

## **The Prophetic Fulfillment of Jesus the Christ**

In this modern age, we have a tremendous blessing in the complete word of God being readily available. Both the Old and New Testaments have been revealed and recorded for us. In this study, we will focus on one particular aspect of that blessing: the Christian perspective that allows us to connect the dots of Old Testament prophecy concerning Christ's coming with the New Testament writings that detail Christ's life, death, burial, and resurrection. Every Messianic prophecy recorded in Scripture has found its fulfillment in Christ, giving us complete faith that Jesus is who the Bible has always said He would be. To open our study, let's read John 1:1-14.

- Where was Christ during the time of creation? What role did He play?
- In which books of the Bible can we read of these accounts of "the Word [becoming] flesh?"

We see that John's gospel begins with an illustration of the eternal nature of Jesus as an active deity in the godhead. He is God the Son, and His influence spans the pages of the Bible, from the creation account in Genesis to the mighty imagery of Revelation (which John wrote to encourage Christians of the great victory we have in Christ). What does the Bible have to say about Jesus at the very beginning?

### **THE LINEAGE OF CHRIST**

The book of Genesis is very much a history of man's early years on Earth. As God paints the first strokes of the redemptive story, we learn about a family tree that begins with Adam & Eve and ends with someone essential to the Christian faith.

### *The Fall of Man - Genesis 3:14-15*

- To whom is God speaking these curses?
  
- What is indicated by the capitalization of Seed and the personal pronouns He and His in v. 15?

Genesis 3:15 is known as the *protoevangelium*, a Greek compound word meaning “the first gospel.” Here we read one of the earliest prophecies of Christ, foretelling His fleshly birth by the seed of woman and His eventual final victory over the powers of darkness.

### *The Promise of Blessing to Abraham - Genesis 12:1-3*

- What will God do for Abraham if he leaves his homeland to follow God’s command?
  
- Who will be blessed through Abraham’s lineage?

By leading his family along the path laid out by God, Abraham draws nearer to the Promised Land where the nation of Israel would one day find its purpose as the chosen people of God. Surely, they would be blessed to inhabit such a place; however, this promise extends even further into the New Testament.

### *The Genealogy of Christ - Matthew 1:1-17*

- Jesus often refers to Himself as the Son of Man (Mark 14:62). In Matthew's recording of the genealogy of Jesus, which of two prominent Old Testament leaders claims Jesus as a "Son" (vv. 1, 17)?
  
- How does v. 16 relate to the *protoevangelium* of Genesis 3:15?

Though sometimes difficult to read, the genealogy of Jesus Christ can anchor our faith when viewed through the Christian perspective. We can make the connection from Adam to Abraham to David to Jesus thousands of years later, but we can only speculate that Abraham had any inkling of how great a blessing would flow through his family line. Ultimately, this plan resulted in the expansion of God's kingdom from a physical bloodline to a spiritual family (Ephesians 3:1-7). Jesus is an agent of universal blessing for God's people; in Him, the promise of salvation is fulfilled. Peter confirms this promise when he quotes Genesis 12:3 while preaching to the men of Israel on Solomon's porch in Acts 3:25-26.

Let's summarize what we've learned about the lineage of Christ.

1. Gen 3:15 - He would be born of the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Gen 12:3 - He would bless all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_.

### **THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST**

Reflecting on our opening reading in John's gospel, we remember that Jesus became flesh and dwelt among man during His time on Earth. We also read of John the baptist, a man who served to bear witness of Christ, paving the way for His coming into



### The Better Priest

Continuing on in Hebrews, we read of a priest named Melchizedek. He is first introduced in Genesis 14:18-20, serving as a priest of God upon Abraham's return from rescuing Lot.

#### *Hebrews 7:1-10*

- Melchizedek is without \_\_\_\_\_, without \_\_\_\_\_, and without \_\_\_\_\_.

This description is likely metaphorical, in that Melchizedek served as a priest, despite never being named among the tribe of Levi (who were priests under the Law). Melchizedek's righteous priesthood is independent of Aaron's priesthood.

#### *Hebrews 7:11-19*

*Notice the Hebrew writer's quotation of David's Messianic Psalm 110*

- From where does the power of Jesus' priesthood come (v. 16)?
  
- How does the annulment of the fleshly commandment and Jesus' new priesthood play into our role as Christians (see I Peter 2:9-10)?

### The Better King

Lastly, we look to perhaps the greatest of Old Testament sign posts: a humble shepherd-boy who would grow up to be "a man after God's own heart." In 2 Samuel 7:8-16, King David is told by the prophet Nathan of God's new covenant for his throne.

V. 16 "And your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be established \_\_\_\_\_ before you. Your \_\_\_\_\_ shall be established forever."

Though immediate context would point to David's future son, Solomon, this prophecy of David's throne being established forever finds its ultimate fulfillment in Luke 1:31-33.

- What will the Lord God give His Son (v. 32)?
  
- What is the nature and term of Christ's reign (v. 33)?

## **CONCLUSION**

Christ's lineage and incarnation as prophet, priest, and king are prophesied many times in the Old Testament. What a joy it is to have the complete word of God before us to see this foreshadowing fulfilled! Equipped with the Law, the prophets, and the writings, the nation of Israel had a future hope for a Messiah as a deliverer; but we have much more, living now in the blessed knowledge that the Son of God came to dwell among us and bring the gospel plan of salvation. As Paul aptly states in 2 Corinthians 1:20, "...all the promises of God find their Yes in [Jesus]. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory" (ESV).

## **Discussion Questions**

- How do the prophecies of Christ affect my faith in the word of God?
- Why is prophecy a powerful tool used by God throughout the Bible?
- What other aspects of Christ are prophesied about in the Old Testament?