

Old Testament Prophecies Heralding Our Jewish Messiah

'Salvation comes from the Jews' (John 4:22).

This sermon has been compiled for believers who are trying to share their faith with their Jewish family and friends. There are many prophecies about the Jewish Messiah, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, also known as Jesus. Many Jewish people do not know there were any prophecies about Yeshua's first coming to earth, so they don't believe He really is the Saviour of all mankind. The Jews are most definitely God's chosen people, chosen to bring forth our Messiah (Romans 1:16) but they too must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God (Romans 3:9; 11:23). The problem is, the Jews know the history of terrible persecutions, even murders of them in large numbers by wicked pseudo Christians, so trusting Christians is difficult for them. Jesus was Jewish. All His disciples and the apostles were Jewish. Jesus' friends on earth were Jewish. The first believing church was mostly made up of Jewish people; Gentiles joined later. Salvation comes from the Jews. God never intended for this work of salvation, begun by a Jewish Man (Yeshua), in the land of the Jews (Israel), amidst Jewish people, in the Jewish language (Hebrew), to be lost to the Jews. How could this fundamentally Jewish religion become so non-Jewish? Because of anti-Semitism in the church. It was men who pushed the Jews out, not God.

Our job as genuine believers is to put right, what has been dreadful wrongs done to the Jews. They are our brothers and sisters (Romans 10:12) and we must help them find salvation with love and care. We hope this list of fulfilled prophecies regarding our Messiah, will help you lead the way to salvation, those who are open and willing, both Jews and Gentiles alike. We have not listed every Messianic prophecy there is in the Bible, but we have given you enough to prove Yeshua truly was the Messiah Who was to come.

To help us show the Jewish people the way of salvation, there are some facts we need to be aware of; stumbling blocks that make believing in our Messiah hard for some Jews. Some Jewish people believe the scriptures regarding Jesus are wholly New Testament verses, and are very surprised to find them in the Tenach (Old Testament). We need to show them the prophecies about Jesus in their own Tenach that have been fulfilled in the Gospels. The Tenach tells us how the Messiah would come; the circumstances of His birth; where He would be born and where He would live; what He would do and how the people would react to Him; how and where He would die; that He would rise again; that He would bless the Gentiles; and working from Daniel's 70 weeks, that all this would take place before 70 AD.

Stumbling block: They believe in the Shema; that is they know God is One and there is no other, so believing in Jesus and the Holy Spirit is to them, like believing in three Gods. We need to understand about the three-in-one God, so we can help them understand. The Apostle Peter said Jesus was both Saviour and God (2 Peter 1:1). Jesus said, "I and the Father are One" (John 10:30). That is one in unity but two persons, each with His own role. A married couple are to become one flesh (Genesis 2:24) – two people, but one in unity. We have one body, but we are body, soul and spirit – three-in-one (1 Thessalonians

5:23). If we hold an egg, we hold three parts in one – the shell, the white and the yolk, but it is still just one egg – each part with its own purpose. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God sent to us after Jesus rose from the dead. The Holy Spirit is as real as God the Father and Jesus the Son. Jesus spoke about Him several times and Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and called Him “Father, Lord of heaven and earth” (Luke 10:21). The Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit are three Persons but One in unity, and to have this same unity with God, we must be baptised in the (one) name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19).

Stumbling block: Many Jews do not realise that Jesus was sent by God to help the lost sheep of the house of Israel (Matthew 15:24). It was after Jesus rose from the dead, after Peter had been filled with the Holy Spirit, that he was told by God not to consider the Gentiles unclean, for God Himself was granting them a chance of repentance (Acts 11:18). Even though God always goes to the Jews before the Gentiles, they are not to be divided as they once were.

Stumbling block: They ask: Does God really have a Son? We need to show our Jewish friends, God Himself revealed to Peter that Jesus was the Messiah; the Son of God (Matthew 16:13 to 17). We need to encourage them to read the New Testament for themselves to show them it really is a Jewish book full of promises and is not in any way against the Jews. Indeed, it was written by Jewish men to other Jews, about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Who sent His Son as a Jewish Messiah to save the world (John 3:16).

Stumbling block: We need to reassure the Jews of the truth about Jesus' crucifixion. To understand the whole picture of this terrible event, we need to study the whole crucifixion story in all four Gospels. The reality is; the Jews did not directly participate in His crucifixion. It was the barbaric Gentile Romans who crucified Jesus. It was the Romans who arrested Jesus. It was the Romans who whipped Him. It was the Roman soldiers who cast lots for Jesus' clothing. It was the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate who handed Jesus over to the soldiers to have Him crucified, and washed his hands of Him. It was a Roman soldier who stabbed (pierced) Jesus in the side. It was the Romans who nailed Him to the cross. The majority of Jews rejected Jesus as their King. They did not recognise Him for Who He was and because He did many miracles, the Jewish hierarchy became jealous and called for His crucifixion. Yes, there were Jews who rejected Jesus, but worldwide, many, many more Gentiles have rejected Him.

Stumbling block: There are many Jews and Gentiles that use the name Christ as an expletive. If the word Christ is not used, but replaced by the word Messiah – it takes on a whole new perspective. Jesus is our Messiah, our God-given anointed Saviour. Many Jews can accept Jesus as a good Man, but feel that if the Jews in Jesus' day rejected Him as the Messiah, when they were healed by Him and were able to physically touch Him, why should Jews believe in Him now? The simple fact is, to reject Jesus, either then or now, for Jew or Gentile, results in eternal death. To accept Him will result in eternal life. These principles are for Jews and Gentiles alike.

Stumbling block: They ask: If God loved the Jews as much as He says He does (Deuteronomy 7:6 to 8), why has He allowed so many to be killed by severe persecutions throughout the world over thousands of years? Jews are not alone in wondering about this. Millions of God-fearing believers have been persecuted and murdered. Persecution does not mean God's love is in any way diminished. Quite the opposite. Jesus said, "Blessed are you when you are persecuted for righteousness sake" (Matthew 5:10). The Apostle Paul made it clear that nothing in all creation can ever separate us from the love of God (Romans 8:38 & 39). Persecution, caused by jealousy which breeds hatred, was first experienced when wicked Cain murdered righteous Abel (Genesis 4:8). Persecution and murder came into being as a result of sin coming into the world via Adam, so we are not to be surprised when the world hates God's people, just as Cain hated Abel's righteousness (1 John 3:12 & 13). The Lord has promised a special place in heaven for those who have been persecuted (Revelation 7:14 to 17). Jews need to know God still loves them as much as He always did, and no amount of persecution by evil people will ever change that.

Right from the beginning, immediately after Adam and Eve sinned, the Lord told the devil he would be defeated by the Offspring of a woman. 'And I will put enmity between you (the devil) and the woman (later, the church), and between your offspring (evil forces) and her Offspring (Jesus); He will bruise your head underfoot (defeat him) and you will lie in wait and bruise His heel (wait to crucify the Messiah)' (Genesis 3:14 & 15). In this scripture, God was declaring the end right from the beginning. So what does the prophet say? 'I am God and there is none like Me; declaring the end from the beginning' (Isaiah 46:9 & 10).

In the Old Testament, God the Father said He is the first and the last. 'Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts; "I am the First and I am the Last"' (Isaiah 44:6). Jesus declared, "I am the First and the Last" (Revelation 22:13). The last verse written in the Book of Revelation, penned by the Apostle John who was a Jewish man, reads 'The grace of the Lord Yeshua Ha Mashiach be with all God's holy people. Amen' (Revelation 22:21). John knew without a doubt that Jesus was his Messiah.

There are several distinctive differences between Jews and Gentiles. Here are just five. The Lord established a covenant between Himself and Abraham – the father of all Jews, and made specific promises to his descendants; but there was no covenant with any Gentile nation nor were they given any promises. The Jews were chosen and loved by God; but no Gentile nation was ever chosen. The Jews had the One true God to follow and obey; the Gentiles had many gods. The Jews were given a token of their covenant – circumcision, as proof of their acceptance of their covenant with God; Gentiles have never been told to have their sons circumcised because of a covenant with God. The Jews were promised their Messiah; Gentiles were not. The one and only way Gentiles can have a Messiah, is to accept the Jewish Messiah. When Jews become believers in the Messiah they do not have to give up their Jewishness. Just the same applies to Gentiles who become believers in the Messiah – they do not have to become Jewish. Accepting the Messiah does not stop Jews from being Jewish. The believers in the very first churches were Jews. They continued to be Jews, following the Jewish culture, customs, traditions and they spoke

Hebrew. Their identity as Jews remained intact, but when Jesus died on the cross, it broke down the division between Jews and Gentiles, so we can all become part of one body, one bride, one group of people, all loving and serving God in unity (1 Corinthians 12:13; Galatians 3:28). Jews and Gentiles will always have different backgrounds and cultures, but we will also, always have the same Messiah. We need accept and love the Jewish people, because through them, we have our salvation. We need to love them, not as mascots, not as 'Jewish' believers, but as normal, born-again believers, who have accepted their Messiah as their God, just like we have.

The following prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament, are not a description of Him as we read in the New Testament; they are a complete description of our Messiah written about Him thousands of years before He was born on earth. If the Jews genuinely believe in Moses, then they would have to believe in Jesus, because Moses wrote about Jesus. "If you have believed Moses, you would believe Me, for he wrote about Me; but if you do not believe his writings, how then will you believe My teachings?" (John 5:46 & 47).

The Messianic prophetic scriptures tell us the Messiah would be **born in Bethlehem, be called out of Egypt** (Hosea 11:1) and yet be **called a Nazarene** (Matthew 2:23). How could One Person come from three different places? Jesus was **born in Bethlehem** (Micah 5:2). When Jesus was still a Baby, Joseph was forced to flee to Egypt because Herod wanted Jesus killed (Matthew 2:13 to 16). Once Herod was dead, the Lord told Joseph to return to Israel; **calling His Son out of Egypt**, but Herod's son was king, so Joseph withdrew into his hometown of Nazareth making Jesus **a Nazarene** (Matthew 2:19 to 23; Luke 2:39). All of these prophecies were fulfilled and there are many more prophecies heralding our Jewish Messiah.

Prophecy: He would be born to an innocent young woman. 'The Lord Himself shall give you a sign. Behold, the young woman who is unmarried and a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son and shall call His name Immanuel' (Isaiah 7:14).
Fulfilled: 'When His mother Mary had been promised in marriage to Joseph, before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit ... Behold the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel' (Matthew 1:18 & 25).

Prophecies: Our Messiah would be born in Bethlehem and would exist long before He was born on earth. 'But you, Bethlehem Ephratah, you are little to be among the clans of Judah; yet out of you shall One come forth for Me Who is to be ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth have been from old, from ancient days' (Micah 5:2).

Fulfilled: 'In the beginning, before all time, was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God Himself. He was present originally with God ... And He Himself existed before all things were created, in heaven and on earth' (John 1:1 & 2; Colossians 1:17).

Fulfilled: 'Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold wise men from the east came to Jerusalem asking; "Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews?" ... Herod called together all the chief priests and scribes and anxiously asked them where the Messiah

was to be born. They replied to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ‘And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are not in any way least among the chief cities of Judah; for from you shall come a Ruler Who will govern My people Israel’” (Matthew 2:1 to 6). ‘Does not the scripture tell us that the Messiah will come from the offspring of David and from Bethlehem, the village where David lived?’ (John 7:42).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be anointed by the Holy Spirit. ‘And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him’ (Isaiah 11:2).

Fulfilled: ‘Behold, the heavens were opened and John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him, and behold, a voice from heaven said, “This is My Son, My Beloved Son in Whom I delight!” (Matthew 3:16 & 17).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would do miracles. ‘Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped ... the lame man shall leap like a hart and the tongue of the mute shall sing for joy’ (Isaiah 35:5 & 6).

Fulfilled: ‘And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom and healing all kinds of diseases and every weakness’ (Matthew 9:35).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would speak in parables. ‘I will open My mouth in a parable; I will utter sayings of old’ (Psalm 78:2).

Fulfilled: ‘Jesus said these things to the crowds in parables; indeed, without a parable He said nothing to them. This was in fulfilment of what was spoken by the prophet; I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things that have been hidden since the foundation of the world’ (Matthew 13:34 & 35).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would live in Galilee. ‘In the former time the Lord brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time He will make it glorious, by the way of the Sea (of Galilee), beyond the Jordan (River), Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them has the Light shined’ (Isaiah 9:1 & 2).

Fulfilled: ‘He withdrew into Galilee, and leaving Nazareth, He went and dwelt in Capernaum by the sea in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali – so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be brought to pass. The land of Zebulun and Naphtali, in the way to the Sea beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. The people who dwelt in darkness have seen a great Light and those who sat in the shadow of death, Light has dawned’ (Matthew 4:12 to 16).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah. ‘The sceptre shall not depart from Judah nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until Shiloh (the Messiah, the Peaceful One) comes’ (Genesis 49:10).

Fulfilled: ‘For it is obvious that our Lord sprang from the tribe of Judah’ (Hebrews 7:14).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be called the Son of God. ‘The Lord said to Me, “You are My Son; this day I have begotten You”’ (Psalm 2:7).

Fulfilled: ‘And there came a Voice out from within heaven, “You are My Beloved Son; in You I am well pleased”’ (Mark 1:11). ‘And the Holy Spirit

descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a Voice came from heaven saying, "You are My Beloved Son! In You I am well pleased!" (Luke 3:22). 'I have seen and my testimony is that this is the Son of God! Look! There is the Lamb of God!' (John 1:34 & 36).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be called Lord. 'The Lord God (the Father) says to my Lord (our Messiah, the Son), "Sit at My right hand until I make your enemies Your footstool' (Psalm 110:1)

Fulfilled: 'For to you is born this day in the town of David, a Saviour, Who is the Messiah, the Lord!' (Luke 2:11).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be a King. 'Yet have I anointed My King firmly on My holy hill of Zion' (Psalm 2:6).

Fulfilled: 'Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews?' (Matthew 2:2).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be a Prophet. 'I will raise up for them a Prophet from among their brethren like you, and will put My words in His mouth; and He shall speak to them all that I command Him' (Deuteronomy 18:18).

Fulfilled: 'This is the Prophet Jesus from Nazareth of Galilee' (Matthew 21:11). 'I am able to do nothing from Myself but only as I am taught by God; only the will of the Father Who sent Me' (John 5:30).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be a Priest. 'The Lord God has sworn and will not revoke or change it; You are a Priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek' (Psalm 110:4).

Fulfilled: 'Consider Jesus, the Apostle and High Priest' (Hebrews 3:1). 'Being saluted by God as High Priest after the order of Melchizedek' (Hebrews 5:10).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be our Judge. 'For the Lord is our Judge, the Lord is our Lawgiver, the Lord is our King' (Isaiah 33:22).

Fulfilled: 'I judge and My judgement is right' (John 5:30). 'One only is the Lawgiver and Judge Who is able to save' (James 4:12).

Prophecies: Our Messiah would be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jesse and David. 'And in your (Abraham's) Seed, all the nations of the earth be blessed' (Genesis 22:18). 'In Isaac shall your posterity be called' (Genesis 21:12). 'A Star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a Sceptre shall rise out of Israel' (Numbers 24:17). 'There shall come forth a Shoot out of the stock of Jesse' (Isaiah 11:1). 'Behold, the days are coming when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, and He will reign as King' (Jeremiah 23:5).

Fulfilled: 'The book of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham' (Matthew 1:1). 'The son of Isaac, the son of Jacob' (Luke 3:34). 'There shall be a Sprout from the root of Jesse' (Romans 15:12). 'God promised through His prophets in the scriptures, regarding His Son, Who was descended from David' (Romans 1:2 & 3).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would have a messenger to prepare the way. 'Behold I send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me, and the Messiah Whom you seek will suddenly come to His temple' (Malachi 3:1). 'A voice of one who cries: Prepare in the wilderness the way of the Lord' (Isaiah 40:3).

Fulfilled: ‘This is he who was mentioned by the prophet Isaiah when he said, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way for the Lord’ (Matthew 3:3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:4). ‘John said, “I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness; Prepare the way of the Lord”’ (John 1:23).

Prophecy: The Lord would make a new covenant with the house of Israel. ‘Behold, the days are coming when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah’ (Jeremiah 31:31).

Fulfilled: ‘He took the cup after supper saying, “This cup is the new covenant ratified in My blood which is shed for you”’ (Luke 22:20; 1 Corinthians 11:25).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would enter Jerusalem riding on a young foal. ‘Behold! Your King comes to you; He is just and having salvation, humble, and riding on a donkey, upon a colt, the foal of a donkey’ (Zechariah 9:9).

Fulfilled: ‘Jesus said, “Go into the village that is opposite you, and at once you will find a donkey tied and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to Me.” This happened so that what was spoken by the prophet might be fulfilled: Behold, your King is coming to you, humble, and riding on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey’ (Matthew 21:1 to 5; John 12:14 & 15).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be betrayed by a friend whom He trusted for thirty pieces of silver, and the money would be firstly thrown into the house of the Lord then used to buy a potters field. ‘Cast it to the potter – the price I was valued at by them! And I took the thirty pieces of silver and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord’ (Psalm 41:9; Zechariah 11:12 & 13).

Fulfilled: “What are you willing to give me if I hand Him over to you?” ‘And they paid Judas thirty pieces of silver. When Judas, His betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, and filled with remorse he brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests, and casting the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed and hanged himself. So they bought the potter’s field in which to bury strangers’ (Matthew 26:15; 27:3 to 10).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be rejected, hated by His own people without a cause and people would shake their heads at Him. ‘He was despised and rejected by men’ ... They hate Me without cause ... I have become a reproach to others; when they see Me they shake their heads’ (Isaiah 53:3; Psalm 69:4; Psalm 109:25).

Fulfilled: ‘He came to that which belonged to Him, and they who were His own did not receive Him’ (John 1:11). ‘The world does hate Me because I denounce it for its wicked works ... Those who passed by spoke reproachfully and shook their heads’ (John 7:4; Matthew 27:39).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be forsaken by His disciples and friends. ‘My friends stand aloof and My neighbours stand afar off ... Smite the Shepherd and the sheep will be scattered’ (Psalm 38:11; Zech 13:7).

Fulfilled: ‘Then all of His disciples fled, forsaking Him. And all the acquaintances of Jesus stood at a distance’ (Mark 14:50; Luke 23:49).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be accused by false witnesses. ‘Malicious and unrighteous witnesses rise up’ (Psalm 35:11).

Fulfilled: 'The chief priests sought to get false witnesses to testify against Jesus' (Matthew 26:59).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be mute before His accusers. 'He was oppressed, yet when He was afflicted He opened not His mouth; like a Lamb is led to the slaughter, He opened not His mouth' (Isaiah 53:7).

Fulfilled: 'But when the charges were made against Him, He made no answer ... But He made no reply to him, not even a single accusation so that the governor marvelled greatly' (Matthew 27:12 & 14).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be wounded, bruised, have his beard torn out, be smitten, humiliated, spat upon and mocked. 'I gave My back to the smiters and My cheeks to those who plucked off the hair; I hid not My face from shame and spitting ... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, with His stripes (whip marks) we are healed'. 'All who see Me laugh at Me and mock Me' (Isaiah 50:6; 53:5; Psalm 22:7).

Fulfilled: 'Then they spat in His face and struck Him with their fists; and some slapped Him in the face ... Jesus was whipped ... and they spat on Him and struck Him on the head with a staff ... Jesus was flogged and had a crown of thorns put on His head ... When they finished mocking Him, they led Him away to be crucified' (Matthew 26:67; 27:30 & 31; John 19:1).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be crucified or 'cut off' suddenly from earth and will own nothing. 'He was taken away; He was cut off out of the land of the living, stricken to His death for the transgression of the people ... After sixty-two weeks shall the Anointed One be cut off and shall have nothing belonging to Him' (Isaiah 53:8; Daniel 9:26).

Fulfilled: 'The foxes have holes, birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head ... And they crucified Him' (Matthew 8:20; Mark 15:24).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would have none of His bones broken. 'He keeps all His bones; not one of them is broken' (Psalm 34:20).

Fulfilled: 'But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. These things took place so that the scripture might be fulfilled; Not one of His bones shall be broken' (John 19:33 & 36).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be nailed to the cross and be stabbed, or pierced by the Roman soldiers. 'They pierced My hands and My feet ... And they shall look upon Me Whom they pierced' (Psalm 22:16; Zech 12:10).

Fulfilled: 'One of the (Roman) soldiers pierced His side with a spear ... The scripture says, they shall look on Him Whom they have pierced ... Thomas said, "Unless I see in His hands the marks made by the nails and put my finger into the nail prints, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe it." Then Jesus said to Thomas, "Reach out your finger here and see My hands and place your hand in My side." (John 19:34; 20:25 & 27).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would cry out with thirst and would be given vinegar to drink. 'In My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink' (Psalm 69:21).

Fulfilled: 'Jesus said in fulfilment of the scripture, "I thirst." A bowl full of sour wine (vinegar) was placed there, so they put a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop reed and held it to His mouth and He received it' (John 19:28 to 30).

Prophecy: The Roman soldiers would cast lots for Jesus' clothes. 'They part My clothing among them and cast lots for My raiment' (Psalm 22:18).

Fulfilled: 'When they had crucified Him, they divided His garments by casting lots so that the prophet's saying was fulfilled, "They parted My garments among them and over My apparel they cast lots"' (Matthew 27:35; Mark 15:24; Luke 23:34; John 19:23 & 24).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would die with transgressors. 'He was numbered with the transgressors' (Isaiah 53:12).

Fulfilled: 'At the same time two robbers were crucified with Him; one on the right hand and one on the left ... and with Him they crucified two robbers, and the scripture was fulfilled which says, He was counted among the transgressors' (Matthew 27:38; Mark 15:27 & 28).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would cry out to God in anguish. 'My God. My God. Why have You forsaken Me?' (Psalm 22:1)

Fulfilled: 'My God. My God. Why have You forsaken Me?' (Matthew 27:46).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would commit His Spirit to God. 'Into Your hands I commit My Spirit' (Psalm 31:5).

Fulfilled: 'And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My Spirit!" (Luke 23:46).

Prophecy: Our Messiah suffered a broken heart which began in the garden of Gethsemane when He suffered hematidrosis. 'My heart is like wax; it is softened with anguish and melted down within Me' (Psalm 22:14).

Fulfilled: 'His sweat became like great clots of blood dropping down upon the ground' (Luke 22:44). 'One of the (Roman) soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water flowed out' (John 19:34).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would proclaim, "It is done; it is finished." 'They shall come and shall declare His righteousness to a people yet to be born – that He has done it; that it is finished!' (Psalm 22:31).

Fulfilled: 'Jesus said, "It is finished!"' (John 19:30).

Prophecy: After our Messiah died, darkness would cover the land at midday. 'Thus says the Lord, "And in that day I will cause the sun to go down at noon, and I will darken the earth in the broad daylight"' (Amos 8:9).

Fulfilled: 'Now from the sixth hour (noon) there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour (3 pm)' (Matthew 27:45).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would be buried in a rich man's tomb. 'And they assigned Him a grave; with a rich man in His death' (Isaiah 53:9).

Fulfilled: 'When it was evening, there came a rich man named Joseph from Arimathea ... and Joseph took the body of Jesus and laid Him in his own fresh tomb' (Matthew 27:57 to 60).

Prophecy: Our Messiah would rise from the dead on the third day, and His body would not see decay. 'You will not abandon Me, neither will You suffer Your Holy One to see corruption. On the third day He will raise us up' (Psalm 16:10; Hosea 6:2).

Fulfilled: 'I know that you are looking for Jesus Who was crucified, but He is not here; He has risen from the dead ... You are looking for Jesus of Nazareth Who was crucified. He has risen; He is not here ... And Jesus said to them, "Thus it is written that the Messiah should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead" ... Thus He has completely fulfilled for us, by raising up Jesus as it was written in the second Psalm, "You are My Son; today I have begotten You – that is caused You to arise, to be born and formally shown You to be the Messiah by the resurrection." And as to God's having raised Jesus from among the dead, now no more to return to undergo putrefaction of the grave. For this reason God says in another Psalm, "You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption' (Matthew 28:5 to 9; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:46; Psalm 2:7; Acts 13:33 to 35).

Apart from the direct prophecies with their fulfillments, there are many indirect situations that point to our Messiah. One example is the Passover lamb had to be in perfect condition without any blemishes (Exodus 12:3 to 6) and Jesus was called the sacrificial Lamb (John 1:29). Abraham was asked to sacrifice Isaac at Moriah (Genesis 22:2) where Jerusalem was later situated, and we know Jesus was sacrificed outside Jerusalem. When Abraham was stopped from sacrificing Isaac, it was as though Isaac, the son of promise, had risen from the dead. Abraham spoke prophetically to Isaac when he said, "God Himself will provide a Lamb for the offering" (Genesis 22:8).

Another 'picture' of the Messiah was the drink offering. When the Jews were asked to pour out a drink offering of wine (symbolising blood), with the same amount of oil (symbolising the Holy Spirit) on the altar (Exodus 29:40), God knew, but the Jews could not have known in those ancient of days, that the amount specified by the Lord God, the ¼ of a hin, was the approximate amount of blood a healthy grown man would have in his body. When Jesus shed His blood for us, it was already prophesied through the drink offering.

When Melchizedek the priest and king, brought out the bread and wine (Genesis 14:18), he was prophesying through his actions, of the body and blood of our Messiah Who was then to come. When Jesus was on earth, during His last Passover, He took the bread and the wine and said they were His body and blood (Matthew 26:26 to 29) and He is our King and Priest after the order of Melchizedek (Psalm 110:4; Hebrews 5:6 through to 7:21).

We hope these ancient prophecies, all completely fulfilled by Yeshua in the Jewish year of (approximately) 3,790 (30 AD), will convince our Jewish brethren that Yeshua was indeed their Messiah.

Amen and God bless you.

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