

Messianic Prophecy Guide

The Bible is unique among all writings because of its prophetic content that describes events long in advance, often many centuries before they actually occurred. The reason that biblical prophecy is reliable is its linkage to the very nature of God. Those key divine attributes are as follows:

God is eternal. He is beyond time and space and can “declare the end from the beginning” (Isa. 46:9-10). From God’s perspective, there is only now. He cannot forget the past, because He never left it. He cannot be wrong about the future, because He is there already.

God is omnipotent. He has the power to do whatever He wills (Gen 18:14; Ps 147:5). Unlike the predictions of human beings with limited power, which can easily be wrong, God’s unlimited power means that His declarations about the future will always be true.

God is purposeful. Biblical prophecy is purposeful and consistent with God’s plan for humanity. From the very moment that humanity fell into sin in the Garden of Eden, God put into effect a plan for redeeming humanity from the consequences of sin, most notably physical and spiritual death that, if left unresolved, would separate us forever from His presence.

He made it clear that the solution to this problem would be carried out by a very special individual—the Messiah. And God used Messianic prophecy to describe His plan in great detail long before it would be completely fulfilled. So, by reading the Torah, the books of the prophets and the other writings of the *Tanakh* (Old Testament), we are given the complete depiction of what the Messiah would be like, when and where He would come, and what He would accomplish. Everything that we read in the *Tanakh* about the Messiah will be consistent with God’s purposes and plan for humanity.

Types of Messianic prophecies

1. **Direct prophecies**—passages that employ terms that literally identify the Messiah as the subject.
2. **Foreshadow prophecies**—predictions that have implications for both the immediate time frame in which they were given, and a foreshadowing of an even greater event to come.

These prophecies were woven into the narrative of real events described in the Old Testament with literal meaning for the characters of the story, while at the same time, depicting or having relevance to the future life of the Messiah. These particular prophecies generally lack literal Messianic terms. Typologies are a form of these prophecies, such as Abraham’s willingness to offer Isaac as a sacrifice being a foreshadowing of the Father sending the Son to become our sacrificial atonement.

3. **Implied prophecies**—attributes and actions of God that are personified in Scripture and would be consistent with the nature of the Messiah.

A Prophetic Portrait of the Messiah

	<u>Prophecy</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Fulfilled</u>
• Preceded by a forerunner	Mal 3:1	Direct	Mat 11:1-10
• Present in the 1st century AD	Dan 9:24-26	Direct	Jn 12:2-3
• Born before Israel lost its ability to govern itself	Gen 49:10	Direct	Archelaus, the last king was dethroned in 6 A.D
• In the town of Bethlehem of Judea	Mic 5:2	Direct	Lk 2:4
• Born of a virgin	Isa 7:14	Foreshadow	Lk 1:26-35
• God dwelling on earth	Isa 7:14 Isa 9:6-7 Mic 5:2	Foreshadow Direct Direct	Mat 1:23 Jn 10:25-37
• A descendant of David	Jer 23:5	Direct	Mat 1:6
• A branch from Jesse	Isa 11:1	Direct	Mat 1:6
• A priest after the order of Melchizedek	Ps 110:4	Direct	Heb 6:20
• A performer of miracles	Isa 35:3-6	Implied	Mat 11:4-6
• A teacher of parables	Ps 78:2	Implied	Mat 13:34-35
• Arrives as king on a donkey	Zech 9:9	Direct	Mat 21:1-11
• Rejected by his kinsmen	Isa 53:3	Direct	Mat 27:21-23
• Betrayed by a friend	Ps 41:9	Foreshadow	Mat 26:20-23
• Without sin like the Passover lamb	Ex 12:5,13	Foreshadow	Jn 1:29; Heb 4:15
• Sold for thirty pieces of silver	Zech 11:12	Implied	Mat 26:14-15
• Mocked and garments taken while dying	Ps 22:7,8	Implied	Mat 27:29-35
• Crucified	Ps 22:16 Zech 12:10	Implied Direct	Mat 27:31-39 Jn 19:37
• Died in substitutionary atonement	Isa 53:5,6	Direct	1 Jn 4:10
• Died for the sins of humanity	Isa 53:12	Direct	1 Pet 3:18
• Buried with the rich	Isa 53:9	Direct	Mat 27:57
• Resurrected from the dead	Isa 53:11 Ps 16:10	Direct Foreshadow	Mat 28:1-6 Acts 2:31
• Ascended to the right hand of God	Ps 68:18	Implied	Acts 2:32-36
• Returning in power and glory	Isa 59:19,20 Dan 7:13-14	Direct	Acts 1:11
• Given the right to judge the nations	1 Sam 2:10	Direct	2 Tim 4:1
• The bringer of righteousness and peace	Isa 11:3-10	Direct	2 Pet 2:13