

PROPHECIES OF MESSIAH IN THE BOOKS OF THE LAW

¹⁵I 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.”

Genesis 3:15

We are following the Seed of the woman. The Seed of the woman is the Messiah Who will defeat Satan and set us free from the curse.

THE SEED OF ABRAHAM (GENESIS 22:18; GALATIANS 3:8, 16)

The line of Noah survives the Flood. Of the three sons of Noah, it is the line of Shem that is the seed line. In Genesis 11 we have Shem's genealogy and it leads to a man named Abram. Abram will eventually be renamed by God, Abraham, meaning Father of a multitude. God made an unconditional covenant with Abraham that included promises of a land, seed and blessing. We can't go into depth this morning, but you need to realize that the Abrahamic Covenant is the backbone of biblical eschatology.

The twist in the story of Abraham and his wife Sarah is that they are barren, yet God promises Abraham that his descendants will become as numerous as the stars in the night sky and the sand on the seashore. Well, as you may recall, Abraham and Sarah flinch in their faith in God and take matters into their own hands. Sarah follows a cultural practice and gives her servant Hagar to Abraham to raise up an heir. Abraham and Hagar's son is Ishmael the father of the Arab people. Now you know why the Arab people honor Abraham and you know the historical basis of the enmity between Arabs and Jews.

When Abraham was 99 and Sarah was 89, God reiterated His promise to give Abraham a son through Sarah. Sarah laughed in disbelief and now you know one of the reasons why, a year later, Abraham and Sarah named their firstborn son Isaac, which means, laughter.

When Isaac was in his mid-teens, God tested Abraham by instructing him to offer Isaac as a burnt-offering to the Lord. Abraham obeyed God, but just as he took up the knife to slay Isaac, God intervened and supplied a ram to be offered up in Isaac's place. There on Mount Moriah, what would become the Temple Mount centuries later, God said to Abraham

¹⁷I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Genesis 22:17-18

Offspring can be translated as an absolute singular referring to one person or it can be translated a collective singular referring to a group. The Apostle Paul helps us know how to translate offspring in verse 18.

⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed."

¹⁶Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. **Galatians 3:8, 16**

So it is prophesied here in Genesis 22:18...

¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed..."
Genesis 22:18

...that the promised seed will be a descendant of Abraham and that all the nations of the earth will be blessed through the Messiah.

Isaac had two sons, Jacob and Esau. God chose the line of Jacob to be the seed line. Jacob had twelve sons who became the namesakes for the twelve tribes of Israel. It is during the latter days of Jacob's life that he and all his sons and their families moved from Canaan to Egypt to survive a famine. This eventually led to the enslavement of the Israelites for four hundred years in Egypt.

Before Jacob died, he gathered his sons together and spoke of their futures. It is in this context that we encounter the next prophecy concerning the Messiah, the promised seed of the woman.

THE SEED OF JUDAH (GENESIS 49:10; MATTHEW 1:2; LUKE 3:33-34)

As Jacob spoke to each of his sons he came to his son Judah and spoke these words to him:

¹⁰The 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.
Genesis 49:10

There is some question of how exactly to translate the underlined phrase *until tribute come to him*. I believe the New International Version gets it right:

¹⁰The scepter 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.
Genesis 49:10

The scepter and ruler's staff indicate kingship. The tribe of Judah will continue to exercise royal power until one comes to whom royal power belongs. This one who will come will extend his rule to include gentile nations.

There is a parallel passage that supports this understanding in the book of Ezekiel.

²⁶thus says the Lord GOD: Remove the turban and take off the crown. Things shall not remain as they are. Exalt that which is low, and bring low that which is exalted. ²⁷A ruin, ruin, ruin I will make it. This also shall not be, until he comes, the one to whom judgment belongs, and I will give it to him.
Ezekiel 21:26-27

What Genesis 49:10 reveals...

¹⁰The scepter 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.

Genesis 49:10

...is that the Messiah will be from the tribe of Judah and that He will be a King and that He will rule not only over Israel, but over gentile nations as well. This prophecy anticipates the literal, physical reign of the Messiah upon the earth in the Messianic Kingdom.

This is certainly not the only prophecy in the Old Testament revealing that the promised seed of the woman will be a king. There is another very interesting prophecy that came through, not a Jewish prophet, but a pagan, gentile astrologer.

A KING ANNOUNCED BY A STAR (NUMBERS 24:15-24; MATTHEW 2:1-2)

As you may recall, Jacob and his twelve sons and their families moved to Egypt to escape the famine in the land of Canaan. Just as God prophesied to Abraham, the Israelites were eventually enslaved by the Egyptian. After 400 years of slavery God raised up Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt.

After forty years of wandering on the Sinai peninsula, the Israelites camped on the border of a country named Moab. The king of Moab was not excited about having the Israelites as neighbors particularly since the Israelites had just conquered the Amorite people who had attacked the Israelites. So rather than challenge Israel militarily, Balak, king of Moab hires a man named Balaam to come and curse the Israelites. Balaam was a gentile astrologer from the region of Babylonia. It was said of Balaam that "he whom Balaam cursed was cursed, and he whom Balaam blessed was blessed" (Num. 22:1-6).

Balaam tried to fulfill his contract with Balak, but every time Balaam opened his mouth to curse Israel, God took control and caused Balaam to bless Israel. Four times Balaam tried to curse Israel and to Balak's great consternation, four times Balaam blesses Israel. In the midst of these blessings God uses Balaam to prophesy concerning the Messiah, the seed of the woman. Specifically, in the midst of the fourth blessing Balaam said this:

¹⁷I 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...

Numbers 24:17

A star shall come forth from Jacob, that is, Israel; coupled with this star is a scepter which represents kingship since he who has the scepter has the right to rule. The message of this prophecy is that when Messiah comes, He will be a King. The coming of the Messiah will be signaled by the appearance of a star.

Numbers 24 closes with some important words for our study:

²⁵Then Balaam rose and went back to his place.

Numbers 24:25

The importance of this verse is that after Balaam had finished his work, he returned to "the East" and took with him the prophecy of a star that would announce the birth of a unique and powerful Jewish King who would rule over Israel.

If you understand this event you now understand the story of the wise men in Matthew 2.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

Matthew 2:2

These wise men from the east knew the prophecy of Balaam and had been watching for the appearance of the star. They understood that the star was announcing the birth of a unique king and they came and worshipped Him.

So far this morning we discovered that in the Law, the first five books of the Bible written by Moses, God revealed that Satan will be defeated by the seed of the woman. The Seed of the woman is the Messiah. The Messiah will come through the line of Abraham through Isaac and through the Messiah all the nations of the earth will be blessed. We further discovered that the Messiah will come through the line of Jacob and specifically through the line of Judah and will be a king who will extend his rule over gentile nations. Through Balaam, its prophesied that the Messiah will be a king and that the coming of the Messiah-King will be announced by a star.

Not only does the Law reveal that Messiah will be a King, the seed of the woman will also be a prophet.

A PROPHET LIKE MOSES (DEUTERONOMY 18:15-19)

A prophet is a person who receives revelation from God and then communicates God's revelation to others. Here, in this passage, God uses Moses to prophesy about the Messiah – that the Messiah will be a prophet.

¹⁵"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.' ¹⁷And the LORD said to me, 'They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸I 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. ¹⁹And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Deuteronomy 18:15-19

Notice that the Messiah will be a prophet like Moses. What does that mean? The book of Numbers answers this question for us...

⁵And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. ⁶And he said, "Hear my words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷Not so with my servant Moses. He is faithful in all my house. ⁸With

him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?"

Numbers 12:5-8

With other prophets, God would communicate through a vision or through a dream. But with Moses and with the Messiah God will speak "mouth to mouth" and, just like Moses, the Messiah will see the very form of God.

So not only will the Seed of the Woman defeat Satan, but the Seed of the Woman will come through the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Judah. The Messiah will be a King and His coming will be announced by a star. The Messiah will rule over not only Israel, but also gentile kingdoms. In addition to being a King, the Messiah will be a prophet like Moses.

SO WHAT?

Confidence in the inspiration and reliability of the Bible – fulfilled prophecy.

Proof that Jesus is the Messiah, the Seed of the Woman.

Talking points in evangelism.