

**1. Born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:1-6)**

*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. 4 And He shall stand and feed His flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD His God; and they shall abide, for now He shall be great to the ends of the earth;*

*5 And this One shall be peace. When the Assyrian comes into our land, and when he treads in our palaces, then we will raise against him seven shepherds and eight princely men. 6 They shall waste with the sword the land of Assyria, and the land of Nimrod at its entrances; thus He shall deliver us from the Assyrian, when he comes into our land and when he treads within our borders.*

- This is a good example of what we call a near and far prophecy.

**2. Out of Egypt I called My Son (Hosea 11:1)**

*“When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son.”*

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### 3. Called a Nazarene (Matthew 2:23)

A prophecy that has puzzled many people. One theory is that it is a reference to being a Nazirite, like Samson. More likely it's a play on words, and a reference to Jesus being called **the Branch**, which is a Messianic title:

*1 There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 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 of the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:1-2)*

- The Hebrew word for branch, *netzer*, is written the same way as the word for Nazarene, *Notzri*. Hebrew was commonly written without vowels.
- *“Jesus of Nazareth [Jesus The Branch], King of the Jews”* (John 19:19)

### 4. A great light (Matt. 4:12-16)

*12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, He departed to Galilee. 13 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, 14 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by 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 sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.” (Quoting Isaiah 9:1-2)*

### 5. Expectations concerning Messiah and related figures

High expectations for a number of reasons, such as the Daniel's prophecy of the 70 Weeks, and the visit of the Wise Men.

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19 Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said: "I am

*'The voice of one crying in the wilderness:  
"Make straight the way of the LORD," '*

*as the prophet Isaiah said."* (John 1:19-23)

### A. Who is Elijah to come?

- Perhaps a million people were baptized under John's ministry.
- Elijah is a very important person in Jewish tradition, expected to return, according to Malachi 4:5-6:

*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. 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."*

- Jesus said Elijah would indeed come, but Jesus also said Elijah had come if you are willing to receive it.
- People still debate whether Elijah is returning before the Day of the Lord.
- Is Elijah one of the Two Witnesses who oppose the Antichrist during the 70th Week of Daniel?
- Hebrews 9:27 says it is appointed unto men to die once and then the judgment. Elijah and Enoch have not yet undergone physical death.

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B. Who is the Prophet?

The concept of this special prophet comes from Deuteronomy 18:

*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.”*

- This is clearly a special person who would have the Word of God inside him in a special way.
- Muslims apply this prediction to Mohammed but this makes no sense.

**6. John, the True Forerunner, and the Servant of YHWH**

- In the “Gospel of Isaiah” we see that Isaiah had amazing revelation of Christ! Isaiah contains lengthy visions concerning the servant of the Lord.
- Beginning with chapter 40, we have almost continual, sung prophecy. Much of this prophecy which sung, coming out in the form of prophetic song. These chapters speak of the forerunner of the Messiah, as well as the Messiah and His glories.

In the beginning of these songs, at Isaiah 40, the Holy Spirit impels the Forerunner to proclaim the coming of YHWH:

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1 "Comfort, yes, comfort My people!" says your God. 2 "Speak comfort to Jerusalem, and cry out to her, that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned; for she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins." 3 The voice of one crying in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be exalted and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places smooth; 5 The glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

6 The voice said, "Cry out!" And he said, "What shall I cry?" "All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades, because the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever." 9 O Zion, you who bring good tidings, get up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, you who bring good tidings, lift up your voice with strength, lift it up, be not afraid; say to the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" 10 Behold, the Lord GOD shall come with a strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him; behold, His reward is with Him, and His work before Him. 11 He will feed His flock like a shepherd; He will gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and gently lead those who are with young.

- John very consciously applied these Scriptures to himself.
- Then he pointed to the Lamb of God. He prepared the way of the Lord in people's hearts.

## 7. Jesus, the special Servant of YHWH

Isaiah contains at least four of what we call "Servant Songs," at Isaiah 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-11, and 52:13-53:12.

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The NT writers often refer to Jesus as the Servant: *The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus...* (Acts 3:13) The word used there, *pais*, means servant or handmaid. Jesus is that Servant!

### 8. Look at My Servant! (Isaiah 42:1-7)

1 *“Behold! My Servant whom I uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”*

- Christ is the chosen one and God is delighting in Him.
- Notice the connection to the Gentile world.

2 *“He will not cry out, nor raise His voice, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. 3 A bruised reed He will not break, and smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.”*

- Jesus was not a political radical.
- Verse 3 speaks of His gentleness in dealing with people.
- He would do justice.

4 *“He will not fail nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for His law.”*

- This is probably a near and far prophecy.
- In the OT, “the coastlands” (sometimes “the isles” is a synonym for far-off Gentile nations.

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*5 Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: 6 “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, and will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles...*

- God will sustain Him; the Servant will Himself be the covenant.
- This Servant will also be a light to the Gentiles. This cannot be referring to Jacob or to the nation itself, but to a Person.

### **9. To the end of the Earth (Isaiah 49:1-6)**

*1 “Listen, O coastlands, to Me, and take heed, you peoples from afar! The LORD has called Me from the womb; from the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. 2 And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, and made Me a polished shaft; in His quiver He has hidden Me.” 3 “And He said to me, ‘You are My servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified.’”*

- He speaks to the far-off Gentile nations telling them that He is the One God made to be the Savior.
- Notice that He and His identity were hidden from people.

*4 “Then I said, ‘I have labored in vain, I have spent my strength for nothing and in vain; yet surely my just reward is with the LORD, and my work with my God.’” 5 “And now the LORD says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, to bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (for I shall be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and My God shall be My strength)...”*

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The Servant is discouraged but He trusts in God.

6 *“Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, that You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’”*

- It is too small a reward for Him merely to be the Deliverer of Israel; He will also enlighten the Gentiles.
- The Servant here cannot be Israel itself or else this would make no sense.

#### **10. He gave His back to the smiters (Isaiah 50:4-11)**

4 *“The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary. He awakens Me morning by morning, He awakens My ear to hear as the learned.”*

- The intimacy of Messiah’s relationship with the Father.

5 *“The Lord GOD has opened My ear; and I was not rebellious, nor did I turn away. 6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.”*

- Remarkable description of the brutal mockery of the Servant-King.
- Opening the ear meant becoming the willing bondservant of another.

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7 *“For the Lord GOD will help Me; therefore I will not be disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed. 8 He is near who justifies Me; who will contend with Me? Let us stand together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near Me. 9 Surely the Lord GOD will help Me; who is he who will condemn Me? Indeed they will all grow old like a garment; The moth will eat them up.”*

- The Servant has confidence in God vindicating Him.

10 *“Who among you fears the LORD? Who obeys the voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the LORD and rely upon his God. 11 Look, all you who kindle a fire, who encircle yourselves with sparks: walk in the light of your fire and in the sparks you have kindled—this you shall have from My hand: you shall lie down in torment.”*

- We are called to trust in God and obey the voice of the Servant.
- Those who trust in their own righteousness will be ruined.

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