

***Themes From the Minor Prophets***  
***Lesson 3 – Messianic Prophecies***  
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**Introduction:** In the midst of current issues, God gave future promises of a coming Messiah through the prophets.

- A. We can know when a passage is fulfilled when the N. T. tells us! **(Acts 2:16-17)**
  - 1. There are many teachers today while trying to interpret the New Testament in light of the Old Testament, even to the point of contradicting the New.
  - 2. It is important to harmonize and learn from the Old Testament.  
**(Mt 5:17-18; Rom 15:4)**
  - 3. Remember the limitations of the Old Testament prophets without the light of the New Testament Apostles and Prophets. **(1 Pt 1:9-12)**
- B. Some of the prophecies were well known and others were not.
  - 1. What prophecies were known in advance by the Jewish leaders?
  - 2. Remember, even with the prophecies, the coming of Christ was a mystery that was revealed at the right time! **(Eph 1:9; 3:3, 9)**

***I. Prophecies of the Birth of the Messiah***

- A. The Jewish leaders knew this prophecy! **(Mt 2:1-8; Micah 5:2-5)**
  - 1. This gives us an understanding of why prophecies both reveal and conceal!
  - 2. Satan is wiser than any man, but he could not determine God's plan from the Old Testament prophecies alone. **(1 Cor 2:7-8)**
- B. Some would have used this prophecy to conclude that Jesus was not the Messiah! **(Jn 1:45-46; 7:40-43)**
  - 1. I can understand why there would be difficulty in applying these verses.
  - 2. Did Jesus correct the mistaken applications of these people? Why?
- C. Jesus departure to and return from Egypt as a child was prophesied. **(Mt 2:14-15; Hosea 11:1)**
  - 1. How obvious was this passage a prophecy of the Messiah?
  - 2. Sometime passages have a dual meaning.

***II. Prophecies of John the Baptist and the Messiah***

- A. Malachi, the last book of the Old Testament makes prophecy of both a messenger to go ahead of the Messiah and the Messiah Himself coming to the temple. **(Mal 3:1-4)**
  - 1. Mark tells us the fulfillment of this passage. **(Mk 1:2-4)**
  - 2. Jesus tells us the fulfillment of this passage. **(Mt 11:7-10; Lk 7:24-27)**
  - 3. What is the work of one who prepares the way? **(Jn 3:30)**
- B. Malachi speaks of one who will come in "the spirit and power of Elijah." **(Mal 4:5-6)**
  - 1. The Angel Gabriel tell Zacharias the fulfillment of this prophecy. **(Lk 1:12-17)**
  - 2. Jesus tells us that John the Baptist fulfilled this prophecy.  
**(Mt 11:11-15; 17:11-13; Mk 9:11-13)**
- C. Did John the Baptist understand the fulfillment of this prophecy?
  - 1. Since his parents knew and John was a prophet, then he would certainly know.
  - 2. Why then did John answer "I am not" to the question "Are you Elijah?"  
**(Jn 1:19-21)**

3. Does the Bible contradict itself in this? What is the explanation?

### ***III. Prophecies of Events in the Life of Christ***

- A. What an unusual scenario, the Messiah coming on a “foal of a Donkey.” (**Zech 9:9**)
1. Mark, Luke and John mention only the colt that Jesus sat on.  
(**Mk 11:1-10; Lk 19:28-28; Jn 12:12-16**)
  2. Mathew gives more detail as he mentions both the mother and the colt were brought. (**Mt 21:1-9**)
  3. Why are these accounts not a contradiction? Why would both animals be necessary?
  4. The “lowly” Messiah is shown in this event. (**Zech 9:9; Mt 11:29**)
- B. The price of Judas’ betrayal was prophesied. (**Mt 27:1-10; Zech 11:12-13**)
1. The explanation of Jeremiah being mentioned could be explained in two possible ways.
    - a. Not everything Jeremiah said was written. (**Jn 21:25**)
    - b. Jeremiah is mention as representative of the prophets.
  2. The significance of this prophecy is that the betrayal of Jesus was foretold!
- C. The piercing of Jesus by the soldiers after His death was foretold.  
(**Zech 12:10; Jn 19:30-37; Rev 1:7**)
1. This is strong eyewitness evidence of the death of Christ!
  2. This is strong evidence of the resurrection of the righteous and the wicked at the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Jesus. (**Jn 5:28-29; Acts 24:15**)
- D. The scattering and stumbling of the Apostles at the arrest of Jesus is foretold.  
(**Zech 13:7; Mt 26:31, 55-56; Mk 14:27, 48-50**)
1. The stumbling and denial by the Apostles was not unanticipated.
  2. The power of the great Shepherd is also emphasized.

### ***IV. Prophecies of the Reign of the Messiah***

- A. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit beginning at the day of Pentecost was foretold.  
(**Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:14-21**)
- B. The entrance of the Gentiles into the kingdom of God was foretold.  
(**Amos 9:11-12; Acts 15:13-18**)

#### **Questions to Consider:**

1. How can we know for sure when an O.T. prophecy is fulfilled?
2. What are the limitations of using the O.T without the guidance of the N.T. in understanding fulfilled prophecy?
3. Why were two donkeys used in the triumphal entrance of Jesus?
4. Was John the Baptist the fulfillment of Malachi’s prophecy of the coming of Elijah? Explain.
5. Was Jesus betrayal by Judas prophesied? Why does this help us in our faith?
6. How did Amos’s prophecy of the Gentiles help in the debate over circumcision and the place of the Old Law in the Jerusalem debate?