



The Association of Hebrew Catholics Lecture
Series 2021-2022

The Messiah of Israel

Talk 4. Prophecies of the Messiah, Part 2

Lineage and Birth of the Messiah

Lineage and Birth of the Messiah:

Gen 49:10—Jacob passes the Messianic blessing to his fourth son, Judah.

“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. . . . The scepter 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. . . . He washes his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.”

Lineage and Birth of the Messiah

Gen 49:10 cont. The blessing shows:

1. The kingship in Israel shall be in the tribe of Judah.
2. Sovereignty will not be completely lost to Judah before the Messiah comes.
3. “He washes his garments in wine...” is an indirect reference to the Passion of Christ.
4. The coming of the Messiah has a universal significance and is not purely a Jewish affair, for “*to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.*”

The Star of Jacob (Numbers 24:17-19)

Balaam, a Moabite prophet, receives the word of God:

“I shall see him, but not now: I shall behold him, but not near. A star shall rise out of Jacob and a scepter shall spring up from Israel, and shall strike the chiefs of Moab, and shall waste all the children of Seth. . . . Out of Jacob shall he come that shall rule, and shall destroy the remains of the city.”

The Star of Jacob (Numbers 24:17-19)

- Jewish currents in the century before and after Christ interpreted this prophecy as messianic in a military or political sense.
- Philo interprets it this way.
- Bar Kokhba was named “son of the star” because of this and conducted a disastrous revolt.
- It should be understood with reference to the conversion of the sons of Seth to the worship of the true God.

Prophecy of Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

Moses tells the people:

The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—him you shall heed. . . . And the Lord said to me . . . I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.

Prophecy of Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

- This prophet has the same authority as Moses, which was to legislate for the people in the name of God. There is a severe penalty for refusing to heed this Prophet. In Acts 3:22–23, St. Peter cites this text as being fulfilled in Jesus.
- This prophecy underlines the prophetic nature of Christ's mission, which is to speak in the name of the Lord.
- He is to be the new Moses.

Prophecy of Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

Many texts in the New Testament imply that this prophecy was understood in connection with the Messiah.

John 1:21: John the Baptist was asked if he was the Messiah, Elijah, or “the prophet.” It is not clear to what extent these titles were understood to be distinct.

John 4:25: The Samaritan woman said, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things.”

Prophecy of Moses: Deuteronomy 18:15–19

John 5:46: Jesus says, “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me.”

John 6:14: Jesus’s multiplication of the loaves leads the crowds to say: “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world!”

John 7:40: After Jesus promises to be a source of living water to those who believe in Him, like Moses in the desert, some in the crowd say: “‘This is really the prophet.’ Others said, ‘This is the Christ.’”

The Messiah Is a Son of David: 2 Samuel 7:12-16

“When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come forth from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son.

The Messiah Is a Son of David: 2 Samuel 7:12-16

“When he commits iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men; but I will not take my steadfast love from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away from before you. And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure for ever before me; your throne shall be established for ever.”

The Messiah Is a Son of David: 2 Samuel 7:12-16

This prophecy refers in part to King Solomon, who built the glorious Temple of the Lord and established a glorious earthly kingdom, and whose iniquity (and that of his descendants) could be punished by God.

Solomon is a very good example of a partial fulfillment of a messianic expectation, and thus is also a type of a fuller realization to come.

The Messiah Is a Son of David: Jeremiah 23:5

“Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a just branch, and a king shall reign and be wise, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In those days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell confidently, and this is the name that they shall call him: The Lord our just one.”

See also Jeremiah 30:9 and 33:15.

The Messiah Is a Son of David: Ezekiel 34:23–25

“And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken. I will make with them a covenant of peace.”

The Messiah Is a Son of David: Ezekiel 37:24–28

“My servant David shall be king over them; and they shall all have one shepherd . . . and David my servant shall be their prince for ever. I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them, and I will . . . set my sanctuary in the midst of them for evermore. My dwelling place shall be with them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Then the nations will know that I the Lord sanctify Israel, when my sanctuary is in the midst of them for evermore.”

The Messiah Is a Son of David

Psalms 89 and 132 speak of an everlasting throne for the seed of David.

Psalms 72 speaks of the kingly Messiah who is universal and eternal.

Matthew 22:42: the Pharisees say the Messiah is “the son of David.”

Ps 89:35–37: “Once for all I have sworn by my holiness; I will not lie to David. His line shall endure for ever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established for ever; it shall stand firm while the skies endure.”

Annunciation: Luke 1:32-33

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father
David,
and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;
and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Psalm 2:2–9

The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and his anointed, saying,

“Let us burst their bonds asunder, and cast their cords from us.”

He who sits in the heavens laughs; the LORD has them in derision. ...

“I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill.”

I will tell of the decree of the Lord: He said to me,

“**You are my son, today I have begotten you.**”

Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage, and the ends of the earth your possession.

You shall break them with a rod of iron, and dash them in pieces like a potter’s vessel.”

Psalm of Solomon 17 (1st cent. BC)

“See, Lord, and raise up for them their king, the son of David, to rule over your servant Israel in the time known to you, O God. Gird him with the strength to destroy the unrighteous rulers, to purge Jerusalem from gentiles who trample her to destruction; . . . to smash the arrogance of sinners like a potter’s jar; to shatter all their substance with an iron rod.”

Qumran “Son of God” text (4Q246)

“He will be called Son of God, they will call him Son of the Most High. . . . His kingdom will be an everlasting kingdom, and all his ways truth. He will judge the land justly, and all will make peace. Warfare will cease from the land, and all the nations shall do homage to him. The great God will be his strength. He will fight for him, giving nations into his hand and cast them all down before him. God’s rule will be an everlasting rule.”

Annunciation: Luke 1:32-33

He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High;
and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father
David,
and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;
and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Psalm 110

The LORD says to my lord: “Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.”

The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your foes! ...

From the womb of the morning like dew your youth will come to you.

The LORD has sworn and will not change his mind,

“You are a priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.”

Matt 22:42–45

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, “What do you think of the Christ? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put thy enemies under thy feet’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?”

The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth: Isaiah 7:13-14

“Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanu-el.”

The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth: Isaiah 7:13-14

Irenaeus: “This should not be understood as some now presume to expound the Scripture: ‘Behold, a young woman’—not ‘a virgin’—‘shall conceive, and bear a son’ [Isa 7:14], as Theodotion the Ephesian, Aquila of Pontus, and some Jewish proselytes have translated the verse. . . . This prediction was uttered before the people were deported to Babylon, before the Medes and Persians came to power. It was translated into Greek by the Jews themselves as ‘a virgin’ long before our Lord’s advent.”

The Prophecy of the Virgin Birth: Isaiah 7:13-14

- The name *Emmanuel* is a perfect description of the Incarnation. Matthew highlights the notion of “Emmanuel” to clarify the identity of Jesus in his Gospel. He quotes this prophecy in Mt 1:23, and then closes the Gospel with Jesus’s missionary mandate in which Jesus says: “I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Mt 28:20).
- He who is *God with us* in His earthly ministry continues to dwell with us sacramentally throughout the time of the Church.

“To Us a Son Is Given”: Isaiah 9

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called ‘Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.’ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom, to establish it, and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and for evermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.”

Targum on Isaiah 9 (end of the 1st cent. AD)

reads this text as messianic

“The prophet saith to the house of David, A child has been born to us, a son has been given to us; and he has taken the law upon himself to keep it, and his name has been called from of old, Wonderful counsellor, Mighty God, He who lives for ever, the Anointed one (Messiah), in whose days peace shall increase upon us.”

The Spirit of the Lord Rests on the Messiah: Isaiah 11:1-3

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.”

The Spirit of the Lord Rests on the Messiah: Isaiah 11:3–5

“He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.”

The Spirit of the Lord Rests on the Messiah: Isaiah 11:1-5

- The Messiah will have the Spirit of the Lord resting on Him, which implies an abiding state, in which His human soul is imbued with the Spirit of the Lord. This is His true “anointing.”
- The Messiah will be recognized by a superabundant gift of wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and the fear of the Lord. These divine gifts enable Him to judge the world rightly, as stated in the second half of the prophecy.