

Messianic Prophecies

RESOURCES RELATED TO MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

- [Messianic Prophecies](#)
- [Josh McDowell's classic "More than a Carpenter"](#) - good book to suggest to your skeptical friends!
- [How a Jewish man Michael Goldstone met Messiah - site has multiple similar video testimonies](#)
- [Messianic Prophecies • WebBible Encyclopedia • ChristianAnswers.Net](#)
- [AccordingtotheScriptures.org -- 353 Prophecies Fulfilled in Jesus Christ - nice simple chart](#)
- [Jesus and messianic prophecy - Wikipedia](#)
- [Messianic Prophecy](#)
- [Messianic Prophecies - Bible.org](#)
- [Prophecies of Jesus Christ as Messiah](#)
- [Chris Tomlin's song Jesus Messiah](#)
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- [The Messianic Hope of Israel - Series - Max Reich](#)
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- [The Amazing Prophecy Of Names - A study of Isaiah's names for the Savior](#)
- [Commentary on Messianic Predictions \(V1-Gen, Ps, Minor Prophets\) - E W Hengstenberg](#)
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- [Questions Skeptics Ask About Messianic Prophecy - RBC](#)
- [2 Timothy 3:16-17: Study on Authority of God's Word](#)
- [The Power of God's Word - a simple study](#)
- [The Necessity of Scripture \(Pdf\) - William D. Barrick](#)
- [The Sufficiency of Scripture \(Pdf\) - John MacArthur \(also here\)](#)
- [Rationality, Meaningfulness & Precision of Scripture - Robert L. Thomas](#)
- [The Authority of Scripture \(Pdf\) - Richard L. Mayhue](#)
- [The Testimony of Prophecy by Charles Simeon](#)

INTRODUCTION:

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

Compiled by Bruce Hurt

Some of the most dramatic evidence that the Bible is a supernatural book and not a collection of stories and myths, is in the realm of fulfilled Bible prophecy. It has been estimated that there are some 2500 prophecies in the Bible, almost 2000 of which have been fulfilled to the letter. Although this synopsis focuses on Messianic prophecies, there are some dramatic fulfilled non-Messianic prophecies, one example being the Lord's prophecy in [Ezekiel 26](#) against the powerful city of **Tyre** ([Click here](#))

It has been estimated that there are 333 prophecies in the Old Testament that are fulfilled in the Messiah. Clearly the fulfillment of all 333 in one Man would be literally impossible based on chance alone. But what about the odds against even a smaller number being fulfilled by chance. **Click** for an illustration of the statistical unlikelihood that even 8 of OT prophecies could have fulfilled in Jesus merely by chance. The chart below has a sample of some of these prophecies, arranged chronologically beginning with the first five books, the Pentateuch, which Jesus Himself taught from in one of His post-resurrection appearances, Luke recording that...

"beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures."

(Luke 24:27)

MESSIAH (CHRIST) IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

The Messiah (Christ) is the Word of God (Jn 1:1) and so it should come as no surprise that He is described in every Old Testament book.

- In Genesis He is the Seed of the woman (Ge 3:15).
- In Exodus He is the Lamb of God for sinners slain (Ex 12:5, 6, 7, 11).
- In Leviticus He is our High Priest (the whole book).
- In Numbers He is the Star out of Jacob (Nu 24:17).
- In Deuteronomy He is the Prophet like unto Moses (Dt 18:15).
- In Joshua He is the Captain of the Lord's armies (Josh 5:13, 14, 15).
- In Judges He is the Angel of the LORD or the messenger of Jehovah (Jdg 13:18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23).
- In Ruth He is our Kinsman-Redeemer (Chapter 3).
- In Samuel, Kings and Chronicles He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1Sa 8:1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9).
- In Ezra, Nehemiah and Esther He is the sovereign Lord over all the kingdoms of the earth (entire books).
- In Job He is our risen and returning Redeemer (Job 19:25).
- In Psalms He is the Blessed Man (Psalm 1:1, 2, 3), the Son of Man (Psalm 2:2, 3, 4, 5,

6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12), the Crucified One (Psalm 22), the Coming One (Psalm 24), the Reigning One (Psalm 72).

- In Proverbs He is our Wisdom (Pr 14).
- In Ecclesiastes He is the forgotten Wise Man (Eccl 9:14, 15).
- In Song of Solomon He is my Beloved (Song 2:16).
- In Isaiah He is our suffering Substitute (Isa 53).
- In Jeremiah He is the LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS (Jer 23:6).
- In Lamentations He is the Man of sorrows who weeps for His people (Lam 1:12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18).
- In Ezekiel He is the glory of God (Ezek 1:28).
- In Daniel He is the Smiting Stone (Da 2:34) and the Companion in the furnace of fire and the den of lions (Da 3:24, 25; 6:22).
- In Hosea He is David's Greater King (Hos 3:5).
- In Joel He is the Hope of His people (Joel 3:16).
- In Amos He is the Rescuer of Israel (Amos 3:12).
- In Obadiah He is the Deliverer upon Mount Zion (Oba 1:17).
- In Jonah He is the buried and risen Saviour (compare Mt 12:40).
- In Micah He is the Everlasting God born in Bethlehem (Mic 5:2).
- In Nahum He is our Stronghold in the day of wrath (Nah 1:7).
- In Habakkuk He is the Anchor of our faith (Hab 2:4).
- In Zephaniah He is in the midst for judgment and cleansing (Zeph 3:5,15).
- In Haggai He is Lord of presence and power (Hag 1:13).
- In Zechariah He is the coming king riding on a donkey (Zech 9:9).
- In Malachi He is the Sun of Righteousness (Mal 4:2).

Related Resources: Offsite

[Click here for Hebrew Names of Messiah](#)

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES FULFILLED IN JESUS CHRIST

SPECIFIC PREDICTION	OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY	NEW TESTAMENT FULFILLMENT	COMMENTS
<p>MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN OF A WOMAN circa 4000 B.C</p>	<p>"Beginning with Moses..." Genesis 3:15 :And I will put enmity between you and t h e woman, and between your seed and her Seed. He (note her seed</p>	<p>Galatians 4:4 But when the fulness of time came God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law. (Note) (See Spurgeon - The Great Birthday and</p>	<p>Most conservative writers agree this is the Prot-evangelium ("First Gospel"), which 1) Predicts hostility between "your seed" (Satan & unbelievers, cf Jn 8:44) and her Seed (Christ</p>

called "He") shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise Him on the heel. ([Spurgeon - Ge 3:15 Christ the Conqueror of Satan](#)) (See commentary Ge 3:15)

[Our Coming of Age](#))

& all "in Christ" by faith)

2) Promises the good news that the woman's seed (Christ) would crush the Devil's head, a mortal wound spelling utter defeat on the Cross where Jesus forever triumphed over Sin, Satan & Death. Satan bruising of Messiah's heel pictures His suffering. Note God's mercy to promise the Messiah before pronouncing sentence! The rest of the Old Testament proceeds to point ahead to the Seed, the Messiah.

W H Griffith Thomas writes that Genesis 3 "is the call of Divine justice, which cannot overlook sin. It is the call of Divine sorrow, which grieves over the sinner. It is the call of Divine love, which offers redemption for sin." ([Genesis 3 Devotional Commentary](#))

MESSIAH WOULD BE THE SEED OF ABRAHAM & THE BEARER OF THE GOSPEL circa 2000 B.C

Genesis 22:18 "And in your **seed** all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice." ."

Genesis 12:3-note And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. **And in you all the**

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

Galatians 3:16 (Note) "Now the promises were spoken to Abraham and to his **seed**. He does not say, "And to seeds," as

Morris notes that "In his theological argument concerning the Abrahamic covenant, Paul almost unconsciously makes an exceedingly strong affirmation of the verbal inspiration of the Old Testament Scriptures, basing his argument not just on one word, but **one letter**, "seed" instead of "seeds." Thus the promised "Seed" was not

<p>families of the earth shall be blessed." ("the gospel" - compare Gal 3:8 in next column) (See Spurgeon - Abraham's Double Blessing)</p>	<p>referring to many, but rather to one, "And to your seed," that is, Christ."</p> <p>Galatians 3:8 (Note) And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "ALL THE NATIONS SHALL BE BLESSED IN YOU." (Genesis 12:3b)"</p>	<p>the nation Israel, but the one Person Who alone could fulfill the great promises made to Abraham, namely, Christ. (See Defender's Study Bible Notes in Right Margin)</p>
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<p>MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN IN BETHLEHEM circa 700 B.C</p>	<p>Micah 5:2 But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity (Note) (Spurgeon - The Incarnation and Birth of Christ)</p>	<p>Matthew 2:1-6 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, 2 Where is He Who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship Him. 3 And when Herod the king heard it, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 And gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he began to inquire of them</p>	<p>Even if Jesus could have fulfilled some of the other prophecies by choosing to do so, He could hardly have fulfilled His place of birth in an obscure village distinct from the other village by the same first name (Bethlehem)! Jesus sternly warned every skeptic of every age that</p> <p style="text-align: center;">"unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." (John 8:25)</p> <p>Notice that in this verse "He" has been added by</p>
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		<p>where the Christ was to be born. 5 And they said to him 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet, 6 And you, Bethlehem, land of Judah, are by no means least among the leaders of Judah; for out of you shall come forth a Ruler, Who will shepherd My people Israel.' (Spurgeon- Mt 2:1-4 Far-Off, Near)</p>	<p>the translators, so what Jesus really said was that He was "I Am", the equivalent of Jehovah ("I Am") in the Old Testament. In contrast to the argument by many skeptics that Jesus never declared He was God, this verse is one of many clear refutations. His hearers, although unbelieving, nevertheless knew exactly what He was saying and after He again declared "I Am"..."they picked up stones to throw at Him..." (John 8:59)</p>
<p>MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN TO A VIRGIN circa 700 B.C</p>	<p>Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the LORD Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel (God with us). (Note) (See Spurgeon - Isaiah 7:14 The Birth of Christ)</p>	<p>Matthew 1:18-23 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was as follows. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. 19 And Joseph her husband, being a righteous man, and not wanting to disgrace her, desired to put her away secretly. 20 But when he had considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared</p>	<p>The Amazing Prophecy of Names - A study of Isaiah's names for the Saviors - Discovery Series The Jewish Tradition Of Two Messiahs - Discovery Series Questions Skeptics Ask About Messianic Prophecy - Discovery Series Jesus Christ: The Only Possible Legitimate Messiah Chart on Christ in the Old Testament Messianic Prophecies, Types and Applications in the Old Testament</p>

to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife; **for that which has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit.** 21

And she will bear a Son and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He Who will save His people from their sins." 22

Now all this took place that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet might be fulfilled, saying,

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

MESSIAH WOULD BE PRECEDED BY A FORERUNNER circa 700 B.C

Isaiah 40:3 A **voice** is calling: Clear the way for the LORD in the wilderness, make smooth in the desert a highway for our God. ([Note](#))

Matthew 3:1-3
Now in those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea saying, 2 "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." 3 For this is the one referred to by Isaiah the prophet,

		<p>saying, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness, make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.!" (Spurgeon - Mt 1:23 God With Us)</p>	
<p>MESSIAH WOULD MINISTER IN NAPHTALI AND GALILEE circa 700 B.C</p>	<p>Isaiah 9:1-2 But there will be no more gloom for her who was in anguish; in earlier times He treated the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali (Note) with contempt, but later on He shall make it glorious, by the way of the sea, on the other side of Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles. 2 The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them. (Note) (Spurgeon - Immanuel The Light of Life)</p>	<p>Matthew 4:13-16 Leaving Nazareth, He came and settled in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali. 14 This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet, saying, 15 The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles 16 The people who were setting in darkness saw a great light; and to those who were sitting in the land and shadow of death, upon them a light dawned (Surgeon- Mt 4:15-16 Light for those Who Sit in Darkness)</p>	
<p>FIRST ADVENT: MESSIAH WOULD ENTER INTO JERUSALEM</p>	<p>Zechariah 9:9 (Note) "Behold your King is coming to you,</p>	<p>FIRST ADVENT Matthew 21:5 Say to the daughter of</p>	

ON
DONKEY circa
500 B.C

A He is just and
endowed with
salvation, **humble
and mounted on
a donkey even on
a colt the foal of
a donkey.**"

[\(Spurgeon - The
Lowly King\)](#)

Zechariah 9:10

And I will cut off the
chariot from
Ephraim, and the
horse from
Jerusalem; and the
bow of war will be
cut off. And He will
speak peace to the
nations; and His
dominion will be
from sea to sea,
and from the River
to the ends of the
earth.

Zion, '**Behold your
King is coming to
you, gentle, and
mounted on a
donkey, even on
a colt, the foal of
a beast of burden.**

6 And the disciples
went and did just
as Jesus had
directed them, 7
and brought the
donkey and the
colt, and laid n
them their
garments, on which
He sat. 8 And most
of the multitude
spread their
garments in the
road, and others
were cutting
branches from the
trees, and
spreading them in
the road. 9 And the
multitudes going
before Him and
those who followed
after were crying
out, saying,
"Hosanna ("Save us
we pray") to the
Son of David;
blessed is He who
comes in the name
of the Lord;
Hosanna in the
highest!" 10 And
when He had
entered Jerusalem,
all the city was
stirred, saying,
"Who is this?" 11

And the multitudes were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."

[\(Spurgeon - Mt 21:5 Another Royal Procession\) \(Mt 21:5 Triumphal Entry\)](#)

SECOND ADVENT:

(Not directly quoted so fulfillment is seen in several passages)

Revelation 11:15
[\(note\)](#) And the seventh angel sounded; and there arose loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord, and of His Christ; and He will reign forever and ever."

Revelation 19:16
[\(note\)](#) And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written, "KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS."

MESSIAH WOULD BE REJECTED BY

Psalms 69:8 I have become estranged from my

John 1:11 He came to His own, and those who were His

<p>HIS OWN PEOPLE</p>	<p>brothers and an alien to my mother's sons. (Spurgeon's Note)</p> <p>Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and like one from whom men hide their face, He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. (Spurgeon - Isa 53:3 Man of Sorrows)</p>	<p>own did not receive Him. (Spurgeon - John 1:11 Ingratitude of Man)</p> <p>John 7:5 For not even His brothers were believing in Him.</p>	
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<p>MESSIAH'S BETRAYAL FOR 30 PIECES OF SILVER FORETOLD (THE PRICE OF A GORED SLAVE!) circa 500 B.C</p>	<p>Zechariah 11:12 (Zechariah carried out the drama - see previous verses - by symbolically picturing Messiah asking those He came to shepherd what they felt He was worth to them) And I said to them, "If it is good in your sight, give me my wages; but if not, never mind!" So they weighed out thirty shekels of silver as my wages (In a mocking response, the leaders offered 30 silver pieces which was the amount of compensation paid for a slave gored by</p>	<p>Matthew 26:14 Then one of the twelve, named Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests, and said, "What are you willing to give me to deliver Him up to you?" And they weighed out to him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from then on he began looking for a good opportunity to betray Him.</p> <p>Matthew 27:3 Then when Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that He had been condemned, he felt remorse and</p>	
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an ox - see Ex 21:32 below). 13 Then the LORD said to me, "**Throw it to the potter, that magnificent price at which I (THE MESSIAH) was valued by them.**" So I took the **thirty shekels of silver** and **threw them to the potter in the house of the LORD.** ([Note by Messianic Jewish writer David Baron](#))

Exodus 21:32 "If the ox gores a male or female slave, the owner shall give his or her master **thirty shekels of silver,** and the ox shall be stoned.

returned **the thirty pieces of silver** to the chief priests and elders, 4 saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to that yourself!" 5 And **he threw the pieces of silver into the sanctuary** and departed; and he went away and hanged himself. 6 And the chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, "It is not lawful to put them into the temple treasury, since it is the price of blood." 7 And they counseled together and with the money bought the **Potter's Field** as a burial place for strangers.

MESSIAH'S CRUCIFIXION FORETOLD

LOTS WOULD BE CAST FOR MESSIAH'S GARMENT

Psalms 22:14 I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; My heart is like wax; it is melted within me. 17 I can count all my bones. They look, they stare at Me; 18 **They divide my**

John 19:24 They said therefore to one another, "Let us not tear it, but cast lots for it, to decide whose it shall be"; that the Scripture might be fulfilled, "**THEY DIVIDED MY OUTER GARMENTS**

	<p>garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. AMONG THEM, AND FOR MY CLOTHING THEY CAST LOTS."</p> <p>(Spurgeon's Note)</p>		
<p>MESSIAH WOULD CRY OUT FROM THE CROSS</p>	<p>Psalm 22:1 My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me? Far from my deliverance are the words of my groaning.</p> <p>(Spurgeon Ps 22:1 - Cries from the Cross) (Spurgeon Note)</p>	<p>Matthew 27:46</p> <p>And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"</p> <p>(Spurgeon Mt 27:46 Lama Sabachthani) (Mt 27:46 Our Lord's Solemn Enquiry)</p>	
<p>MESSIAH'S LEGS WOULD NOT BE BROKEN</p>	<p>Psalm 34:20 (Note) He keeps all His bones; not one of them is broken. (cf. to Ps 22:17) (Spurgeon Note)</p>	<p>John 19:33 But coming to Jesus, when they saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. (Spurgeon- John 19:31-37 On the Cross After Death)</p>	
<p>THE TIME OF MESSIAH'S CRUCIFIXION ACCURATELY FORETOLD circa 530BC</p>	<p>Daniel 9:24 (notes) "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to</p>	<p>See this time period charted out and the incredible fulfillment...</p> <p>Daniel's Seventieth Week (click)</p>	<p>Related Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daniel 9:24-27: <p>See commentary on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Daniel 9:24 ■ Daniel 9:25 ■ Daniel 9:26 ■ Daniel 9:27 <p>Intro Comments</p>

seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.

25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. And its end will come with a flood; even to the end there will be war; desolations are determined.

27 "And he will make a firm covenant with the many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put a stop to sacrifice and grain offering; and on the wing of abominations will come one who

- Brief "Prophecy Primer" why interpret Daniel 9:24-27 and other prophecy literally?
- Why Daniel 9:24-27 Is One of Most Significant Passages in Scripture
- Daniel Commentaries grouped by interpretative approach to Daniel 9:24-27
- Anecdotal Stories related to Da 9:24-27
- Evidence Supporting Unit of Time in Daniel 9:24-27 as Years
- Daniel Commentaries from a literal, usually futuristic perspective
- Notes on Da 9:24-25
- [Daniel's Seventieth Week Charted in parallel with Daniel's other prophecies](#)

makes desolate, even until a complete destruction, one that is decreed, is poured out on the one who makes desolate."		
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PROBABILITY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES BEING FULFILLED IN ONE MAN:

Yes, one could possibly find one or two prophecies fulfilled in other men, but not all 61 major prophecies! In fact the chance of one man fulfilling even eight prophecies is 1 in 10 to the 17th power (1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000) This has been illustrated by imagining placing 100,000,000,000,000,000 silver dollars on the State of Texas which would result in two feet "sea" of silver wherever you tread! Now it where the odds get interesting. Mark one of the silver dollars distinctively and throw it into the state. Stir it all up and blindfold a man who has one pick to select the marked coin. That's the odds against anyone fulfilling only 8 prophecies, much less what most authorities feel is something like 330 plus Old Testament prophecies in some way fulfilled in the Messiah. To phrase it another way, these incredible odds just illustrated are the same chance that the OT prophets would have had of writing eight prophecies and having them all come true in any one man providing they wrote them in their own wisdom. One can conclude that the fulfillment of even just eight prophecies proves that God inspired the writing of these prophecies to a definiteness which lacks only one chance in 10 to the 17th power! The odds against all 330 plus OT prophecies being fulfilled in one man cannot even be reasonably illustrated, as they are so high!

Another objection to the Messianic Prophecies pointing to Jesus is that Jesus deliberately attempted to fulfill the Jewish prophecies. This objection seems plausible until we realize that many of the details of the Messiah's coming were totally beyond human control.

Note also that some of the prophecies concerning the Messiah are of such a nature that only God could fulfill them, such as Christ's virgin birth, His sinless and holy character, His resurrection, and His ascension. Only God could cause Jesus to be born of a virgin and to be raised from the dead.

John MacArthur gives a great summary of Scripture as it relates to the Second Coming of Christ:

Future predictive prophecy occupies 20% of Scripture.

- One-third of this 20% is focused on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. Speaks of the return to judge sinners and to reward the righteous
- ~660 general prophecies in the Bible and about 330 (50%) relate to Jesus Christ.
- Of 330 prophecies about Jesus, about 110 refer to His first coming and 220 to His Second Coming.
- There are 46 OT prophets - 10 spoke of His first coming and 36 of His Second Coming.
- Estimated that >1500 OT verses refer to the return of the Messiah in glory and judgment.
- Approximately one of every 25 NT verses relate to Christ's Second Coming.
- There are 8 NT mentions of the Second Coming for every mention of His first coming
- Our Lord referred to His Second Coming 20 times and there are over 50 warnings in the NT that He is coming again.
- UPSHOT? JESUS IS COMING!.

MESSIAH'S FORERUNNER

The idea of "**prepare**" means to "clear away the obstacles". The geographical feature of "**wilderness**" symbolized the arid lifelessness of the unconverted soul. **Mountains and hills** represent the proud and arrogant among men, valleys the people of low degree. All unevenness and roughness of character must be made smooth. All four Gospel writers quote this verse as applying to John the Baptist (Matt. 3:1-4; Mark 1:1-4; Luke 1:76-78; John 1:23) In the NT John the Baptist declared that repentance was necessary to prepare the way for Christ. **Highway** in Isaiah (and in the Gospels) figuratively referred to the hearts of people who must be spiritually prepared by repentance for God's glory to be revealed.

Constable - It was customary to construct processional avenues for approaching dignitaries and for idols carried in parade. The wilderness and desert represent the barren waste where God's people dwelt, complete with obstacles and impediments to overcome, and through which He would come to them with refreshment, as He did formerly at Mount Sinai. The idea is that He was certainly coming and His people should prepare for His appearing. ([Isaiah 40 Commentary - Expository Notes of Dr. Thomas Constable](#))

Freeman - It's been the custom for centuries for Eastern monarchs who are traveling through their domain to send men before them to prepare their way by removing stones (see Isaiah 62:10), leveling rough places, filling up hollows, cleaning up trash and litter, and generally making the road pleasant and easy for the distinguished travelers and their guests. One of the stories told about the semi-legendary Queen Sammu-ramat (Semiramis of Greek legend, and mother of king Adad-nirari III, who reigned from 810 to 783), is that on one of her journeys she came to a rough, mountainous, region, and ordered the hills leveled and the hollows filled, which was done at enormous cost. Her object was not only to shorten her way, but to leave to posterity a lasting monument to herself. Since her time

there have been other instances of similar character, but none involving so much labor and expense. (Freeman, J. M., & Chadwick, H. J. *Manners & Customs of the Bible*)

In a devotional from **Our Daily Bread** on Isaiah 40:3 - Many years ago Robert Louis Stevenson was stricken with a fatal illness. Seeking quiet and rest in a favorable climate, he chose a faraway island in the Pacific Ocean. He soon found conditions to be less than ideal, however, for the native chiefs were constantly at war with one another. Quarrels and disputes kept breaking out among them, but gradually Stevenson was able to solve these conflicts. By every kind act in his power he won their friendship, and soon he got them to settle their differences, teaching them how to be happy and at peace. These people had never had such a friend before. The great novelist became their hero, and they longed to show him their gratitude. They had no money to buy gifts, but one of the natives said, "We can make him a wide, smooth pathway straight through the heart of the jungle that shall lead to his land, for he has longed to have others come and visit him." All agreed to start immediately on its construction. Today this inscription appears over the entrance of that highway: "The Road of the Loving Heart," and just below it a plaque telling that it was built to please Stevenson because he had brought them joy and peace. There is One greater than Stevenson who has also shown us His love, and through His sacrifice has brought eternal peace to our troubled hearts. In gratitude to Him, let us labor to prepare "the way of the Lord" for others, that through our consecrated lives and our words of testimony they may find easy access to our divine Friend. If we show them His grace, many will want to walk "The Road of the Loving Heart." ([Our Daily Bread, Copyright RBC Ministries, Grand Rapids, MI. Reprinted by permission. All rights reserved](#))

With the zeal of John the Baptist
Let us still "prepare the way"
For the weary feet of sinners
Who would seek the Lord today.
— I. H.

When God's work comes to a standstill, you can be sure the obstacles
in the way can be removed by human hands!

MESSIAH IN THE LAND OF NAPHTALI

The northern territory of Israel, called the land of Naphtali, which had been brought into contempt by the invaders, will be made glorious. (Galilee of the Gentiles was the Savior's boyhood home and the scene of part of His public ministry.) Christ's First Advent brought light to Galilee. His Second Coming will bring joy to the nation and put an end to slavery and war. The coming of the Messiah is synonymous with the coming of light to remove the darkness of captivity.

Constable writes that in Isaiah's time - In contrast to the gloom of the false counselors, the residents of Galilee in Israel, who would experience the Lord's chastening, would enjoy glory. God would bring light when His people had lost all hope. Galilee was the first region in Israel to feel the lash of the Assyrian invaders. It was a melting pot and home to many

Gentiles as well as Jews because the international highway between Mesopotamia and Egypt passed through it. Glory came to this region later when Jesus lived and ministered there (cf. Matt. 4:13-16). But it will enjoy even greater glory during Messiah's earthly reign, as will all of the Promised Land. ([Isaiah 9 Commentary - Expository Notes of Dr. Thomas Constable](#))

Zechariah 9:9-10 Notes from Messianic Jewish writer David Baron who quotes "Edersheim. Many pages could be filled with quotations from the Talmud, the Midrashim, and Jewish commentators, in which this passage (Zech 9:9-10) is applied to the Messiah. In the Talmud Bab., fol. 98, we read Rabbi Joshua ben Levi asks :

"It is written in one place, Behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven (Daniel 7:13-**note**), but in another place it is written, lowly, and riding upon a donkey. How is this to be understood? The answer is, If they be righteous (or deserving) He shall come with the clouds of heaven; if they be not righteous, then He shall come lowly, and riding upon a donkey."

With the exception of Rabbi Moshe ha-Kohen (quoted by Aben-Ezra, who applied the prophecy to Nehemiah) and Aben-Ezra (who applies it to "Judas, the son of the Hasmonean ") **all the Jewish commentators apply it to the Messiah** Rashi says,

"This cannot be explained except of King-Messiah, for it is said of Him, And His dominion shall be from sea to sea ; but we do not find that such a one ruled over Israel in the time of the Second Temple."

Saadia Gaon, commenting on the words in Daniel 7:13 (**Daniel 7 Commentary**) , " Behold, one like the Son of Man came with the clouds of heaven," says,

"This is the Messiah our righteousness. But is it not written of the Messiah, Lowly, and riding upon an donkey. Yes, but this shows that He will come in humility, and not in pride upon horses." ([The Visions and Prophecies of Zechariah-Chapter 15](#))

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