

The Messiah According to the Old Testament
A Three-Part Series
A Bible Study by Bob Mendelsohn
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II. Messiah According to the Prophets

A. The student will read Micah 5 and answer the following questions:

1. Now hundreds of years after Moses, we see the savior spoken of in terms of “The Judge of Israel”. According to the prophet, from what city will the savior come?
2. The prophet says that this city is ignoble, that is, too small to be even among the top thousand cities listed in the “Where’s Where” of Judah. Why might a king choose to come from such a place?
3. The prophet says that they will do something to this judge of Israel (on his cheek). What is it?
4. Although he will be born in a certain city, he began before then? What does it mean, “his goings forth are from long ago, from eternity”?
5. According to verse 5, this one will be what for us?

COMMENT

We again learn three things from this biblical section.

- 1) messiah’s birthplace,
- 2) he would suffer physical pain and
- 3) he is eternal. The sifting of the criteria is helping us find the composite picture.

Who in Jewish understanding is the only being who is eternal?

B. The student will read Isaiah 53 and answer the following questions:

COMMENT

The section actually begins in chapter 52:13. This is one of the most quoted Bible passages by New Testament believers in trying to prove that Jesus is the Messiah. Some will say that this section is left out of the Jewish Bible. This is not true. What is true is the following:

The rabbis chose selected passages of the Bible, specifically the Prophets to attend the reading of the Torah. During the Roman rule and beyond, when the privilege of reading Torah was removed from the Jewish people, all that was left was the possibility of reading from the Prophets. For some reason, the Gentile governments had no problem with our doing that. Not every section from the Prophets or from the Writings is included in the canonical lectionary. However, there is a section that begins in mid-June where the readings begin in Isaiah 40, and continue in chapters 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55 and 60. It appears that the rabbis specifically hopped chapter 53. *Why would that be?* After you read it for yourself, then the question you need to answer is, “of whom is the prophet speaking?”

6. The Savior is now called by the terms, “the Servant of the Lord” and “the arm of the Lord”. Describe some of the physical difficulties, troubles, and pains recorded as occurring to this Messiah.

7. According to Isaiah, what is the purpose of his death?

8. What does it mean, “He will see his seed”?

9. The death of the innocent one--why does it bring God pleasure? (:10)

10. About whom does it sound like the prophet is speaking?

11. Is he received or is he rejected by Israel?

12. What does he do with our griefs and sorrows?

13. Have we Jewish people gone astray? What does that mean?

14. Read Isaiah 59.1-2. The arm of the Lord is revealed in chapter 53, and “not so short” in chapter 59. Here he wants to save us. He wants to forgive our sins. Sin

separates us from God, making a wall over which we cannot jump or climb. God's love makes the way in the death of the Servant. Will you believe this?

15. What do you think-- of whom does the prophet speak?

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