

The Messianic Hope

Part 1 of 3

December 10, 1995

- **Luke 24:36-45**

• • ³⁶ *Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you."³⁷ But they were terrified and frightened, and supposed they had seen a spirit.³⁸ And He said to them, "Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts?"³⁹ "Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have."⁴⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.⁴¹ But while they still did not believe for joy, and marveled, He said to them, "Have you any food here?"⁴² So they gave Him a piece of a broiled fish and some honeycomb.⁴³ And He took it and ate in their presence.*

⁴⁴ *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."⁴⁵ And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures. NKJV*

- **Introduction**

If someone new to Christianity were to read the Bible like a novel (from Genesis to Revelation) after they finished the Old Testament they would probably feel that the story had not been finished. The Old Testament is only part of the story—there was more revelation to be given by God. How do we know that the New Testament is the completion of that story? The answer lies in the prophetic nature of the OT and understanding its fulfillment.

However, we will see that a simple, cursory reading of the OT will yield little. The deeper we dig, we find that the Scriptures will take us even deeper still. As Christians, we should be well versed in understanding why we believe that Jesus is the fulfillment of the prophecies in the OT.

How do we know that Jesus is the Messiah? How do we know that others were not? Is there additional revelation yet to come? Could the Mormons be right about another testimony of Jesus Christ? On what grounds do we respond? Over the next three weeks, we will consider this topic and see where in the Old Testament the saints of old received the assurance of their hope in a Messiah.

- **Signs of The Gospel From the Beginning**

- **Genesis 2:1-3**

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- From the very outset of Scripture, God began unfolding His intentions for the redemption of His people. God's own rest, and the fact that the day of rest was declared to be Holy, reveal one of the first attributes of salvation. This rest from our labors pictures the rest from our toiling under the law that is ours when we are included in Christ.

- **Genesis 3:14-15**

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- After the fall of Adam & Eve, God curses the Serpent and declares enmity between the seed of the Serpent and the Seed of the woman. Notice then that the Seed is given the pronoun He in the next sentence. Whoever this "He" is (obvious to us this is Christ, Gal 4:4) He will be bruised by the Serpent but He will crush in return.

- **The Gospel According to Abraham** (Ab = "father" ram = "high" raham = "of multitudes")

- **Galatians 3:8-9**

⁸ *And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."⁹ So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. NKJV*

- God revealed that His intentions were to save more than just ethnic Israel. Although we don't see it presented as we typically would expect today, the gospel was proclaimed to Abraham and recorded for the world to see.

- **Genesis 22:1-19**

- As we have seen having gone through Galatians and then Hebrews, Abraham is no minor character in the Scriptures. Let's consider the similarities between the sacrifice of Isaac and the sacrifice of Christ:

- Abraham was a righteous man. Joseph was a righteous man.

God progressively reveals the promise to Abraham God progressively revealed Christ to us through the Prophets

Sarah conceived miraculously Mary conceived miraculously

Isaac was a son of promise Jesus was son of a promise

Isaac was a beloved, only son Jesus is God's only beloved son

Isaac carries the wood to the altar Jesus carries the cross to the hill

Isaac obeys his father in the sacrifice Jesus obeys His Father in the sacrifice

Isaac was sacrificed on Mount Moriah Jesus was sacrificed on Mount Moriah

- **The Gospel According To Moses**

- ● **Hebrews 4:1-3**

Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.² For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.³ For we who have believed do enter that rest, as He has said:

- ● "So I swore in My wrath,

- "They shall not enter My rest," "

although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. NKJV

- Four hundred and thirty years after the time of Abraham, the nation of Israel has been taken as slaves by the Egyptians and Moses is raised up by God to deliver them from their bondage.

- ● **Exodus 14:13-14**

¹³ *And Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which He will accomplish for you today. For the Egyptians whom you see today, you shall see again no more forever."¹⁴ "The Lord will fight for you, and you shall hold your peace."* NKJV

- God dramatically demonstrated to the people that He would be the source of their salvation. Notice hear that the people are to be still while the Lord delivers them. They are not to help; He does not need help. But in the next verse God tells Moses to command the people to walk. They were to walk in this salvation (dry land in the Sea) as a result of God's deliverance, not so that they could secure it in any way.

- ● **Deuteronomy 18:15-19**

Acts 3:22-26

- - Here we have God's promise of providing another prophet, like Moses, who the people are commanded to listen to. There are two levels on which this promise is fulfilled. As the people requested, God stopped speaking to the people directly but then expanded His speaking through prophets. In addition, God promised a prophet like Moses. In what way would He be like Moses. Moses obedience which brought about the deliverance of the nation of Israel from bondage to Egypt, pictures the deliverance from bondage to sin that this prophet would provide.

● ● Galatians 3:19

- - Those who properly understood the Law to be something that pointed us to the Messiah were blessed by the Law. However, those who by their sinful hearts believed the Law to be the means of salvation were cursed by it.