

Jesus The Messiah: Session 6 – Prepare the Way of the Lord

1. Born in Bethlehem: a classic near/far prophecy (Micah 5:1-6)

(1) Now gather thyself in troops, O daughter of troops: he hath laid siege against us: they shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod upon the cheek.

(2) But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

(3) Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

(4) And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

(5) And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. (6) And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall he deliver us from the Assyrian, when he cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders.

2. Out of Egypt I called my son

When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt. (Hosea 11:1)

3. Called A Nazarene

(1) And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots; (2) 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 of the fear of the LORD... (Isa. 11:1-2)

The branch = N-TZ-R, which is written the same as Notzri, N-TZ-R.

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

(12) Now when Jesus had heard that John was cast into prison, he departed into Galilee; (13) And leaving Nazareth, he came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is upon the sea coast, in the borders of Zebulon and Naphtali: (14) That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, (15) The land of Zebulon, and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles; (16) The people who sat in darkness saw great light; and to those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has sprung up. (Quoting Isa. 9:1-2)

5. Expectations concerning Messiah and related figures.

The delegation from Jerusalem to John the Baptist (John 1:19-23):

(19) And this is the record of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" (20) And he confessed, and denied not; but confessed, "I am not the Christ." (21) And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" And he said, "I am not." "Are you that 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 of 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."

A. Who is Elijah to come? (Malachi 4:5-6)

(5) Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: (6) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

1. Elijah is coming but was it John?
2. A near/far prophecy?
3. One of the two witnesses?
4. What about the Day of the Lord?

B. Who is “The Prophet?” (Deut. 18:15-19)

(15) The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

(16) According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

(17) And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

(18) I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. (19) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Who is this special person?

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

1. The “Gospel” of Isaiah

2. Lengthy songs and visions beginning at Chapter 40

3. The Forerunner at Chapter 40:

(1) Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. (2) Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

(3) The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye 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 shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain:

(5) And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see [it] together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken [it]. (6) The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh [is] grass, and all the goodness thereof [is] as the flower of the field:

(7) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people [is] grass. (8) The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

(9) O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift [it] up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!

(10) Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong [hand], and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward [is] with him, and his work before him.

(11) He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry [them] in his bosom, [and] shall gently lead those that are with young.

John applied these Scriptures to himself and then he pointed Jesus out to people as the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John's preaching prepared the people for Jesus' ministry – 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," in which a special servant of YHWH brings out the victory of God – mostly through the suffering which the Servant accomplishes at YHWH's command on behalf of the people. These songs are found in Isaiah 42:1-7, 49:1-6, 50:4-11, and 52:13-53:12. Yeshua/Jesus has fulfilled these songs and that He is the Servant of YHWH there mentioned.

The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus... (Acts 3:13) The word servant, *pais* in the Greek, is most commonly translated as servant or handmaid. He is that Servant!