

Messianic Prophecies

- A. Messianic Prophecies give many details about the Messiah to come.
1. Mt. 2:6 quoting from Micah 5:2
 2. Gen. 49:10 Jacob's prophecy
 3. Numb. 24:17 Balaam's prophecy
 4. There are between 350 to 400 Messianic prophecies
- B. Herod, and others were not prepared for the Messiah that came because the spiritual leaders were emphasizing what they wanted and ignoring the parts they disagreed with (Jer. 5:21; 6:10; 20:8-10; Acts 7:51-52).
1. Jesus was a different Messiah than what they wanted.
 - a. He was born in a manger.
 - b. He was named "Jesus" because he would save his people *from* sin, not in sin (Mt. 1:21).
 - c. He grew up in Nazareth, in the midst of sinners (Jn. 1:46).
 - d. He mingled and ate with sinners during his ministry (Mt. 9:10-13).
 - e. He taught people to love their enemies and do good to those who persecute you and even prayed for those who put him on the cross (Mt. 5:43-47; Lk. 23:34).
- C. How do these prophecies parallel what is happening today?
1. They were not prepared because they didn't follow the details of God's word and they wouldn't listen (Acts 7:51-52). There are many references in the N.T. about watching and being ready (Lk. 21:34-36; Mt. 7:21-27).
 2. Five hundred years before the Messiah came Israel adopted the practices of foreign gods and literally sacrificed their children in the fire, worshiping Chemosh and Molech (2 Ki. 16:3; 21:6; 2 Chr. 28:3; 33:6). Jeremiah said the people wouldn't listen to God's word back then (Jer. 5:21; 6:10) and they even mocked and derided him daily (Jer. 20:8-10) and did not want to hear his message. Cancel culture?
 3. When Israel strayed from following God's word and worshiping Him, they let the worship of other gods (Chemosh and Molech) influence their relationship to their children so they sacrificed them in the fire. Today people are doing the same thing by sending their children to the "institutions of higher learning" where the young people are being indoctrinated to adopt liberal thinking and not only abandon the conservative views of God's word, but become intolerant of any other view than their own.
 4. Part of preparing for the return of the Messiah is the prophecy of Mal. 4:5-6, which emphasizes the importance of caring for our children and drawing families together. Just like Elijah ran before the king's chariot in 1 Ki. 18:46, so John the Baptist fulfilled this Elijah ministry, according to Christ in Mt. 11:9-14; 17:10-13 with his work of being the forerunner of Christ. This work remains to be done before the Messiah's return and being done by the SDA church in several ways. Giving the 3 angels messages to the world (Rev. 14:6-12) and setting up a school system to prepare children for service in this world and also prepare for the 2nd coming.
 5. Jesus ministered to others outside of Israel to redeem them, even though Jewish law forbade contact with Gentiles (Jn. 4; Lk. 10:30-36; etc. Jer. 48:47).
 6. The story of Ruth is a great example, in light of these Messianic prophecies (Jeremiah and Balaam) of our role today to reach out to others and redeem them calling them out of spiritual Babylon (Rev. 14:6-12; 18:1-4; Mal. 4:5-6). This is being fulfilled in many ways today by the SDA church and a big part of that is educating our young people in our schools not only for this life but for the life to come. Our dedicated teachers are helping our parents and churches to enlist their young people in service to others as they help prepare others to welcome the Messiah when he returns. Ruth is listed in the genealogy of Christ (Mt. 1:5) as the grandmother of David. What an example she is in the light of eternity. May we always be willing to help others reach their full potential in Christ.