

The Promised Messiah

A Biblical View of the Savior and His Work

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Introduction: A Biblical View of the Savior and His Work

To understand who Jesus Christ is and what He accomplished, we must look through the lens of **Holy Scripture** — the Word of God given to reveal His heart and communicate His divine thoughts and purposes to mankind.

Hebrews 4:12–13 — For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

The Bible is a **unified whole** — 66 books, ~40 authors — presenting one complete narrative from **creation** to the **new heavens and new earth**.

This grand storyline is called **Redemptive History** — the History of Redemption — and its central figure is:

Jesus Christ is the focal point / Savior / center of all of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments.

John 4:42 — ...It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.

A. The Plan of Redemption

All events of history are the outworking of **God's eternal plans** made before the foundation of the world. God is the primary cause behind everything that happens.

Hebrews 1:3 — ...He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power.

Colossians 1:16–17 — For in Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth... all things have been created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

Lamentations 3:37–38 — Who is there who speaks and it happens, unless the Lord has commanded it? Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both calamities and good go forth?

God's supreme eternal purpose: to **redeem fallen mankind** through His Son (Ephesians 1:9–11). God is working all things to **sum up everything in Christ**.

The **Cross of Jesus Christ** is the focal point of all history:

Everything BEFORE the Cross...	Everything AFTER the Cross...
looks FORWARD to it	looks BACK at it

1 Peter 1:20 — He was foreknown before the foundation of the world but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you.

B. Christ the Messiah Promised in the Old Testament

The Old Testament is filled with **types**, **shadows**, and **Messianic prophecies** pointing to the coming Redeemer, tracing His genealogy from Adam to Christ (Genesis 5; 1 Chronicles 1–9; Matthew 1:1–16).

The coming Messiah would...

Prophecy / Fulfillment	OT Reference	NT Fulfillment
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Descendant of Abraham	Genesis 22:18	Galatians 3:16
Descendant of Jacob	Numbers 24:17	Luke 3:23, 34
From the tribe of Judah	Genesis 49:10	Luke 3:23, 33
From the family of Jesse	Isaiah 11:1	Luke 3:23, 32
From the house of David	Jeremiah 23:5	Luke 3:23, 31
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2	Matthew 2:1
The pre-existent One	Micah 5:2	Colossians 1:17
The Lord Himself	Psalms 110:1	Matthew 22:43–45
God with us	Isaiah 7:14	Matthew 1:23
A prophet	Deuteronomy 18:18	Matthew 21:11
A priest	Psalms 110:4	Hebrews 3:1; 5–6
A king	Psalms 2:6	Matthew 27:37
Anointed by the Spirit	Isaiah 11:2	Matthew 3:16–17

Jesus confirmed this truth himself:

John 5:39 — "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; it is these that bear witness about Me."

And on the road to Emmaus, "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the **things concerning himself**" (Luke 24:27).

i. Key Themes in Old Testament Messianic Prophecies

Three consistent gospel themes run through every type and prophecy:

1. **Atonement for Sin / Sacrifice**

Sin must be dealt with. The Levitical system constantly stressed the need for an atoning sacrifice.

2. **Substitution**

Because of sin's consequences, a substitute must die in the sinner's place — pictured in the scapegoat on the Day of Atonement.

3. **Faith, Not Works**

God's provision, not man's effort. God Himself provides the sacrifice (skins for Adam & Eve, ram for Abraham).

1. The Proto-Evangel — Genesis 3

The moment sin enters the story, God immediately provides the first promise of redemption. This is called the **Proto-Evangel** — the first announcement of the **Good News** in the Bible.

Genesis 2:16–17 — "From any tree of the garden you may surely eat; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, you shall not eat from it; for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

Genesis 3:15 — "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, and you shall bruise him on the heel."

Key insight: Women are not said to have "seed" — that is a male function. Many see here a prophecy of the **Virgin Birth** of Christ.

In your own words, what does "bruise the head of the serpent" point to?

Christ's victory over Satan and sin at the Cross (Colossians 2:15; Hebrews 2:14). The serpent who deceived Eve is defeated by the offspring of the woman — Jesus Christ.

2. The Lord Shall Provide — Genesis 22

God tests Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son **Isaac** — the son of promise. This story is a **type** (typical prophecy) of Christ the Messiah.

Genesis 22:1–2 — "Take now your son, your only one, whom you love, Isaac, and go forth to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

How is Christ pictured in this story? (Correct matching answers):

Element in Genesis 22	What it Foreshadows
The father sacrifices his only son	God the Father offering His only Son
The son submits willingly	Christ's willing submission to the cross
Isaac carries the wood	Christ carrying His cross
"The Lord Will Provide" (v.14)	God provides the sacrifice by grace (not works)
A ram caught in a thicket	Substitutionary atonement — the ram dies in Isaac's place

Note: The region of **Moriah** is the very mountain on which the Temple was later built (2 Chronicles 3:1) — and is in close proximity to the place of Christ's crucifixion ~2,000 years later.

3. The Blood of the Lamb — Exodus 12

The **Passover** is one of the most vivid portraits of the gospel in the entire Old Testament. The death angel passes over every home where the **blood of the lamb** has been applied to the doorposts.

Exodus 12:11–14 — "...it is the Passover of Yahweh. And I will go through the land of Egypt on that night and will strike down all the firstborn... and I will see the blood, and I will pass over you, and there shall be no plague among you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. Now this day will be a memorial to you..."

How each Passover element points to Christ:

Passover Element	Points to Christ because...
An unblemished male lamb	Christ is sinless and perfectly righteous — the spotless Lamb of God (1 Peter 1:19)
Blood applied to the doorposts	Christ's blood applied by faith protects believers from God's wrath / judgment (Romans 3:25)
Roasted with fire; eaten with bitter herbs	Pictures Christ's severe trial, bitter suffering, and purity on the cross

The whole family eats the flesh	Union with Christ — "He who eats My flesh... abides in Me, and I in him" (John 6:56)
The people are set free from slavery	Christ delivers believers from slavery to sin and death, leading them to the Promised Land (eternal life)

Paul makes this connection explicit: **"Christ our Passover has been sacrificed"** (1 Corinthians 5:7).

John the Baptist declared: **"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"** (John 1:29).

In John's passion account, the striking details connecting the crucifixion to the Passover:

- John 18:28 — The religious leaders won't enter Pilate's headquarters so they can **keep ceremonial cleanliness and eat the Passover**
- John 19:14 — It was the day of **Preparation** of the Passover when Pilate presented Christ
- Josephus records ~250,000 Passover lambs sacrificed; the slaughter began at the **sixth** hour
- Moses commanded that no bones of the lamb be broken — the lambs were tied to two pieces of wood in the shape of a **cross**

4. My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? — Psalm 22

Psalm 22 is known as **The Psalm of the Cross** — the Gospel According to David. It is quoted or referenced **24 times** in the New Testament, 17 of those in the passion accounts.

Spurgeon wrote of this Psalm: *"...it is the photograph of our Lord's saddest hours, the record of his dying words... We should read reverently, putting off our shoes from off our feet, as Moses did at the burning bush, for if there be holy ground anywhere in Scripture it is in this Psalm."*

Description	Psalm 22	NT Fulfillment
"My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?"	v. 1	Matthew 27:46
Scorned, mocked, despised	vv. 6–8	Matthew 27:39, 43
Physical torment — bones out of joint, strength dried up	vv. 14–15	Matthew 27:32
Thirsty	v. 15	John 19:28
Hands and feet pierced	v. 16	John 20:20, 25
Bones not broken	v. 17	John 19:31–36
Garments divided; lots cast for clothing	v. 18	John 19:23–24
God heard His cry	vv. 21, 24	Hebrews 5:7–8
Praise in the great assembly	vv. 22–24	Resurrection / ascension

Key insight: The Psalm does not end in **despair** — it ends in **praise and salvation** (vv. 22–31). The God who seemed far off in verse 1 is worshiped in the great assembly. Through the suffering King, all the nations will turn to the Lord.

What does this teach us about suffering and God's ultimate purposes?

God does not waste suffering. Even the darkest moment in history — the Cross — became the greatest display of His glory and love. Our suffering is never outside His purposes; He brings praise and salvation out

of our deepest pain (Romans 8:28).

5. Pierced for Our Transgressions — Isaiah 53

Isaiah 52:13–53:12 is the clearest and most detailed Messianic prophecy in all the Old Testament. Written approximately **700 years** before Christ, it reveals the promised Redeemer as the **Suffering Servant** of the Lord.

Isaiah 53:5 — But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our peace fell upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.

This is the heart of **substitutionary atonement** — the Servant does not suffer for His own guilt. He is pierced for **our** transgressions; crushed for **our** iniquities.

Three prophecies converge on the piercing of Christ (correct connections):

OT Prophecy	NT Fulfillment
Psalm 22:16 — hands and feet pierced	John 20:20, 25 — Thomas sees the nail marks in Jesus' hands and feet
Zechariah 12:10 — "look on Me whom they have pierced"	John 19:34 — Roman soldier pierces Jesus' side with a spear
Isaiah 53:5 — pierced for our transgressions	Romans 5:8; 1 Peter 2:24 — Christ died for our sins; bore them in His body on the cross

The Suffering Servant is the culmination of every type and shadow we have studied today:

- The **Seed of the woman** (Proto-Evangel) — He crushes the serpent's head
- The **Son of Abraham** — the sacrifice God Himself provides
- The **Passover Lamb** — His blood causes wrath to pass over His people
- The **Forsaken King** (Psalm 22) — abandoned so we never will be
- The **Suffering Servant** (Isaiah 53) — wounded for our transgressions

Closing Reflection

"This is the One to whom all the types, shadows, and prophecies have been pointing from the very beginning."

How does seeing Christ in the Old Testament deepen your worship and trust in Him?

Sample answer: It shows that God's plan of redemption was never an afterthought — He purposed it before creation and faithfully unfolded it across thousands of years. Every sacrifice, every prophecy, every type was pointing to Jesus. This gives us profound confidence that God keeps His promises, that Scripture is truly His Word, and that the Cross was the most intentional act in all of history — done for us.

*He was wounded so that we might be **healed**. He was crushed so that we might have **peace with God**. He was forsaken so that we might **never be**.*