

Chapter 13: The Promised One

When we studied the book of Genesis you may remember that a persons children and their descendants are referred to as a seed.

*And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, "For God has appointed another **seed** for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed."*

Genesis 4:25 (NKJV)

Therefore if a child is referred to as a seed and their children's children are also seed what can we discern from Gods promise to Abraham which we previously studied? Consider the following:

1 And the LORD visited Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as He had spoken.

2 For Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the set time of which God had spoken to him.

3 And Abraham called the name of his son who was born to him--whom Sarah bore to him--Isaac.

4 Then Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him.

5 Now Abraham was one hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 And Sarah said, "God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me."

7 She also said, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? For I have borne him a son in his old age."

8 So the child grew and was weaned. And Abraham made a great feast on the same day that Isaac was weaned.

9 And Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, scoffing.

10 Therefore she said to Abraham, "Cast out this bondwoman and her son; for the son of this bondwoman shall not be heir with my son, namely with Isaac."

11 And the matter was very displeasing in Abraham's sight because of his son.

*12 But God said to Abraham, "Do not let it be displeasing in your sight because of the lad or because of your bondwoman. Whatever Sarah has said to you, listen to her voice; **for in Isaac your seed shall be called.***

13 "Yet I will also make a nation of the son of the bondwoman, because he is your seed."

Genesis 21:1-13 (NKJV)

15 Then the Angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time out of heaven,

16 and said: "By Myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this thing, and have not withheld your son, your only son --

17 "blessing I will bless you, and multiplying I will multiply your descendants as the stars of the heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies.

18 "In your seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 22:15-18 (NKJV)

1 There was a famine in the land, besides the first famine that was in the days of Abraham. And Isaac went to Abimelech king of the Philistines, in Gerar.

2 Then the LORD appeared to him and said: "Do not go down to Egypt; live in the land of which I shall tell you.

3 "Dwell in this land, and I will be with you and bless you; for to you and your descendants I give all these lands, and I will perform the oath which I swore to Abraham your father.

Genesis 26:1-3 (NKJV)

10 Now Jacob went out from Beersheba and went toward Haran.

11 So he came to a certain place and stayed there all night, because the sun had set. And he took one of the stones of that place and put it at his head, and he lay down in that place to sleep.

12 Then he dreamed, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth, and its top reached to heaven; and there the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

13 And behold, the LORD stood above it and said: "I am the LORD God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and your descendants.

14 "Also your descendants shall be as the dust of the earth; you shall spread abroad to the west and the east, to the north and the south; and in you and in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Genesis 28:10-14 (NKJV)

By understanding these verses we can conclude that God's promise, which He gave to Abraham, was inherited by his descendants. Notice how in Genesis 22:15-18 and Genesis 28:10-14 God promises that all the people of the earth shall be blessed by Abraham's seed. This is more than a promise of inheritance to the children of Israel; it is a guarantee of blessing for the entire human race.

Contained within most of the books of the Old Testament a promise of inheritance was given solely to the children of Israel. However since the fall of man in the Garden of Eden God formed and executed His plan to bless and save the entire world from the snare of sin. To give us one more chance to be redeemed. Through this seed we have a promise of redemption. All of the genealogies contained within the scriptures, those lists similar to our family trees now have a meaning and purpose to us for through these lists we can see the seed by which we are blessed.

The Scriptures also contain prophecies of a descendent from this seed. A man from the line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who will be a ruler and a king. The children of Israel refer to Him as Messiah (the anointed one). A future king promised to deliver Israel from captivity. Let us study some of these little hidden messages in scripture that will explain His purpose and allow us to identify Him.

The following quotations are extracted from the prophetic books of the Bible. These prophets were instructed by God to speak His commandments and judgements to the people, and to foretell future events, which will come to pass. Many of these prophecies relate to the Messiah. For a deeper understanding of a prophet's responsibility read Jeremiah to discover an example of how God uses such a person to instruct, correct, warn, and give hope to mankind.

Let us now examine these verses. Please check them in your own Bible. We will discuss each quotation after reading it.

- 1 Arise, shine; For your light has come! And the glory of the LORD is risen upon you.*
- 2 For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, And deep darkness the people; But the LORD will arise over you, And His glory will be seen upon you.*
- 3 The Gentiles shall come to your light, And kings to the brightness of your rising.*

Isaiah 60:1-3 (NKJV)

Notice here how God's glory and light are used in the same sentence. Many times in scripture we will discover that faith in God, truth, and His desired behaviour for us are referred to as light. Notice also the parallel here. Isaiah speaks of darkness covering the Earth. We can assume here that if God and good are light then darkness must be a representation for evil. Therefore these verses inform us that God's glory will rise upon His people (the children of Israel) and even though the earth is blighted by evil. God's very essence will shine forth from His people, and from them the rest of the nations will be drawn to God. Please note that Gentile is a term, which is used to describe someone who is not from the children of Israel. Therefore we can conclude that Isaiah prophesied here that all nations will be brought into a relationship with God because of the works which He has performed through and on behalf of the children of Israel.

- 1 "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;*
- 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn,*

Isaiah 61:1-2 (NKJV)

This passage informs us that the Messiah will have the Spirit of God upon Him. Remember from our previous studies that God is a spiritual being. Therefore if His spirit is on the Messiah it is possible for Him to completely preach, teach, and heal under God's complete instruction.

Isaiah provides us here with a complete description of the duties of the Messiah. Notice the word "*anointed*" which is used in verse 1. Someone who is anointed is set apart for a specific Godly duty. The Messiah's duties are preaching and teaching, to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted and to liberate the captives.

Let us consider verse 2 carefully. Here it is prophesied that the Messiah will “*proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD*”. This is to prepare us for the fulfilment of God’s promises and the execution of His redemptive plan. The Messiah is the one who declares God’s will to mankind.

15 Then God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name.

16 "And I will bless her and also give you a son by her; then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall be from her."

17 Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Shall a child be born to a man who is one hundred years old? And shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

18 And Abraham said to God, "Oh, that Ishmael might live before You!"

19 Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.

20 "And as for Ishmael, I have heard you. Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly. He shall beget twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation.

21 "But My covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this set time next year."

Genesis 17:15-21 (NKJV)

These verses inform us that the Messiah will come from the line of Abraham.

17 "I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; A Star shall come out of Jacob; A Scepter shall rise out of Israel, And batter the brow of Moab, And destroy all the sons of tumult.

Numbers 24:17 (NKJV)

This verse informs us that the Messiah will come from the line of Jacob. It is also worth studying this entire chapter as the one who prophesied about the Messiah here was Balaam who was called to curse Israel but instead it was revealed to him that the Promised One would arise from this nation.

Notice also how the Messiah is referred to here as a “*Star*” and a “*Scepter*”. These are all terms, which are specific to identifying Him as royalty. In particular the word star implies that He is much more than a man. We will discover many times in scripture that the Messiah is identified as a sun or a star as part of a coded message that partially conceals His identity but informs us of His purpose.

2 The people who walked in darkness Have seen a great light; Those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, Upon them a light has shined.

3 You have multiplied the nation And increased its joy; They rejoice before You According to the joy of harvest, As men rejoice when they divide the spoil.

4 For You have broken the yoke of his burden And the staff of his shoulder, The rod of his oppressor, As in the day of Midian.

5 For every warrior's sandal from the noisy battle, And garments rolled in blood, Will be used for burning and fuel of fire.

6 **For unto us a Child is born, Unto 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.**

7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, **Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom,** To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Isaiah 9:2-7 (NKJV)

Isaiah prophesied here that the Messiah will be born as a child and given to us as a son. Also he informs us that he will bring judgement and justice upon the throne of David. Therefore we can understand that He will be a king of the children of Israel.

1 Now gather yourself in troops, O daughter of troops; He has laid siege against us; They will strike the judge of Israel with a rod on the cheek.

2 **"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting."**

3 Therefore He shall give them up, Until the time that she who is in labor has given birth; Then the remnant of His brethren Shall return to the children of Israel.

Micah 5:1-3 (NKJV)

Micah prophesies in these verses that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem, Israel.

10 Moreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying,

11 "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above."

12 But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!"

13 Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! Is it a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also?"

14 **"Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.**

15 **"Curds and honey He shall eat, that He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good.**

Isaiah 7:10-15 (NKJV)

This passage gives us three more clues as to the identity and nature of the Messiah. The first is that He will be born to a virgin and the other is hidden in the meaning of the name, which shall be given to Him. In verse 14 the name "*Immanuel*" is given. Using the Interlinear Bible and Strong's Concordance which we have utilised previously we can discover that this name has a specific meaning which is as follows:

Immanuel - 6005 (Hebrew) – with us is God / God is with us

This verse also confirms that the Messiah will come from the house of David and by understanding the name Immanuel we can realise that the Messiah will also be a manifestation of God's presence on this earth. Notice also that it is written that He will know to refuse evil and choose good in verse 15. Therefore we can conclude that the Messiah will have the line of David as His ancestry, He will be born from a virgin and that He will not sin as He will choose to do good instead of evil.

10 "There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer,

11 "or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.

12 "For all who do these things are an abomination to the LORD, and because of these abominations the LORD your God drives them out from before you.

13 "You shall be blameless before the LORD your God.

14 "For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the LORD your God has not appointed such for you.

15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

16 "according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die.'

17 "And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good.

18 'I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him.

19 'And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.

Deuteronomy 18:10-19 (NKJV)

Moses prophesises to the children of Israel that the Messiah will also be a prophet. That He will reveal God's words to mankind without censorship, as He will speak everything that God commands Him in God's name (on His behalf). Notice also that it is written in verse 19 that God will hold any person accountable who does not listen to His words. Therefore we can assume that His message will be very crucial in determining the eternal fate of mankind.

1 "For behold, the day is coming, Burning like an oven, And all the proud, yes, all who do wickedly will be stubble. And the day which is coming shall burn them up," Says the LORD of hosts, "That will leave them neither root nor branch.

2 But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

3 You shall trample the wicked, For they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet On the day that I do this," Says the LORD of hosts.

4 "Remember the Law of Moses, My servant, Which I commanded him in Horeb for all Israel, With the statutes and judgments.

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Malachi 4 (NKJV)

Malachi prophesied that the Messiah (notice the use of the word Sun which is has the same pronunciation as Son) will heal and lead the people to overcome the wicked. God is telling His people to patiently wait for the Messiah who will deliver them from oppression. He also mentions that Elijah the prophet will return before His arrival. This prophet will prepare the way for Him by causing the children and fathers to turn back to each other. This could be a hidden message meaning that this prophet will try to convince God's people to return to Him before the Messiah comes just as Elijah spoke against the worship of false gods. If you wish to study Elijah further an account of his life can be found in 1 and 2 Kings.

Consider also verses 5 and 6. God is asking the people to turn back to Him and to each other. He mentions the "*great and dreadful day of the LORD.*" As we have previously discovered in Deuteronomy 18:19 and Isaiah 61:1-2 the coming of the Messiah precedes a great day of judgement and those who do not accept His teachings will be made accountable to God Himself.

9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey.

Zechariah 9:9 (NKJV)

Here Zechariah makes two specific prophecies. The first is that the Messiah will be received as a king and the second is His stature. He will be a lowly (humble) king who will ride on a donkey, which is not considered to be acceptable transport for a king at that time.

Also notice the word salvation. The Messiah will "*have*" salvation. The meaning of this word is the same as redemption. This prophecy hints that He will be more than a king because He will also bring deliverance from sin and save people from evil allowing God to redeem His people.

*1 Give ear, O my people, to my law; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
2 I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old,
3 Which we have heard and known, And our fathers have told us.
4 We will not hide them from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done.*

Psalms 78:1-4 (NKJV)

*1 Why do the nations rage, And the people plot a vain thing?
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, Against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,
3 "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us."
4 He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision.
5 Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure:*

6 "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.

8 Ask of Me, and I will give You The nations for Your inheritance, And the ends of the earth for Your possession.

9 You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel."

10 Now therefore, be wise, O kings; Be instructed, you judges of the earth.

11 Serve the LORD with fear, And rejoice with trembling.

12 Kiss the Son, lest He be angry, And you perish in the way, When His wrath is kindled but a little. **Blessed are all those who put their trust in Him.**

Psalm 2 (NKJV)

David wrote some of the 150 Psalms contained within the Old Testament, and as we have previously discovered the Messiah will come from his bloodline. Therefore in some of these poetic writings there are hidden messages that reveal to us more information about the Messiah. In both of the above quotations we learn that God identifies the Messiah as His son (Psalm 2:7) and all who trust in Him shall be blessed. (Psalm 2:12)

In Psalm 78:2 it mentions that He will speak in parables and utter dark sayings of old. A parable is a short story, which is intended to provoke its audience to consider moral and philosophical issues. Therefore we can conclude that the Messiah will use parables to declare the word of God and reveal His plan of salvation.

It is also important to consider how the children of Israel perceived these prophecies. We will discover as we progress through this study that they assumed He was a triumphant leader, a king who will lead Israel out of captivity and destroy their enemies. This assumption is not entirely correct as Zechariah 9:9 reveals to us that although He is a king, His manner is humble and His gift is salvation rather than just simply liberating Israel from their enemies. As we continue to study we will see more prophecies relating to the Messiah. We will primarily study the Gospel of John. As each prophecy is mentioned a reference will be given in your bible that will direct you to see the original prophecy and confirm its fulfilment.

Therefore in conclusion we have learned the following prophecies regarding the identity, nature and purpose of the Messiah:

- All nations will be brought to God through the children of Israel. Therefore the Messiah will be born from this nation.
- He is from the seed – will bless all nations of the earth
- He will preach, teach, heal, liberate captives and declare God's will to mankind.
- He is from the line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and the throne of David.
- He is a King and a ruler for Israel
- He is a peaceful and humble man who does not adorn Himself as a king through means of material wealth.

- He is a king who will defeat the wicked and free the captives
- He is the bringer of salvation
- He will be born to a virgin
- He will be born in Bethlehem
- He will perform only good deeds and not evil. Therefore He will not sin.
- He is a prophet
- He will speak in parables (stories with hidden meanings)
- He will be preceded by a forerunner who is like Elijah the prophet.
- He is the Son of God.