

Old Testament Predictions of Christ's Incarnation

Even a casual reading of the the Old Testament reveals that it is full of pictures, predictions, and prophecies concerning the Messiah. Jesus, told the religious leaders of the day, "You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life, and it is they that bear witness about me" (John 5:39). When Jesus was talking to the disciples on the road to Emmaus he told them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself" (Luke 24:25-27). This does mean He showed them that everything in the Old Testament is directly about Jesus. What it means is that Jesus showed them all the places that were speaking about Him. While everything is ultimately about Christ's work not everything points to him the same way. The following notes will focus on explicit Old Testament Passages that the New Testament affirm are about Jesus and His work.

In the following list we will see how the Psalms in particular speak of Jesus as they speak about the rule of the earthly King who is a shadow of the eternal anointed (Messiah/Christ) King to come.¹ This will be followed by a topical list of other Old Testament prophecies of Christ.

Christ in the Psalms

PSALM	NEW TESTAMENT QUOTE	SIGNIFICANCE
2:1-12	Acts 4:25-26; 13:33; Heb. 1:5; 5:5	Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection
8:3-8	1 Cor. 15:27-28; Eph. 1:22; Heb. 2:5-10	Creation
16:8-11	Acts 2:24-31; 13:35-37	Death, Resurrection
22:1-31	Matt. 27:35-46; John 19:23-24; Heb. 2:12; 5:5	Incarnation, Crucifixion, Resurrection
40:6-8	Heb; 10:5-9	Incarnation
41:9	John 13:18, 21	Betrayal
45:6-7	Heb. 1:8-9	Deity
68:18	Eph. 4:8	Ascension, Enthronement
69:20-21, 25	Matt. 27:34, 48; Acts 1:15-20	Betrayal, Crucifixion
72:6-17		Millennial Kingship
78:1-2,15	Matt. 13:35; 1 Cor. 10:4	Earthly Teaching Ministry
89:3-37	Acts 2:30	Millennial Kingship
102:25-27	Heb. 1:10-12	Creation, Eternality
109:6-19	Acts 1:15-20	Betrayal
110:1-7	Matt. 22:43-45; Acts. 2:33-35; Heb. 1:13; 5:6-10; 6:20; 7:24	Deity, Ascension, Heavenly Priest- hood, Millennial Kingship
118:22-23	Matt. 21:42; Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:8-12; 1 Pet. 2:7	Rejection as Savior
132:12-18	Acts 2:30	Millennial Kingship

¹ Some interpreters see Christ in every line of the Psalms. To the extent that Christ experienced what the Psalmist did—suffering, deliverance, or exaltation—Christ can use the Psalms for himself but the Messianic Psalms are limited to those affirmed by the NT.

Old Testament Prophecies of Christ²

TOPIC	PROPHECY	OT PASSAGE	NT FULFILLMENT
Christ's Lineage	Virgin Born Lineage of Shem Lineage of Abraham Lineage of Isaac Lineage of Jacob Lineage of Judah Lineage of David	Gen. 3:15, Isa. 7:14 Gen. 9:26 Gen. 12:2 Gen. 17:19 Gen. 25:23; 28:13 Gen. 49:10 2 Sam. 7:12-16	Matt. 1:23 Luke 3:26 Matt. 1:l, Gal.3:16 Luke 3:34 Luke 3:34 Matt. 1:2; Luke3:33 Matt. 1:l; Luke3:31
Christ's Birth	Manner of Birth Place of Birth	Isa. 7:14 Micah 5:2	Matt. 1:23 Matt. 2:6
Christ's Life	His forerunner His mission His ministry His teaching His presentation His rejection	Isa. 40:3 Isa. 61:1 Isa. 53:4 Ps. 78:2 Zechariah 9:9 Ps. 118:22	Matt. 3:3 Matt. 11:5 Matt. 8:17 Matt.13:35 Matt. 21:5 Matt.21:42;Acts4:11
Christ's Death	A painful death A violent death Hands & Feet pierced Ridiculed Soldiers Gambled Christ's Prayer Disfigured Scourging No bones broken	Ps.22 Isa. 52-53 Ps. 22:16 Ps. 22:7,8 Ps. 22:18 Ps. 22:24 Isa. 52:14 Isa. 53:5 Ps. 22:17	Luke 23:26-49 et al Luke 23:26-49 et al John 20:25 Matt. 27:39,43 John 19:24 Matt. 26:39 John 19:1 John 19:1,18 John 19:33-36
Christ's Victory	His Resurrection His Ascension	Ps. 16:10;22:22 Ps. 68:18	Matt. 28:6; Acts 2:27-28 Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1:9
Christ's Reign	Sovereign King In Jerusalem Governmental Power Peaceful Justice Joyful Restoration	Ps.2 Ps.24 Isa. 9:6-7 Isa. 11 Isa. 35:1-10	

² These are "prophecies" and not "types". Typology is a form of indirect prophecy because you do not know it was a prophecy until the fulfillment. Any person, event, or object can be a type. "Passover" is a type. It was a festival of freedom, where the Hebrews put the blood on the doors and were delivered from death and bondage. Then they ate the passover lamb. For 1400 years it was a central festival for Israel. When Christ shed his blood for our sins, and instructed us to eat the bread and the wine in memory of his death, Paul could say, "Now Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us." That is typology. God legislated the old festival with the death of Jesus in mind. The old was literal and true; the new corresponds but shows a greater meaning.