



Prophecies of the Messiah in Isaiah

Introduction

The book of **Isaiah** stands as one of the most profound prophetic works in the Old Testament. Written over seven centuries before the birth of Christ, it contains some of the clearest and most detailed prophecies about the coming Messiah. Isaiah is often referred to as “the fifth Gospel” due to its rich Messianic themes, which range from the virgin birth to the suffering Servant, from His divine titles to His reign of peace.

Jesus and the New Testament writers repeatedly quoted Isaiah to demonstrate that He fulfilled these prophecies. As Matthew records: “Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a **virgin** shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son” (Matthew 1:22-23).

This article explores the Messianic prophecies in Isaiah, their fulfillment in Christ, and their significance for believers today.

The Virgin Birth (Isaiah 7:14)

Isaiah prophesied: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14).

Centuries later, Matthew affirmed that this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus’ birth through the virgin Mary (Matthew 1:23). The name “Immanuel” means “God with us,” highlighting both His divine nature and His mission to dwell among His people.

This prophecy affirms:

- The **supernatural** nature of Christ’s birth.
- His dual identity as both man and God.
- God’s faithfulness in providing salvation.

The Divine Child and His Titles (Isaiah 9:6-7)

Isaiah declares: “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).



This prophecy highlights:

- **Humanity:** “a child is born.”
- **Divinity:** “a son is given.”
- **Eternal rule:** “the government shall be upon his shoulder.”

The titles reveal His nature:

- **Wonderful, Counsellor** — wisdom beyond measure.
- **The mighty God** — deity in human flesh.
- **The everlasting Father** — source of eternal life.
- **The Prince of Peace** — the One who reconciles humanity to God.

Luke affirmed this at Jesus’ birth when the angel proclaimed peace on earth (Luke 2:14).

The Light to the Nations (Isaiah 42:1-7; Isaiah 49:6)

Isaiah describes the Servant of the Lord who would bring justice and be a light to the Gentiles: “I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth” (Isaiah 49:6).

In the New Testament, Simeon blessed the infant Jesus, calling Him “a light to lighten the Gentiles” (Luke 2:32).

This prophecy reveals the Messiah’s universal mission—salvation not only for Israel but for all nations.

The Suffering Servant (Isaiah 52:13-53:12)

Perhaps the most vivid Messianic prophecy is the Suffering Servant passage. Isaiah foretold:

- “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief” (Isaiah 53:3).
- “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4).
- “He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities” (Isaiah 53:5).



This prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus' crucifixion. Peter directly connected it to Christ: "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24).

The Servant passage shows:

- Christ's substitutionary atonement.
- His rejection by Israel.
- His victory in justifying many.

The Anointed Preacher (Isaiah 61:1-2)

Isaiah records: "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek" (Isaiah 61:1).

When Jesus began His ministry, He read this passage in the synagogue at Nazareth and declared: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:21).

This prophecy emphasizes the Messiah's role as preacher of the gospel, healer of the brokenhearted, and liberator of the oppressed.

The Messianic King (Isaiah 11:1-10)

Isaiah prophesied: "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots" (Isaiah 11:1).

This Branch refers to the Messiah, descended from David's father Jesse. Isaiah describes His reign:

- Empowered by the Spirit (Isaiah 11:2).
- Righteous in judgment (Isaiah 11:4).
- Establishing peace where even predators dwell harmlessly (Isaiah 11:6-9).

This looks forward to Christ's millennial reign, when He will restore creation and bring universal peace.

The Stone of Stumbling (Isaiah 8:14; Isaiah 28:16)

Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would be both cornerstone and stumbling stone: "Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure



foundation” (Isaiah 28:16).

The New Testament applies this directly to Christ (1 Peter 2:6–8). To believers, He is the foundation; to unbelievers, He is a stone of offense.

The Rejected Messiah (Isaiah 53:1)

Isaiah asked: “Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?” (Isaiah 53:1).

John applied this prophecy to the rejection of Jesus by His people (John 12:38). Despite His miracles and fulfillment of Scripture, many did not believe. This prophecy reminds us that the rejection of Christ was foreseen and fulfilled.

The Messiah’s Everlasting Reign (Isaiah 24:23; Isaiah 32:1; Isaiah 65:17–25)

Isaiah not only foretold Christ’s suffering but also His ultimate reign. “Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion” (Isaiah 24:23).

These passages describe the future kingdom, when Christ reigns from Jerusalem and ushers in new heavens and a new earth (Isaiah 65:17). Revelation echoes this vision of eternal renewal (Revelation 21:1).

The Relevance for Today

The Messianic prophecies of Isaiah provide believers with:

- **Assurance:** Christ fulfilled prophecy precisely.
- **Faith:** God’s Word is trustworthy and reliable.
- **Hope:** The suffering Servant will return as reigning King.
- **Mission:** Like Isaiah, we are called to proclaim the message of salvation.

Paul wrote: “For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” (Romans 15:4).

Conclusion

Isaiah’s prophecies form a stunning portrait of the Messiah: born of a virgin, divine in nature, rejected and suffering for sins, yet reigning in glory. Each prophecy finds



fulfillment in Jesus Christ. For believers, these prophecies confirm the truth of Scripture and the certainty of God's promises. The same Servant who bore our sins will one day reign in righteousness. Isaiah calls us to look with faith to Christ, the fulfillment of all prophecy.