

# **Christ in the Old Testament 3 – Prophecy - Birth, Life, Ministry**

Purpose: To review some of the Scripture data concerning the birth, life and ministry of Christ. To show how powerful a sign this should have been to those who knew the OT scriptures.

## **1 Introduction**

Continuing series on Christ in the OT

Will see that the old saying is true:

*The New is in the Old contained*

*The Old is by the New explained*

What are the 5 ways to look for Christ in the OT?

Prophecy, Theophanies, Symbols, Types, Ceremonies

Last week started with Prophecy – looked at Ancestry of Christ.

Like an Olympic torch running through OT

First given to Adam, passed to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, Jesse, David and the kings of Judah

This week - major prophecies dealing with birth, life and ministry

Again, not comprehensive – you will be able to think of others

## **2 The Circumstances of Christ's birth**

What prophecies have to do with Messiah's birth?

To be born of a virgin

Gen 3:14-15 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat 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 you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

The seed of a woman was an unusual concept for the Jewish mind

May well have been a foreshadowing of the virgin birth

Of course, there is a far more significant passage

Isaiah 7:13-14 Then Isaiah said, "Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of men? Will you try the patience of my God also? 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.**

## 2.1 To be born in Bethlehem

Micah 5:1-5 Marshal your troops, O city of troops, for a siege is laid against us. They will strike Israel's ruler on the cheek with a rod 2 **"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."** 3 Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labor gives birth and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. 4 He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth. 5 And he will be their peace.

## 2.2 To be the Son of God

Ps 2:7 "I will surely tell of the decree of the LORD: He said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

2 Sam 7:14(a) I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me

**Heb 1:5** For to which of the angels did He ever say, "YOU ARE MY SON, TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU"? And again, "I WILL BE A FATHER TO HIM AND HE SHALL BE A SON TO ME"?

Luke1:35 The angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.

## 3 Life and Ministry

### 3.1 To come according to Scripture

Ps 40:6-8 Sacrifice and meal offering You have not desired; My ears You have opened; Burnt offering and sin offering You have not required. 7 Then I said, "Behold, I come; In the scroll of the book it is written of me. 8 I delight to do Your will, O my God; Your Law is within my heart."

A prophecy that He will come according to prophecy!

These words are ascribed to Christ in Hebrews 10:1-10

Heb 10:1-10 For the Law, since it has *only* a shadow of the good things to come *and* not the very form of things, can never, by the same sacrifices which they offer continually year by year, make perfect those who draw near. 2 Otherwise, would they not have ceased to be offered, because the worshipers, having once been cleansed, would no longer have had consciousness of sins? 3 But in those *sacrifices* there is a reminder of sins year by year. 4 For it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. 5 Therefore, when He comes into the world, He says, "SACRIFICE AND OFFERING YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, BUT A BODY YOU HAVE PREPARED FOR ME; 6 IN WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE TAKEN NO PLEASURE. 7 "THEN I SAID, 'BEHOLD, I HAVE COME (IN THE SCROLL OF THE BOOK IT IS WRITTEN OF ME) TO DO YOUR WILL, O GOD.'" 8 After saying above, "SACRIFICES AND OFFERINGS AND WHOLE BURNT OFFERINGS AND *sacrifices* FOR SIN YOU HAVE NOT DESIRED, NOR HAVE YOU TAKEN PLEASURE *in them*" (which are offered according to the Law), 9 then He said, "BEHOLD, I HAVE COME TO DO YOUR WILL." He takes away the first in order to establish the second. 10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

In other words, Messiah is to bring an end to the shadows

He will be the reality who will come to fulfil the Law

### 3.2 Preceded by a Messenger:

Isa 40:3-5 A voice is calling, "Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness; Make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. 4 "Let every valley be lifted up, And every mountain and hill be made low; And let the rough ground become a plain, And the rugged terrain a broad valley; 5 Then the glory of the LORD will be revealed, And all flesh will see *it* together; For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

Mal 3:1 Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming," says the Lord of hosts.

Mal 4:5, Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the LORD.

Matthew 3:1-3 NOW in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, 2 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet when he said, "THE VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE READY THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE HIS PATHS STRAIGHT!' " 4 Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey.

2 Kings 1:7-8 He said to them, "What kind of man was he who came up to meet you and spoke these words to you?" 8 They answered him, "*He was a hairy man with a leather girdle bound about his loins.*" And he said, "It is Elijah the Tishbite."

### 3.3 To be God

As we saw last week in Jeremiah 23 and 33 – the LORD our Righteousness

Isa 9:3 For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, **Mighty God, Eternal Father**, Prince of Peace. 7 There will be no end to the increase of *His* government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

### 3.4 To be the Christ (Anointed)

#### 3.4.1 THE Prophet (like Moses)

Deut 18:17-19 The LORD said to me, 'They have spoken well. 18 I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 It shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require *it* of him.

John 7:40 Some of the people therefore, when they heard these words, were saying, "This certainly is the Prophet."

What does a prophet do? Speaks to people on behalf of God  
Does Jesus? Then? Now?

### 3.4.2 THE Priest (like Melchizedek)

Ps 110:4 The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek."

What does a priest do? Intercedes with God on behalf of the people  
Does Jesus? Then? Now?

### 3.4.3 THE King

Psalms 2:6 He who sits in the heavens laughs, The Lord scoffs at them. 5  
Then He will speak to them in His anger And terrify them in His fury, saying,  
6 "But as for Me, I have installed My King Upon Zion, My holy mountain."

What does a king do? Establishes and upholds the law - reigns  
Does Jesus? Then? Now?

## 3.5 To receive a special anointing of Spirit

Isa 11:2 Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from  
his roots will bear fruit. 2 The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him, The spirit of  
wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of  
knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Isa 42:1-4 "BEHOLD, My Servant, whom I uphold; My chosen one *in whom* My  
soul delights. I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the  
nations.

Did Jesus Receive a special anointing? When? At baptism

## 3.6 Ministry in Galilee:

Isa 9:1 BUT there will be no *more* gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier  
times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali with contempt,  
but later on He shall make *it* glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side  
of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. 2 The people who walk in darkness Will  
see a great light; Those who live in a dark land, The light will shine on them.

Why to be true in Galilee? For unto us a child is born (vs6)

## 3.7 Healing and preaching Ministry:

Isa 35:3-6 Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. 4 Say to  
those with anxious heart, "Take courage, fear not. Behold, your God will  
come *with* vengeance; The recompense of God will come, But He will save  
you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will  
be unstopped. 6 Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the  
mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And  
streams in the Arabah.

Matt 11:4 Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you  
hear and see: 5 *the* BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and *the* lame walk, *the* lepers are  
cleansed and *the* deaf hear, *the* dead are raised up, and *the* POOR HAVE THE  
GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. 6 And blessed is he who does not take offense  
at Me."

And the Pharisees asked for a sign!

Isa 61:1-3 THE Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has  
anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up  
the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners;

2 To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, 3 To grant those who mourn *in* Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

Luke 4:20-21 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, 21 and he began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

What did Jesus mean? By hearing Him, they were the fulfilment!

### **3.8 Ministry of parables:**

Psalm 78:2 O my people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter hidden things, things from of old—

**Matt 13:34** All these things Jesus spoke to the multitudes in parables, and He did not speak to them without a parable, 35 so that what was spoken through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, "I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES; I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

### **3.9 Zealous for God**

Psalm 69:9 For zeal for Thy house has consumed me, And the reproaches of those who reproach Thee have fallen on me.

John 2:13-17 And the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who were selling oxen and sheep and doves, and the moneychangers seated. 15 And He made a scourge of cords, and drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen; and He poured out the coins of the moneychangers, and overturned their tables; 16 and to those who were selling the doves He said, "Take these things away; stop making My Father's house a house of merchandise." 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Thy house will consume me."

## **4 Conclusions**

So now we know about His ancestry and we know certain aspects of His life.

Imagine you were on a jury trying to decide whether this man Jesus fitted the OT description or not – what would your verdict be?

But we haven't finished yet with prophecy –

Will go on to look at his work of salvation, his death, burial, resurrection, ascension and eternal reign all from OT prophecy.

Then we will look at theophanies, symbols, types and ceremonies

If you were never sure that Jesus is the Christ of the OT, there should be no doubt by the end!