

I. Messiah According to Torah

Comment

The Tenach is the Jewish Bible. It is divided into three sections, the Torah (First 5 Books or Pentateuch), the Nevi'im (Prophets) and the Ketuvim (Writings). We have broken down messianic prophecy into the three divisions of the Jewish Bible (sometimes referred to by the acronym of the three-- TeNaCH). This first lesson deals with two predictions found in the Torah section of the Bible.

A. The student should read Genesis 3 and answer the following questions:

1. Name the four characters involved in this story.
2. Where were Adam and Eve sent as a result of their disobedience?
3. Who is the opponent of God and of God's plan?

Comment

Satan wanted Adam and Eve to do two things: doubt and not believe. They are a bit different from each other. When he said, "Has God really said" he was hoping for them to doubt. "*Maybe God didn't say that...?*" was what Satan wanted the couple to think. Then his "You shall surely not die." was intended for the couple to disbelieve God completely. The serpent's question here was intended for doubt; his lie was designed to stumble their belief.

4. God provided skins for Adam and Eve whereas they had chosen to put fig leaves on themselves. Since both of them provide covering for the couple, there must be a difference. From where do you get skins?

5. What is the difference between skins and fig leaves?

Comment

Adam and Eve's disobedience was the result of their doubting and disbelieving God's word. The serpent was a wise opponent and got them distracted from a living relationship with the Living God. As a result, Adam and Eve fell from the garden and were dismissed from the presence of God. Yet, in the midst of it, God promised a savior who would come.

6. Whose seed (child) would the Savior be? (verse 15)
7. This "bruising" or "crushing" that the Savior would receive -- in what context is this given, that is, how will he incur the bruising?
8. The crushing of the head of the serpent -- does this sound like any military posture with which you are familiar?

SUMMARY

Although it is not clearly stated, by the end of this series of lessons, you will discover that the Savior introduced here in the beginning, will be born of a virgin and suffer crucifixion, and by that, bring victory for all of humanity over his archenemy, Satan himself.

Fascinating the text teaches that Messiah will be 'seed of woman'. We know from Jewish genealogy that men have children (not biologically, but genealogically) as in Abraham begat Isaac, and Isaac begat Jacob. But this forecast child is only from 'woman.'

We learn 3 clear things from 3:15:

- 1) The savior would be "seed of the woman" rather than "seed of the man and the woman" meaning no man was involved.
- 2) He would be wounded in body, and
- 3) He would "crush the serpent's head" meaning gain ascendancy or victory over the serpent.

B. The student will read Deuteronomy 18 and answer the following questions:

9. This prophet who would come -- who will he be like?
10. What would be the requirement for the Jewish people in regards to the statements of this prophet?
11. According to the text (:16), the sending of this prophet-savior, would be a direct result of the Jewish people's request of God. What was it we had been asking for?
12. This prophet is to speak the words of whom?
13. What will be the result on the Jewish people who don't listen to this man (:19)?

Comment

These are just two of over 300 prophecies about the coming of the messiah in the Jewish Bible. The next lesson centers on two more prophecies from the Nevi'im section of Tenach.

SUMMARY

God wants us to follow his messiah and to know that he would be the son of the woman who would be wounded for us and by that wounding would conquer the Serpent (later we find out, the Devil) and who would speak for God to all of us. We have to listen to him.

Peter said Jesus was the prophet like Moses (Acts 3:19-23). Who do you think he is?

Is there any good reason you should not accept Y'shua now?