

Prophecy

Prophecy #1: The Origin & Birthplace of the Messiah

Micah 5:2 (5:1 in the Jewish Bible) - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Fulfillment:

Matthew 2:1 - "Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem..."

Prophecy #2: A Descendant of Abraham

Genesis 12:1-3 - "Now the LORD had said to Abram: 'Get out of your country, from your family and from your father's house, to a land that I will show you. I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'"

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1:1 - "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the son of Abraham."

Prophecy #3: From the House of David

2 Samuel 7:12-13 - "When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever."

Fulfillment:

Luke 3:31 - "...the son of Melea, the son of Menan, the son of Mattathah, the son of Nathan, the son of David."

Prophecy #4: Born of a Virgin

Isaiah 7:14 - "Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel."

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1:18, 22-23 - "Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows: After His mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit. So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying:

'Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,' which is translated, 'God with us.'"

Prophecy #5: God in the Flesh

Isaiah 9:6-7 (9:5-6 in the Jewish Bible) - "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this."

Fulfillment:

Matthew 1:1 - "The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham."

John 1:14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."

Prophecy #6: The Humility of Messiah

Zechariah 9:9 - "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Fulfillment:

John 12:12-14 - "...a great multitude...when they heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem, took branches of palm trees and went out to meet Him, and cried out: 'Hosanna! "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" The King of Israel!' Then Jesus, when He had found a young donkey, sat on it; as it is written."

Prophecy #7: The Suffering Servant

Isaiah 53 - When he reads this passage, your Jewish friend might think that he is reading from the New Testament. He may be surprised to see this in his own Bible!

Fulfillment:

John 1:1; Matthew 8:16-17; 26:62-63; 27:12-14, 38, 57-60; Mark 15:27-28; Luke 23:33; Romans 4:25; 1 Corinthians 15:3

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Micah 5:2 predicted that Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. This was remarkable because Bethlehem was a small town a few miles south of Jerusalem. Furthermore, Mary and Joseph lived in Nazareth, in the land of Galilee. But the emperor had arranged for a census to be called in which all would go to their home town for taxation purposes. Though Mary was in the last stage of pregnancy, she and Joseph made the long trip to his home town of Bethlehem. There Yeshua was born (Luke 2:7) in a stable, because there were no rooms left in the inn, as many travelers had come into town for the census. What a remarkable work of God to fulfill His word!

Isaiah 53 is a classic chapter portraying the life, death, and the resurrection of Messiah. He would be despised by many (53:3), He would give his life for us and take our sins upon Himself (53:7), He would suffer (53:10) and be resurrected (53:10-12). Many Jewish people, when reading Isaiah 53 for the first time, have thought that these words must be from the New Testament, since they paint such a clear portrait of Yeshua. It is astonishing that these verses are in fact from the Hebrew Bible; they were written by Isaiah over 700 years before Yeshua was born!

Another powerful Messianic prophecy is Daniel 9:24-27, which depicts the time of Messiah that was to come 490 years after the rebuilding of the Temple. Though there have been different chronologies, this Daniel prophecy is a remarkable indication of predictive prophecy and its fulfillment. The power of this prophecy was demonstrated to me when it became the primary source for an Israeli Jewish woman came to faith after she attended a Bible study in my home. Some time later, she said that the predictions in Daniel 9:24-27 concerning the time of Messiah resulted in her putting her faith in Yeshua.

Isaiah 9:6-7 is another passage that describes the Messiah who was to come and the resulting benefit to the nation. The child who was to be born would have the government upon his shoulders, and that government would never end. This child will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. These verses were written some 700 years before the time of Yeshua.

In addition to prophecies about the Messiah, prophecies about the nation of Israel are also a valuable evangelistic tool. In Biblical times, the nation of Israel fell into Sin and God warned that the punishment would be sending the remnant into exile in Babylon. Unfortunately, the Israelites' grievous sin against the Lord did not stop – and the nation was invaded, the Temple sacked and burned, and Israel was carried into Babylon (II Kings 25). This exile was to last for seventy years.

Another remarkable prophecy is seen in Isaiah 66:8, which portrays the rebirth of Israel in later times:

Before she goes into labor, she gives birth; before the pains come upon her, she delivers a son. Who has ever heard of such things? Can a country be born in a day or a nation be brought forth in a moment?

On May 14, 1948, a country was indeed brought forth in a day. The British had given their mandate over Palestine to the United Nations, and Israel proclaimed her statehood. The U.S. President at the time immediately recognized the state of Israel. For most of the past 2,500 years the Jewish people had been under foreign control, but in a single day Israel became an independent nation.

These prophecies are just a few brief examples of prophecies that can be useful evangelistic tools. They point to a God who is active in His universe and to a Messiah who fulfilled the words of the prophets.

Fulfilled prophecies serve as evidence for God's working in human history. They testify that the Gospel message is true. For many people, these tools show that the Scriptures are accurate and reliable, and this results in increased openness to the Gospel of Yeshua the Messiah.