

MESSIAH|משיח|CHRIST|ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ|ANOINTED ONE

3. The Messiah, Born of the Virgin Mary

Beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. (Luke 24:27)

And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Luke 4:17-21

Introduction

In the Old Testament, we see various anointings, of people and things. There can be several anointed ones, or even Anointed Ones. "The Lord's Anointed" has been both Saul and David. But Solomon is anointed by a priest and a prophet. We know priests are anointed; we also see prophets are anointed.

An anointed one could be a priest, a king, or a prophet. The Anointed One would be all three at once. How do we get from a number of "anointed ones" to **The** Messiah? Today, we look at how these various prophecies come to be understood as pointing to a particular set of events: birth to a virgin; the other features (healing the sick, giving sight to the blind, making the lame walk) which come to be seen as *Messianic*.

Devout Christians as well as devout Jews have ever loved to contemplate the exalted picture of a future regenerated humanity as depicted by the prophets of the Bible. They differed widely, however, in the interpretation and significance which they attached to these prophecies. While the Jews found in them a source of comfort and hope, an incentive to resist stubbornly the onslaughts of time and of tyrants in the expectation of the great future awaiting them and the world, the Christians read in these prophecies the divine promises which have become realised in the coming of Jesus and the organisation of the Christian Church. One looked at the picture and saw in it hope deferred to a future when humanity will reach the exalted destiny intended for it by its Creator, when the high ideals of justice and peace, on which he has pinned his hopes for his own tranquillity and rejuvenation will become the guiding principles of men and of nations; the other saw in the same picture a promise long ago fulfilled, a foreshadowing of a state of society which had assumed its full radiance and lustre two millenia ago. The Jew and the Christian approach the study of the same subject from different angles, influenced by different traditions and beliefs.

Julius Greenstone, "Die messianischen Weissagungen des alten Testaments, vergleichend geschichtlich und exegetisch behandelt, by Eduard König", The Jewish Quarterly Review Vol. 22, No. 1 (Jul., 1931), pp. 79-84, p. 79.

Some Prophecies and where they lead...

RSV/Hebrew Text	LXX
The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all cattle, and above all wild animals; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and	The Lord God said to the snake, "Because you have done this, cursed are you from all the domestic animals and from all the wild animals of the earth; upon your chest you shall go, an dearth you shall eat all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and between the woman, and between your

<p>between your seed and her seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.</p>	<p>offspring and between her offspring; he will watch your head, and you will watch his heel. Gen 3:14-15</p>
<p>“God enlarge Japheth, and let him dwell in the tents of Shem; and let Canaan be his slave.”</p>	<p>May God make space for Japheth, and let him live in the houses of Sem, and let Chanaan [son of Ham] become their slave. <i>These are the three sons of Noah, from whom subsequent post-flood Israel descends. Genesis 9:27</i></p>
<p>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who curses you I will curse; and by you all the families of the earth shall bless themselves.”</p>	<p>I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, and you shall be one blessed. And I will bless those who bless you, and those who curse you I will curse, and in you all the tribes of the earth shall be blessed.” <i>God to Abraham, Genesis 12:2-3</i></p>
<p>Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down before you. Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as a lioness; who dares rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until he comes to whom it belongs; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples. Binding his foal to the vine and his ass's colt to the choice vine, he washes his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes; his eyes shall be red with wine, and his teeth white with milk.</p>	<p>loudas, may your brothers praise you; your hands [shall?] be on the back of your enemies; your father's sons shall do obeisance to you. A lion's whelp you are, loudas; from a shoot, my son, you went up. When you reclined, you slept like a lion and like a whelp. Who will rouse him? A ruler shall not be wanting from loudas and a leader from his thighs until the things stored up for him come, and he is the expectation of the nations. Binding his foal to a vine and his donkey's foal to the tendril, he shall wash his robe in wine and his garment in the blood of a bunch of grapes; his eyes are gladdening from wine and his teeth are more white than milk. <i>Jacob/Israel prophesies what is to become of his sons. Genesis 49:8-12</i></p>
<p>The oracle of Balaam the son of Beor, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, but having his eyes uncovered: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel; it shall crush the forehead of Moab, and break down all the sons of Sheth. Edom shall be dispossessed, Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed, while Israel does valiantly. By Jacob shall dominion be exercised, and the survivors of cities be destroyed!"</p>	<p>Says Balaam the son of Beor, says the man who truly sees, one who hears divine oracles ;says the man who truly sees, one who understands knowledge of the Most High and one who sees a divine vision, in sleep when his eyes had been uncovered: I will point to him, and not now; I deem him happy, but he is not at hand. A star shall dawn out of Jakob, and a person shall rise up out of Israel, and he shall crush the chiefs of Moab, and he shall plunder all Seth's sons. And Edom will be an inheritance, and Esau, his enemy, will be an inheritance, and Israel acted with strength. And one shall arise out of Jakob, and he shall destroy one being saved from a city.” <i>The oracle of Balaam as the Israelites approach the Promised Land Numbers 24:15-19</i></p>
<p>“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren -- him you shall heed -- just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I</p>	<p>The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your brothers; you shall hear him. According to all that you requested of the Lord your God at Choreb on the day of the assembly, saying: “We shall not any more hear the voice of the Lord our God and again see this great fire—and we shall not die.” And the Lord said to me: “They are right in all that they have said. I will raise up for them a prophet just like you from among their brothers,</p>

<p>will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.””</p>	<p>and I will give my word in his mouth, and he shall speak to them whatever I command him. <i>Moses to the people before they cross the Jordan</i> Deuteronomy 18:15-18</p>
<p>O God, give your judgment to the king, to a [the] king’s son your justice, 2 that he may judge [to judge] your people in justice, and your poor in right judgment. 3 May the mountains bring forth [receive] peace for the people, and the hills justice. 4 May he defend [He shall judge] the poor of the people, and save the children of the needy, and crush the oppressor. 5 He shall endure like the sun and [before] the moon through all generations. 6 He shall descend like rain on the meadow [fleece], like showers that water the earth. 7 In his days shall justice flourish [arise], and great peace till the moon is no more. 8 He shall rule from sea to sea, from the R[r]iver to the bounds of the earth. 9 Let the desert dwellers [Ethiopians] fall before him, and his enemies lick the dust [ground]. 10 The kings of Tarshish and the islands shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheba [Arabia] and Seba shall bring him gifts. 11 Before him all kings shall fall prostrate [adore/worship], all nations shall serve him. 12 For he shall save the needy when they cry [from the powerful], the poor, and those who are helpless. 13 He will have pity on the weak and the needy [poor], and save the lives of the needy. 14 From oppression and violence he redeems their souls; to him their blood [name] is dear. 15 Long may he live! May the gold of Sheba [Arabia] be given him. They shall pray for [worship] him without ceasing, and bless him all the day. 16 May grain be abundant in the land, waving to the peaks of the mountains. [There shall be a firmament on the earth on the tops of mountains]* May its fruit rustle like [be exalted above] Lebanon; may the people flourish in the cities like grass on the earth. 17 May his name endure [be blessed] forever, his name continue like [before] the sun. Every tribe shall be blest in him, all nations shall call him blessed. [shall magnify him] [18] Blest be the LORD, God of Israel, who alone works wonders, [19] ever blest his glorious name. Let his glory fill the earth. Amen! Amen!</p>	<p>2 Deus, iudicium tuum regi da, et justitiam tuam filio regis ; iudicare populum tuum in justitia, et pauperes tuos in iudicio. 3 Suscipiant montes pacem populo, et colles justitiam. 4 Judicabit pauperes populi, et salvos faciet filios pauperum, et humiliabit calumniatorem. 5 Et permanebit cum sole, et ante lunam, in generatione et generationem. 6 Descendet sicut pluvia in vellus, et sicut stillicidia stillantia super terram. 7 Orietur in diebus ejus justitia, et abundantia pacis, donec auferatur luna. 8 Et dominabitur a mari usque ad mare, et a flumine usque ad terminos orbis terrarum. 9 Coram illo procident Æthiopes, et inimici ejus terram lingent. 10 Reges Tharsis et insulæ munera offerent ; reges Arabum et Saba dona adducent : 11 et adorabunt eum omnes reges terræ ; omnes gentes servient ei. 12 Quia liberabit pauperem a potente, et pauperem cui non erat adjutor. 13 Parcet pauperi et inopi, et animas pauperum salvas faciet. 14 Ex usuris et iniquitate redimet animas eorum, et honorabile nomen eorum coram illo. 15 Et vivet, et dabitur ei de auro Arabiæ ; et adorabunt de ipso semper, tota die benedicent ei. 16 Et erit firmamentum in terra in summis montium; superextolletur super Libanum fructus ejus, et florebut de civitate sicut fœnum terræ. 17 Sit nomen ejus benedictum in sæcula ; ante solem permanet nomen ejus. Et benedicentur in ipso omnes tribus terræ ; omnes gentes magnificabunt eum. 18 Benedictus Dominus Deus Israël, qui facit mirabilia solus. 19 Et benedictum nomen majestatis ejus in æternum, et replebitur majestate ejus omnis terra. Fiat, fiat.</p>

[The praises of David, son of Jesse, are ended].

*"And there shall be a firmament on the earth, on the tops of the mountains" (ver.16). For, "all the promises of God in Him are Yea," that is, in Him are confirmed: because in Him hath been fulfilled whatever hath been prophesied for our salvation. For the tops of the mountains it is meet to understand as the authors of the divine Scriptures, that is, those persons through whom they were supplied: wherein He is indeed Himself the Firmament: for unto Him all things that have been divinely written are ascribed. St Augustine *On the Psalms*.

20 Defecerunt laudes David, filii Jesse.

Psalm 71(72). Above is the text from the *Gallican Psalter* made by St Jerome in the 380s. The text derives from the Hexapla, an edition of scripture which compared LXX, Hebrew, and other Greek versions made by Origen c.235. Where the GP differs from the Hebrew/RSV text, this is added **[in bold in square brackets.]**

LXX Texts are from *A New English Translation of the Septuagint*, Oxford: OUP, 2006.

Therefore:

- 1 A descendant of Eve will crush the Serpent
- 2 God will come and live among the nations, specifically among the descendants of Shem, son of Noah.
- 3 Abraham, descendant of Shem, is called to go to Israel, and will be a blessing for the nations.
- 4 This blessing will come specifically from the tribe of Judah, son of Jacob/Israel, son of Isaac, son of Abraham.
5. The one who comes will be a prophet and also a king.

Some more Prophecies

The Messiah would...	According to...	...fulfilled in...
Be born of a woman	Genesis 3:15	Matthew 1:20, Galatians 4:4
-in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1, Luke 2:4-6
-of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:22-23, Luke 1:26-31
Come from Abraham	Genesis 12:3, 22:18	Matthew 1:1, Romans 9:5
-from Isaac	Genesis 17:19	Luke 3:34
-from Jacob	Genesis 21:12	Matthew 1:2
-from Judah	Number 24:17	Luke 3:33, Hebrews 7:14
Be heir to the Throne of David	2 Samuel 7:12-13, Isaiah 9:7	Luke 1:32-33, Romans 1:3
-called Emmanuel	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
-rejected by his own	Psalm 69:8, Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11, John 7:5
-called the Son of God	Psalm 2:7	Matthew 3:16-17
Heal the brokenhearted	Isaiah 61:1-12	Luke 4:18-19

Next Week

3. Why does the Messiah die?

And he said to them, "What is this conversation which you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" And he said to them, "What things?" And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; and they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb, and found it just as the women had said; but him they did not see."

And he said to them, "O foolish men, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself. Luke 24:17-27