

THE PROPHETS WROTE OF GOD'S PLAN

Romans 1:2

Paul did not specify the passages from the prophets he had in mind when he wrote of "the gospel [God] promised . . . through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures," probably because of his reader's familiarity with those Scriptures. For these early Christians, the Old Testament continued to be their authority, and they knew of many references to God's plan and the Messiah. Here are several references Paul might have pointed to:

<u>Genesis 12:3</u>	The Messiah would come from Abraham's line, and through the Messiah "All the families of the earth will be blessed through you."
<u>Psalms 16:10</u>	The promise of the resurrection given to David: the Messiah, "your godly one," would be resurrected.
<u>Psalms 40:6-10</u>	The Messiah would "take joy in doing your will, my God," and would accomplish that will so completely as to die on the cross.
<u>Psalms 118:22</u>	The Messiah would be rejected by his own people, but would become the "cornerstone," the most important part of the church.
<u>Isaiah 11:1ff</u>	The Messiah will be the "Branch" that will be "bearing fruit" in the form of believers. "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him."
<u>Isaiah 49:5-6</u>	The Messiah will gather Israel and be a light for the Gentiles.
<u>Zechariah 9:9-11</u>	The Messiah would come to his people "riding on a donkey," which he did in his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem.
<u>Zechariah 12:10</u>	The Messiah would be "pierced" on the cross, and many would mourn his death.
<u>Malachi 4:1-5</u>	The Messiah's arrival will be heralded by one like the "prophet Elijah," who was to be John the Baptist.

NAMES FOR MESSIAH

Isaiah 9:6

Isaiah uses four names in 9:6 to describe the Messiah. These names have special meaning to us.

Wonderful Counselor	He is exceptional, distinguished, and without peer, the one who gives the right advice.
Mighty God	He is God himself.
Everlasting Father	He is timeless; he is God our Father.
Prince of Peace	His government is one of justice and peace.

MESSIANIC PROPHECIES AND FULFILLMENTS

Luke 18:31

For the Gospel writers, one of the main reasons for believing in Jesus was the way his life fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah. Following is a list of some of the main prophecies.

Old Testament Prophecies		New Testament Fulfillment
1. Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem	<u>Micah 5:2</u>	<u>Matthew 2:1-6</u> ; <u>Luke 2:1-20</u>
2. Messiah was to be born of a virgin	<u>Isaiah 7:14</u>	<u>Matthew 1:18-25</u> ; <u>Luke 1:26-38</u>
3. Messiah was to be a prophet like Moses	<u>Deuteronomy 18:15, 18-19</u>	<u>John 7:40</u>
4. Messiah was to enter Jerusalem in triumph	<u>Zechariah 9:9</u>	<u>Matthew 21:1-9</u> ; <u>John 12:12-16</u>
5. Messiah was to be rejected by his own people	<u>Isaiah 53:1, 3</u> ; <u>Psalms 118:22</u>	<u>Matthew 26:3-4</u> ; <u>John 12:37-43</u> ; <u>Acts 4:1-12</u>
6. Messiah was to be betrayed by one of his followers	<u>Psalms 41:9</u>	<u>Matthew 26:14-16, 47-50</u> ; <u>Luke 22:19-23</u>
7. Messiah was to be tried and condemned	<u>Isaiah 53:8</u>	<u>Luke 23:1-25</u> ; <u>Matthew 27:1-2</u>
8. Messiah was to be silent before his accusers	<u>Isaiah 53:7</u>	<u>Matthew 27:12-14</u> ; <u>Mark 15:3-4</u> ; <u>Luke 23:8-10</u>
9. Messiah was to be struck and spat on by his enemies	<u>Isaiah 50:6</u>	<u>Matthew 26:67</u> ; <u>27:30</u> ; <u>Mark 14:65</u>
10. Messiah was to be mocked and insulted	<u>Psalms 22:7-8</u>	<u>Matthew 27:39-44</u> ; <u>Luke 23:11, 35</u>
11. Messiah was to die by crucifixion	<u>Psalms 22:14, 16-17</u>	<u>Matthew 27:31</u> ; <u>Mark 15:20, 25</u>
12. Messiah was to suffer with criminals and pray for his enemies	<u>Isaiah 53:12</u>	<u>Matthew 27:38</u> ; <u>Mark 15:27-28</u> ; <u>Luke 23:32-34</u>
13. Messiah was to be given vinegar and gall	<u>Psalms 69:21</u>	<u>Matthew 27:34</u> ; <u>John 19:28-30</u>
14. Others were to cast lots for Messiah's garments	<u>Psalms 22:18</u>	<u>Matthew 27:35</u> ; <u>John 19:23-24</u>
15. Messiah's bones were not to be broken	<u>Exodus 12:46</u>	<u>John 19:31-36</u>
16. Messiah was to die as a sacrifice for sin	<u>Isaiah 53:5-6, 8, 10-12</u>	<u>John 1:29</u> ; <u>11:49-52</u> ; <u>Acts 10:43</u> ; <u>13:38-39</u>
17. Messiah was to be raised from the dead	<u>Psalms 16:10</u>	<u>Acts 2:22-32</u> ; <u>Matthew 28:1-10</u>
18. Messiah is now at God's right hand	<u>Psalms 110:1</u>	<u>Mark 16:19</u> ; <u>Luke 24:50-51</u>