

Messianic Prophecies: Messiah King

The primary function of messianic prophecies is to indicate and confirm who the Messiah is. However, God may be this type of prophecy for other reasons as well. Let's explore the messianic prophecies about the King!

1. Mary is told that Jesus fulfills God's promise of the King from the line of David who will reign forever (Luke 1:26-33). What divine covenant is this referring to and when was it made (2 Sam 7:12-16)? Also pertaining to the birth of Jesus, the Magi come looking for the King of the Jews (Matt 2:1-6). Who was the prophet of that messianic prophecy? How would you find out?

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." (Luke 1:26-33, NIV)

When your days are over and you rest with your ancestors, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, your own flesh and blood, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with a rod wielded by men, with floggings inflicted by human hands. But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever." (2 Sam 7:12-16, NIV)

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel." (Matt 2:1-6, NIV)

2. Though He was designated as the descendant of David with eternal kingship by an angel, Jesus never cited a messianic prophecy explicitly confirming His kingship throughout His ministry. When does Jesus do so? How does He do so? What impact does this have on the Jews of Jerusalem?

As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage on the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go to the village ahead of you, and at once you will find a donkey tied there, with her colt by her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, say that the Lord needs them, and he will send them right away." This took place to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet:

"Say to Daughter Zion,
'See, your king comes to you,
gentle and riding on a donkey,
and on a colt, the foal of a donkey.'" (Matt 21:1-5, NIV)

The next day the great crowd that had come for the festival heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting,

“Hosanna!”

“Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!”

“Blessed is the king of Israel!”

Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it, as it is written:

“Do not be afraid, Daughter Zion;

see, your king is coming,

seated on a donkey’s colt.” (John 12:12-15, NIV)

Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion!

Shout, Daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you,

righteous and victorious,

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on a colt, the foal of a donkey. (Zech 9:9, NIV)

3. At Jesus’ trial before Jewish religious authorities, the chief priests and whole Jewish council of elders and scribes were unable to get enough evidence of blasphemy to convict Jesus. They were frustrated in their attempt to sentence Jesus to death. What do you observe of what Jesus says? What if Jesus did not cite these messianic prophecies?

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Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, “I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied. “But I say to all of you: From now on you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” (Matt 26:59-64, NIV)

The Lord says to my lord:

“Sit at my right hand

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“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. (Dan 7:13-14, NIV)

The Teacher Note for this lesson is at:

<http://Helpmewithbiblestudy.org/25Curriculum/Class9-12/print/Jesus.MessianicProphecy.King.9-12.pdf>

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Encourage the student to ask questions of the Text. When encountering words and concepts that are unknown, take the time to look them up. When your knowledge base grows, reading the Bible becomes easier.

When Mary learns that "the Lord God will give him (Jesus) the throne of his father David," it is in the context of the covenant God made with king David (also known as the King Covenant or Davidic Covenant), which, through the prophet Samuel, was made some 1000 years earlier.

When questioned by Herod, the Magi refer to a messianic prophecy. There are many ways of finding out where this Old Testament reference came from. One method that is often overlooked is by examining the footnote in the Bible.

1. Go to www.Biblegateway.com
2. Search "Matt 2" in the New International Version (NIV)
3. Locate Matt 2:6 and notice the footnote [6]
4. Click the footnote and see a pop up window showing "Micah 5:2,4." By entering this verse reference into the search box, you'll be able to see what the prophet Micah said.

2. Though He was designated as the descendant of David with eternal kingship by an angel, Jesus never cited a messianic prophecy explicitly confirming His kingship throughout His ministry. When does Jesus do so? How does He do so? What impact does this have on the Jews of Jerusalem?

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Help the student develop their skill in observing context. In Matthew 21:1-5, Jesus is just about to enter Jerusalem one week before His death. If a keen observer tracked the various messianic prophecies, he would notice that Jesus publicly confirms His kingly status in the last week of His life.

Jesus does so by riding a young donkey into Jerusalem.

Only observant Jewish Old Testament Believers would know of the messianic prophecy in Zechariah 9:9 and come out to honor Jesus with palm leaves and singing praises.

A good question to ask of the Text is: "why?"

If the student studied the context of Matthew 21:1-5 well, then he would see that "when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred and asked, "who is this?" (Matt 21:10, NIV)

An interesting question to ask of the Text is: "did the city Jerusalem see Jesus as the Messiah?"

3. At Jesus' trial before Jewish religious authorities, the chief priests and whole Jewish council of elders and scribes were unable to get enough evidence of blasphemy to convict Jesus. They were frustrated in their attempt to sentence Jesus to death. What do you observe of what Jesus says? What if Jesus did not cite these messianic prophecies?

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Ask the student: "what do you observe of Jesus' answer to the High Priest? What evidence did Jesus provide for His conviction?"

While the significance of Jesus' manner of entry into Jerusalem on a donkey (John 12:12-15) was not lost to Jewish religious authorities, Jesus cited two messianic prophecies that confirmed His kingly status as Messiah Son of God.

Psalms 110 refers to the Messiah sitting on the right hand of God with the power of God defeating His enemies.

Daniel 7 refers to the Son of God who, in the presence of God, is given everlasting authority, glory and sovereign power over all nations for eternity. And He will return coming in the clouds.

In keeping with God's plan of the manner and timing of the crucifixion, Jesus provides the decisive evidence Jewish religious authorities require and elicits their greatest anger. Here one can see how Messianic prophecies can play a role in ushering God's unfolding plan of salvation, because Jesus' conviction seals His fate to die by crucifixion on a certain day at a certain time.