

would not be left in the grave and he knew that he would sit at God's right hand until the time when his enemies were subdued.

4. The Psalms that Jesus mentioned in Luke 24 was not just a reference to a single book but to a whole section of books. Proverbs and the Wisdom Literature model what a righteous king will look like. Chiefly he is characterized by a fear of the Lord which leads to complete obedience.

5. Daniel predicts that four earthly kingdoms that defy God will be replaced by God's kingdom which comes from heaven. The ruler is one who is like a "son of man" but who acts like God. He crushes all defiance, sees the resurrection of all people, and reigns in righteousness forever.

CONCLUSION

All of the Old Testament points to Jesus. Ever since the Fall, those submitted to God have been longing for deliverance and they have seen God progressively reveal the way in which he will crush the serpent, redeem mankind, and establish his kingdom. At the center of this is an individual who will rule but also suffer. Suffering was necessary in order to establish the New Covenant in which all of the people would be given circumcised hearts to obey God. The failure of the disciples to understand was essentially a problem of selective hearing. They understood the Scriptures that spoke of desirable matters, but they did not appreciate ones which were less appealing.

GOING FURTHER

How do the Gospels show the Scriptures fulfilled in Jesus?

PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT STUDY

For our study of Israel's descent towards exile, read 1-2 Kings. If time is limited, read especially: 1 Kgs 4, 11-14, 18; 2 Kgs 9-11, 17-25. As you read, think about the purposes of the author. Why did he write what he did? What did he want his readers to understand?

THE MESSIANIC OLD TESTAMENT

PREPARATION FOR THIS STUDY

Prepare for next week's study of the Messiah in the Old Testament by reading Luke 24:13-49, with particular attention to verses 25, 26, and 44 and thinking (or writing) about what Jesus said to the disciples. For extra credit: listen to Handel's Messiah.

PURPOSE OF THIS STUDY

The main goal of this lesson is to convince you:

not that the Old Testament *has* some messianic prophecies

but that the Old Testament *is* a thoroughly messianic book.

This is important for several reasons:

1. To counter the false idea that Christians cite verses out of context in order to prove that Jesus was the fulfillment of prophecy.
2. To help you to understand the Old Testament correctly; that is, to understand the Old Testament as Jesus understood it.
3. To give you a greater appreciation for the parts of the Old Testament by giving you a better understanding of the whole.
4. To help you to see how Jesus is truly the center of the Bible and not an afterthought or a change of plan.

"THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO ME" (JOHN 5:39)

After the resurrection, Jesus spoke with two disciples on the road to Emmaus and "beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:27). He also rebuked them for not believing what the Old Testament said. Later when talking with the 11 disciples he reminded them, "Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms" (Luke 24:44).

If we do not understand how all of the OT speaks about Jesus, then we do not understand the OT. Our outline for this study will be the three parts of the OT, as given by Jesus: the Law of Moses (Gen-Deut), the Prophets (Josh-2 Kgs; Isa-Mal), and the Psalms (including all of Wisdom Literature and a few other books).

THE LAW OF MOSES IS MESSIANIC

1. From the moment of the Fall, man needed a redeemer to give him life and restore him to fellowship with God. The earth also was cursed and needed redemption. God promised to give the woman a seed which would crush the serpent.
2. With the increase of mankind across the earth, God chose a family to bring blessing to all the earth. The hope of all people was now through Abraham's seed.
3. God promised to make Jacob's 12 descendants into a great nation and Judah would be the father of the kingly line until the comes to whom the scepter belongs.
4. From just the first book of the Bible alone, we see an increasingly desperate need for salvation from sin and we have God's promise to deliver through a man, a descendant of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, a king to whom the scepter belongs.
5. The exodus shows God's power to save, but the travels in the wilderness reveals the evil hearts of God's people. God makes a covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai to show them their need for a circumcised heart.

THE PROPHETS ARE MESSIANIC

1. The Former Prophets begin with Joshua where we see the potential for God's kingdom on earth when the people trust God. But their faith is weak and the following generations are idolatrous. Judges shows their desperate need for a king.
2. God gives the nation a king (Saul) and they learn that just any king is not good enough. They need a righteous king. David shows

promise but his failure shows the need for someone greater. God promises to give David an everlasting dynasty, a promise pointing to a righteous ruler who will completely please God.

3. The suspense increases with each king and one after another, beginning with Solomon, they show that they cannot lead the people in righteousness. The people groan under oppression as they long for the one God has promised.
4. The prophets blast the king and national leadership for rejecting God's law and crushing the people. They predict judgment for the wicked but salvation through the Messiah.
5. Isaiah predicts a royal son born in poverty who will rule with righteousness forever. He also foresees that this ruler will suffer at the hands of his people to atone for their sin. Micah indicts the wicked leadership and predicts a glorious kingdom to be ruled by one born in Bethlehem. Jeremiah knows that the nation will be carried off to Babylon but he also knows that God will raise up David's son to lead the nation to peace. Hosea, Amos, Ezekiel, Haggai, Zechariah, and Malachi all speak about the future Messiah and his glorious work in establishing God's kingdom on earth.

THE PSALMS ARE MESSIANIC

1. David wrote some of the psalms about and for his descendant that God had promised would rule forever. He knew that God would fulfill his covenant and he described the day when all kings would bow down to the Messiah, all nations would be blessed through him, and his name would endure forever.
2. The psalms anticipate a Messiah of the line of Judah who is also a priest in the order of Melchizedek. This anticipates the surpassing of the Levitical priesthood by David's greater descendant who would serve the people not only as a righteous ruler but as a sympathetic high priest.
3. David expected that his greater descendant would suffer greatly and he wrote psalms about this suffering. He knew that the Messiah