

We are continuing our short series getting a handle on the Messiah, which is taking us through the period of Advent; advent is traditionally a period of waiting and preparation and as we look at the promises and prophecies God had given to the people of Israel even though they had to wait for their fulfilment, we can find our hope and faith strengthened as we see how he fulfilled these in Jesus.

In the last couple of weeks we have seen who this Messiah is – a man who would be anointed (empowered and authorised by God) to be prophet, priest and king, and he would be the one who would change Israel's fortunes. Last week we saw in the Messianic Psalms that some of the prophecies about his first advent were fulfilled specifically and literally – those of his death were particularly remarkable, and if you missed that talk you can catch up by hearing it on the church website.

This week we are turning our attention to the Messiah in the prophets, and like last week we will collate some of the evidence like on CSI Jerusalem and put together a more complete picture of who Messiah is and what he would do:

1. Be anointed and eternal & be born in Bethlehem

Mic 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times."

- a. Fulfilment in the New Testament **Matt 2:1**, **Luke 2:4-7**

2. Be anointed with the Spirit of God

- a. **Isa 11:2** ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of advice and power, the Spirit of knowledge and fear of the LORD.
- b. **Isa 61:1** **Isa 61:1** The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

3. Be born at a specific time

- a. **Dan 9:25** "Know and understand this: From the issuing of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until the Anointed One, the ruler, comes, there will be seven 'sevens,' and sixty-two 'sevens.' It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of trouble. **Dan 9:26** After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing. The

people of the ruler who will come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood: War will continue until the end, and desolations have been decreed.

- b. Although some of the dating is hazy or disputed, these weeks of years (the Hebrew word is simply Shabbat, which means sevens) begin with the decree of Artaxerxes to restore Jerusalem in 445BC,
- c. So, the seven sevens (49 years) would take us through the decree to the arrival of Nehemiah and the covenant renewal at Jerusalem, 445 – 396 BC
- d. Next the sixty two sevens, 434 years, which would be 396BC – 32 AD, from the dedication of the second temple to the crucifixion of Jesus
- e. There is another set of seven years, which many Bible scholars believe to be unfulfilled, but still relate to the people of Israel and the city of Jerusalem – it is beyond the scope of our study to deal with this now, although it is a fascinating and challenging study.

Remember these things are written in Daniel; he was the one who had been taken as an exile to study in the ‘Hogwarts’ of Babylon, and after he had successfully interpreted the dreams of Nebuchadnezzar and remained faithful during the reigns of Belshazzar and Darius, he became one of the most prominent advisors in Babylon – this is where the magi, the wise men came from, they knew the prophecies of Daniel that Messiah would be born, and so they came to Jerusalem to find this new king, because they didn’t know the prophecy in Micah which said he would be born in Bethlehem! Herod’s advisors however did know, and that’s when the trouble started. [Luke 2:1-2](#)

4. Be born of a virgin

- a. [Isa 7:14](#) Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.
- b. [Luke 1:30](#) But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. [31](#) You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. [32](#) 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, [33](#) and he will reign over the house of Jacob

forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

5. Slaughter of children

- a. **Jer 31:15** This is what the LORD says: "A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because her children are no more."
- b. **Mat 2:16** When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. 17 Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

6. Flight to Egypt **Hos 11:1** **Matt 2:14-15**

7. The way prepared **Isa 40:3-5** **Luke 3:3-6**

8. Preceded by a forerunner

- a. **Mal 3:1** "See, I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come," says the LORD Almighty.
- b. **Luke 7:24, 27**

9. Have a ministry in healing **Isa 35:5-6**, **Isa 42:18**

- a. **Matt 11:5** and throughout the gospels

10. Galilean ministry

- a. **Isa 9:1** Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honour Galilee of the Gentiles, by the way of the sea, along the Jordan- 2 The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.
- b. **Matt 4:12-16**

11. Have God's own name applied to him

- a. **Isa 9:5-7** For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, ^[2] Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.
 - i. **Phil 2:9-11**

12. To bind up the broken-hearted **Isa 61:1-2** **Luke 4:18-19**

13. Triumphant entry

- a. **Zech 9:9** Rejoice greatly, O Daughter of Zion! Shout, Daughter of Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.
- b. **Mark 11:7, 9, 11**

14. Not believed **Isa 53:1** **John 12:37-38**

15. Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver

- a. **Zech 11:12** I told them, "If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it." So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. **13** And the LORD said to me, "Throw it to the potter"- the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.
- b. **Matt 26:14-15**

16. Silent to accusations

- a. **Isa 53:7** He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth.
- b. **Mark 15:4-5**

17. Spat on and struck

- a. **Isa 50:6** I offered my back to those who beat me, my cheeks to those who pulled out my beard; I did not hide my face from mocking and spitting.
- b. **Matt 26:67, Matt 27:26, 30**

18. Hated without reason **Isa 49:7, John 7:48, John 15:24-25**

19. Crucified with malefactors

- a. **Isa 53:12** he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors. For he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.
- b. **Mark 15:27, 28**

20. His side pierced

- a. **Zech 12:10** They will look on ^[2] me, the one they have pierced,
- b. **John 19:34**

21. Buried with the rich

- a. **Isa 53:9** He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth.
- b. **Matt 27:57-60**

We see all these details of prophecy being fulfilled, it is important that we don't forget *why* Jesus came

22. Vicarious sacrifice

- a. **Isa 53:5** He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. Like one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. **5** But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
- b. **Rom. 5:6, 8**
 - i. **6** You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
 - ii. **8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
 - iii. **1Pe 3:18** For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God.

In this way we can remind ourselves of our call to worship this morning, that he would be called Immanuel which means 'God with us', and his name would be Jesus for he would save his people from their sins.

Let us stand and affirm our faith together by singing 'We believe in God the Father' number 572.