

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

The prophet Isaiah lived over seven centuries before the birth of Christ. He was a contemporary of the prophets Micah, Hosea, and Amos.

Isaiah's work as a prophet spanned four decades in the last half of the 8th Century B.C. Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of four kings: Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah.

The book of **Isaiah** can be divided easily into 2 sections, and some scholars say 3:

- 1st Isaiah** - chapters 1-39
- 2nd Isaiah** - chapters 40-66
- and possibly-
- 3rd Isaiah** - chapters 56-66

Most of the events in chapters **1-39** (*1st Isaiah*), took place during Isaiah's lifetime.

Chapters **40-66** (*2nd Isaiah*) appear to be set during exile in Babylon (chapters **56-66** seem to be set back in Israel, when the Jewish people are starting to rebuild their country).

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

It is interesting to note that the messianic prophecies in **Isaiah** can be divided almost equally between **1st** & **2nd Isaiah**.

An interesting fact: there are more references in **Isaiah** to the **Messiah** than in any other Old Testament book — this is one reason why New Testament writers quoted so often from **Isaiah**.

Another reason is because **Isaiah's** prophecies very accurately described what **Christ** would do / and what **Jesus** did.

Perhaps the greatest reason why **Isaiah** is quoted so often in the New Testament is because **Isaiah** wrote plainly about the human nature of **Christ** — this made it easy for New Testament writers to match up **Isaiah's** prophecies to **Jesus**.

If a poet put pen to paper, and described with poetic expression **Jesus' birth, crucifixion, and resurrection** — those are the kinds of descriptions that appear in **Isaiah** about the **Messiah**, and they match **Jesus' life** very well!

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

In **Luke's** gospel, Jesus began His ministry in chapter 4.

Very early in the beginning of Jesus' ministry, in His hometown of Nazareth, Jesus read and taught from **Isaiah**:

Luke 4:16-21

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

*He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

*And he began to say to them,
"Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."*

Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

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

Isaiah 61:1-2

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,

Isaiah 61:1-2 is one of the few messianic prophecies that Jesus Himself confirmed as fulfilled. Now let's look at some other prophecies from **Isaiah**.

The first messianic prophecy that appears in **Isaiah** is included in the Old Testament lesson for the 1st Sunday in Advent (A) — **Isaiah 2:2-3**.

Isaiah 2:2-3

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

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

Isaiah 2:2-3

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Isaiah 2:2-3 relates to the kingdom & reign of the Messiah that would come to be in the Last Days. In Isaiah's time, the threat of war was upon the people, and the destruction of Jerusalem was a possibility.

Isaiah's vision suggests that, in the last days of the earthly Jerusalem, before the city is destroyed, a heavenly Jerusalem would be established. According to **Hebrews 12:22**, the Gospel era is the time of this prophecy's fulfillment.

Hebrews 12:22

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering

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

Isaiah 2:2-3

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be lifted up above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Even the Apostle Paul links the "heavenly" Jerusalem to the Gospel era:

Galatians 4:26

But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother.

The messianic prophecy of Isaiah 2:2-3 is not about the person of the Messiah, but about His arrival.

The next messianic prophecy found in Isaiah is in chapter 6.

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

Isaiah 6:9-10

And he said, "Go, and say to this people:
'Keep on hearing but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed."

Isaiah's prophecy says that unbelief comes from not understanding the significance of the **Messiah's** actions. Because people cannot see — *recognize* — what's going on with the **Messiah**, they cannot believe in **Him**.

This is why **Jesus'** followers lacked faith in Him, and why His opponents and critics rejected Him and were filled with un-belief.

Many **New Testament** scriptures show this point, and **Jesus Himself** made this point many times.*

Matthew 13:13-15

This is why I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled that says: ““You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’

Mark 4:10-12

And when he was alone, those around him with the twelve asked him about the parables. And he said to them, “To you has been given the secret of the kingdom of God, but for those outside everything is in parables, so that “they may indeed see but not perceive, and may indeed hear but not understand, lest they should turn and be forgiven.”

Luke 18:31-34

**And taking the twelve, he said to them,
“See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise.”**

But they understood none of these things. This saying was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

...there’s more!!

John 3:10

**Jesus answered him,
“Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?”**

John 12:16

**His disciples did not understand these things at first,
but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written
about him and had been done to him.**

John 12:37–40

**Though he had done so many signs before them, they still did not believe in him, so that
the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: “Lord, who has believed what
he heard from us, and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” Therefore they
could not believe. For again Isaiah said, “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their
heart, lest they see with their eyes, and understand with their heart, and turn, and I
would heal them.”**

John 13:7

**Jesus answered him,
“What I am doing you do not understand now, but afterward you will understand.”**

...there's more!!

Acts 28:23-28

When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening [Paul] expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved. And disagreeing among themselves, they departed after Paul had made one statement: “The Holy Spirit was right in saying to your fathers through Isaiah the prophet: “Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’ Therefore let it be known to you that this salvation of God has been sent to the Gentiles; they will listen.”

1 John 5:20

And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know him who is true; and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life.

[go back]

...our study continues!

The Messianic Prophecies

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

- or -

How the Old Testament points to Jesus Christ!