all the water still.

Matthew 8:27

*And the men marveled, saying,
“What sort of man is this, that even winds and sea obey him?”*

Mark 4:41

*And they were filled with great fear and said to one another,
“Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

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Also, after Moses parted the water, he walked *through* the sea. Jesus did a greater feat than Moses by walking *on* the water.

In the New Testament, guess which book makes the most comparisons of Jesus to Moses.

The answer is...

John's gospel.

**Here are the subtle comparisons
of Jesus to Moses in the Gospel of John:**

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**Here are the subtle comparisons
of Jesus to Moses in the Gospel of John:**

John 1:17

*For the law was given through Moses;
grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.*

John 3:14

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness,
so must the Son of Man be lifted up*

John 5:30

*“I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge, and my judgment is just,
because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me.”*

John 5:45-46

*Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father.
There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope.
For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me.*

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**Here are the subtle comparisons
of Jesus to Moses in the Gospel of John:**

John 6:38

*“For I have come down from heaven,
not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.”*

John 12:49

“For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.”

John 14:10

*Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me?
The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority,
but the Father who dwells in me does his works.*

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The same as Deut. 34:10 summed up the Old Testament's opinion of Moses...

Deuteronomy 34:10

And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the Lord knew face to face

Hebrews 3:3 sums up the New Testament's opinion of Jesus:

Heb. 3:3

For Jesus has been counted worthy of more glory than Moses— as much more glory as the builder of a house has more honor than the house itself.

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The early Church recognized the importance of Deut. 18:18-19, which is why so many comparisons of Jesus were made to Moses.

...our study continues!

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