

What Does the Old Testament Scripture Say about the Coming of the Messiah?

The book of Isaiah prophesys that the Messiah would be born of a virgin. “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14 BSB).

This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus in Matthew 1:20-23. “But after he had pondered these things, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to embrace Mary as your wife, for the One conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a Son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: ‘Behold, the virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel’ (which means, ‘God with us’).”

The prophet Micah said that from Bethlehem would go forth One who would be ruler in Israel. “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come forth for Me One to be ruler over Israel — One whose origins are of old, from the days of eternity.” (Micah 5:2 BSB).

Because of the census decreed by Caesar Augustus, Jesus was born in the city of Bethlehem, fulfilling this prophecy in Luke 2:4-7. “So Joseph also went up from Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, since he was from the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to him in marriage and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her Child to be born. And she gave birth to her firstborn, a Son. She wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn”.

In the book of Daniel during the Babylonian captivity it was prophesied that Jerusalem would be rebuilt and that the Messiah would then be cut off prior to Jerusalem and the temple once again being destroyed. “Know and understand this: From the issuance of the decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem, until the Messiah, the Prince, there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. It will be rebuilt with streets and a trench, but in times of distress. Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and will have nothing. Then the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end will come like a flood, and until the end there will be war; desolations have been decreed. And he will confirm a covenant with many for one week, but in the middle of the week he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of the temple will come the abomination that causes desolation, until the decreed destruction is poured out upon him” (Daniel 9:25-27 BSB).

While Jesus was on earth He was often in the temple ministering (Luke 2:41-46, John 8:2, and Luke 22:53), but after Jesus is cut off in His death on the cross, it is less than 40 years later when Jerusalem is leveled by the Romans. The second temple was destroyed on August 30, 70 AD during the destruction of Jerusalem led by the Roman General Titus.