

CHRIST IN PROPHECY

Introduction

1. Paul reminded Timothy that his teaching received from infancy prepared him for faith in Jesus Christ (2 Tim. 3:15), and he also referred to the Law as a pedagogue which escorted the Jews to Christ (Gal. 3:24). In both of these declarations there is the implication that the Old Testament provided prophetic previews of the coming Christ.
2. When Philip joined the Ethiopian in his chariot, he taught him about Christ from Isaiah 53, the most definitive statement of the Messiah's place in God's scheme found in the Old Testament.
3. Jesus reminded the Jews that their Scriptures testified of Him (Jn. 5:39).
4. It is altogether reasonable that the Father would speak in advance of the One that He planned to send to be the world's Savior; thus we have numerous prophecies of the Messiah. Jesus' fulfillment of those prophecies constitutes a strong argument for His being the divine Messiah (cf. Peter's line of reasoning in 2 Pet. 1:16-21). By means of the fulfillment, the word of prophecy was shown to be true.
5. That prophetic word was surer than the eyewitness testimony offered in earlier verses. God's people were directed to give their attention to it, because it supplied the light shining in a dark place of sin and ignorance, until the day star (Jesus Christ) arose in their hearts to enlighten (by full divine revelation) them in full splendor.
6. Time does not permit an exhaustive study of the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament or of the types and shadows pointing to Christ, but we here offer some of them (Lk. 24:44; Acts 3:24).

I. The Lineage of the Messiah

- A. Seed of woman (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4)
- B. Seed of Abram (Gen. 12:3; Gal. 3:16)
- C. Tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10; Heb. 7:14)
- D. House of David (Isa. 11:1; Acts 13:23)
- E. Divine in nature also (Mic. 5:2; Jn. 1:1-2)
- F. Equal to God (Zech. 13:7; Phil. 2:6)

II. Main Events in His Life

- A. Announced by a harbinger (Mal. 3:1; Mt. 11:10)
- B. Anointed prophet, priest, and king (Deut. 18:15-18; Zech. 6:13)
- C. Began work in Galilee (Isa. 9:1; Mt. 4:12)
- D. Mission confirmed by miracles (Isa. 35:5; Acts 10:38)
- E. Life of sorrows (Isa. 53:3)
- F. Rejection by Jews (Isa. 53:1-3; Jn. 1:11)

III. Betrayal and Trial

- A. Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver (Zech. 11:12; Mt. 27:3)
- B. Demeanor during trial (Isa. 53:7; Mt. 26:62-63)

C. Suffering abuse (Isa. 50:6; Mt. 26:67)

IV. *Crucifixion, Burial, and Resurrection*

A. Died under judicial sentence (Isa. 53:8)

B. Died for sins of others (Isa. 53:5)

C. Clothing divided up by casting of lots (Psm. 22:18; Jn. 19:23)

D. Numbered with transgressors (Isa. 53:12; Jn. 19:17-18)

E. Buried by a rich man (Isa. 53:9; Jn. 19:39-42)

F. Resurrected from dead (Isa. 53:10; Acts 2:29-32)

G. Ascended into heaven (Psm. 68:18; Eph. 4:8)

Conclusion

1. The spirit (essence, life principle) of prophecy is the testimony of Jesus (what has been testified about Him). This idea in Revelation 19:10, even if it refers to the prophecy of the Book of Revelation, is also expressed concerning the rest of the Bible in Acts 3:18, 24.
2. God clearly wanted people to be prepared to receive Jesus Christ, as indicated in the extensive portrait that He furnished before Christ came. Many of them disregarded the portrait and turned inward to gloat over their own ancestry and position.
3. For us today it is a matter of comparing the Christ of New Testament record to the Christ of prophecy.

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