

DIRECT MESSIANIC PROPHECIES

1. The Old Testament is a book of shadows.

- a. “The Old Testament is a book of shadows. The ceremonies and symbols of the ancient people of God anticipated the coming of a promised deliverer. Beginning with the promise to Adam after the Eden catastrophe (Ge 3:15), God progressively revealed the one who would crush evil. Gradually the person of Christ is unveiled as details about him are progressively disclosed (for example, he is to be a male; a Semite; a son of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; a son of Judah; a son of David). His work is gradually unveiled through ceremonies such as those for the Passover and the Day of Atonement. The epitome of the shadowed unveiling in this regard is the revelation of Isaiah the prophet (see Isaiah 53). In essence, the Old Testament era is one of anticipation of the coming of the vaguely explained deliverer, shadows that gradually take on substance. No longer revealed in shadow as in the Old Testament (Heb 1:1), Christ stands in His wonderful beauty in the New Testament revelation.”¹

2. Almost the entire life of Jesus is found in the Old Testament.

- a. “So detailed is this procedure that one could almost write a life of Christ from the Old Testament quotations contained in Justin’s Dialogue! Thus in Isaiah 65:2, ‘I spread out my hands to a rebellious people,’ Christ is the speaker, referring of course to his crucifixion. Psalm 3:5 alludes to his death and resurrection, with the words, ‘I lay down and slept and rose again, because the Lord sustained me.’ And so it goes on for page after page. The Christian is utterly convinced that the Old Testament is ‘our book,’ and he uses even its silences to advantage.”²

3. There are four types of Messianic prophecy.

- a. Quote.
 - (1) “There are clearly several other forms of messianic prophecy in the Old Testament. In addition to (1) direct fulfillment, at least three more categories should be recognized. I would add (2) typical fulfillment, which identifies the authorially intended patterns of certain Old Testament persons, events, or objects and finds corresponding fulfillment in the New Testament; (3) applicational fulfillment, which seeks to demonstrate the practical contemporary relevance of an Old Testament principle in a New Testament setting; and (4) summary fulfillment, which summarizes the teaching of several Old Testament passages while not directly quoting any of them.”³
 - (2) Matthew 2 gives an example of all four types.
- b. Direct.
 - (1) **Mt 2:6** 6 And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah. For from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.
- c. Typical.

¹ J. Hannah, *Our Legacy*, 31.

² M. Green, *Evangelism in the Early Church*, Kindle Locations 1586-1590.

³ M. Rydelnik, *The Messianic Hope*, Kindle Location, 1193.

- (1) Persons.
- (2) Events.
- (3) Objects.
- d. Applicational.
 - (1) **Hos 11:1** 1 When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.
- e. Summary.
 - (1) **Mt 2:23** 23 ...[Joseph] went and lived in a city called Nazareth, so that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, that he [Jesus] would be called a Nazarene.

4. Direct Messianic prophecies include:

- a. Torah.
 - (1) **Ge 3:15-16** 15 I will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman, and between your seed and her seed [Messiah]. He [Messiah] shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel. 16 To the woman [God] said, I will surely multiply your sorrow in childbearing. In anguish you shall bring forth children. Yet your desire shall be for your man [Messiah], and he shall rule over you.
 - (2) **Ge 22:18** 18 ...In your seed [Messiah] shall all the nations of the earth be blessed....
 - (3) **Ge 49:10-12** 10 The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him. And to him [Messiah] shall be the obedience of the peoples. 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes. 12 His eyes are darker than wine, and his teeth whiter than milk.
 - (4) **Nu 23:21** 21 [God] has not beheld misfortune in Jacob, nor has he seen trouble in Israel. Yahweh their God is with them, and the shout of a King is among them.
 - (5) **Nu 24:7-9** 7 Water shall flow from his (sing.) buckets, and his seed shall be in many waters. His king [Messiah] shall be higher than Agag (אַגַּג)/Gog (גִּיג, גִּיג, גִּיג), and his kingdom shall be exalted. 8 God brings him out of Egypt⁴ and is for him like the horns of the wild ox. He shall eat up the nations, his adversaries, and shall break their bones in pieces and pierce them through with his arrows. 9 He crouched, he lay down like a lion and like a lioness. Who will rouse him up? Blessed are those who bless you, and cursed are those who curse you.
 - (6) **Nu 24:17-19** 17 I see him [Messiah], but not now. I behold him, but not near. A star shall come 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. 18 Edom shall be dispossessed. Seir also, his enemies, shall be dispossessed. Israel is doing valiantly. 19 And one from Jacob shall exercise dominion and destroy the survivors of cities!
 - (7) **Dt 18:15-19** 15 Yahweh your God will raise up for you a prophet [Messiah] like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— 16 just as you desired of Yahweh your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, Let me not hear again the voice of Yahweh my God or see this great fire any

⁴ Mt 2:15.

more, lest I die. 17 And Yahweh said to me, They are right in what they have spoken. 18 I will raise up for them a prophet [Messiah] like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. 19 And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

5. The very structure of the Old Testament points to Messiah.

- a. The Hebrew Old Testament, the TaNaK, was shaped around the Messianic hope. The Torah transitions to the Nevi'im from Dt 34 to Josh 1. The Nevi'im transitions to the Ketuvim from Mal 4 to Ps 1.
- b. The structure of the Torah points to Messiah, following a narrative, "in the last days," epilogue pattern. Messiah is found in the three "in the last days" poems at Ge 49:1, Num 24:14, and Dt 31:29.

Bibliography

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