

JESUS: The Promised Messiah

Scripture Reading: St. John 1: 1-14

Memory Verse: John 5: 39-40

“You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

Introduction

From the very early stages of human history, God foretold of a special individual who was to come into the world. This individual would be able to withstand various challenges from the kingdom of Satan and be victorious; in the process delivering a decisive blow to Satan himself. Later in the scriptures this individual was described as the Messiah. The word Messiah means “anointed one”. The word “Christ” is the Greek equivalent and therefore has the same meaning as the Hebrew form.

Between the time when the initial prophecy about the Messiah was first made and his actual appearance, God provided pertinent details about this anointed individual. In fact, it is believed that there are over 400 passages in the old testament scriptures pertaining to the Messiah, in addition to the many symbols which pointed to and were fulfilled by Jesus Christ.

Some of the details about the promised Messiah as provided by God are included within the below table:

#	Summary	Description	O/T Scriptures
1	Eternal Impact	He would deliver a decisive blow to the kingdom of Satan.	Genesis 3:15
2	Relationship To God	He is the son of God.	Psalms 2: 7
3	Lineage	He was to be from the lineage of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah & David.	Abraham (Gen. 22:18) Isaac (Gen. 21:12) Jacob (Num 24.17) Judah (Gen. 49:10) David (Isaiah 11:1-2 & 2 Sam 7:16 & Isaiah 9:6-7
4	Manor Of His Birth	He was to be born of a virgin	Isaiah 7: 14
5	Sacrifice For Sin	He would pay the price for the sins of all people.	Isaiah 53: 5-12
6	Place Of His Birth	He was to be born in Bethlehem	Micah 5: 2
7	Teaching Methods	He would use parables as a tool to teach.	Isaiah 78: 2-4
8	Triumphal Entry	The means by which he would enter Jerusalem as king.	Zechariah 9: 9
9	Timeline For His Arrival	He was to arrive within the 70 weeks prophesied by Daniel.	Daniel 9: 24-27
10	Witness Of Him	Isaiah was to come before him as a witness/forerunner.	Isaiah 40: 3 / Malachi 4: 5-6

11	Titles	He would hold the offices of Prophet, Priest & King.	Deuteronomy 18: 18-19 / Psalms 110: 4 / Zechariah 9: 9
12	Expatriation	He would spend time in Egypt	Hosea 11: 1
13	Resurrection	His flesh would not be left to rotten	Psalms 16: 9-10

It is interesting to note that although God provided detailed information throughout the old testament scriptures which pointed to who the Messiah would be (including a timeline for his arrival), many people who lived within the period of Jesus's earthly ministry did not believe that he was indeed the promised Messiah, who's coming God initially foretold at least 4,000 years earlier. In fact, a number of these individuals were members of the spiritual ruling class who devoted countless hours in researching, studying and memorizing scriptures. The truth is that many of the people during the time of Jesus's earthly ministry were not spiritually prepared to receive him, as such, they missed the numerous signs and instructions that were provided by God Himself through various people over thousands of years.

Today, there are millions of people who are still awaiting the first coming of the Messiah. However, before we start to point any fingers, let us be reminded that if we are not paying the right kind of attention to our spiritual health, we too will miss the directions provided by God through his words and may not be prepared when Jesus comes back a second time. As such, in Mark 13: 32-37 Jesus warns his followers to be ready spiritually for his return, otherwise, he may come and finds us sleeping!

Questions for Study and Discussions

1. According to the Bible, when was the first prophecy about the Messiah made? Read Genesis 3: 15
2. What was the primary reason for the Messiah to come into the World? Read Isaiah 53: 5-12
3. According to the scriptures, what lineage was the Messiah to come from? Read Gen. 22:18, Gen. 21:12, Num 24.17, Judah (Gen. 49:10) David (Isaiah 11:1-2 & 2 Sam 7:16 & Isaiah 9:6-7

What other details did God provide (over time) about the coming Messiah? See table within the introduction.

4. According to the 70 weeks prophecy of Daniel, what was the exact year that the Messiah was expected to start his ministry? Read Daniel 9:24-27
5. Who was tasked with the responsibility to make preparations for and to identify the Messiah when he was ready to start his ministry? Read Isaiah 40: 3, Malachi 4: 5-6 & John 1: 6-8 & 29-36

Conclusion

It is believed that there are over 400 passages of scriptures about the Messiah. Throughout the bible, God was deliberately pointing his people to who this anointed individual would be. However, because of their own pre-conceived ideas as to what this person would do to re-establish the kingdom again in Israel, they missed most of the messages provided by God. Today, if we are not careful we too will miss the messages about Jesus the Christ and be rejected just like the nation of Israel was. As such, Jesus spent time in warning his followers to be ready spiritually for his return!