

**Understanding the Old Testament**  
**Final Message - #8**  
**Jesus Messiah**

Today we finish our 8-week series on “Understanding the Old Testament”!

- The objective has always been:
  - See God’s unchanging character amid changing covenants
  - See God’s purpose in relationship – holy God with sinful man
  - See the grace He gives to an adulterous people time and again
  - Last week, I taught on **glorifying** the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
  - And closing the series this week with Jesus Christ our Lord...

**PRAY: Father, we pray your Son Jesus is glorified today as we open your word together. Teach us by the power of your Holy Spirit. In Jesus’ name, amen.**

*Start “HE IS” video (but put the scripture on the screen until we’re done reading it, then slide the video over as soon as we say “Lord Jesus Christ”)*

- *Sound man, keep the volume somewhat low, but loud enough to hear as the congregation is reciting Romans 15 (below).*

**One last time! Romans 15:4-6**

- **For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (5) **May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, (6) that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.****

**Rest of the video... (about 6 minutes)**

OK, let’s close in prayer... 😊

This week – in our final message in the series, I will address **Why Christians believe Jesus is Messiah, And Why Jews Reject Him**.

- Why is that appropriate?
  - Because a series on Understanding the Old Testament from a Christian perspective demands it.
- So I’m going to give you a BRIEF overview of why Jews reject Jesus, using the passages they point to in order to support their belief.
  - Of course, I will also point out the misinterpretations as we go along.
- This brief study also serves as a **teaser for my next series**, starting in January, titled **“Stop Misapplying the Gospels”** – which is based on how to interpret Jesus’ teachings “pre-cross” – and how he lived his life of freedom while still also obeying Mosaic laws.

- But I'll suspend that for a few weeks...
- I will finish today with a flurry of prophecies that glorify Jesus Christ as Messiah, indeed.

So let's get started.

### **First, Jewish people today don't call the OT "The OT"**

- For them, it's not an account of an old covenant.
- It's an account of 7 covenants, ending with the Mosaic Covenant they believe we – human beings, and more specifically Hebrew people – are still under.
- They call the OT "**Tanakh**" which was derived from the first letters of the traditional three divisions within the Hebrew Scriptures:
  - **Torah** (Pentateuch),
  - **Nevi'im** (Prophets, which included other historical books like Joshua and Kings and Chronicles)
  - and **Ketuvim**, the collection of books after Babylonian captivity.

Over the years, I have read dozens of articles from Jewish leaders as to why they reject Jesus as Messiah.

- But one that currently sticks out more than all the others was only written right around the time I began this series.
- It was posted on a very popular Jewish site called My Jewish Learning (.com):
- ***Was Jesus the Messiah?***
  - ***The question "was Jesus the messiah?" requires a prior question: "What is the definition of messiah?" The Prophets (Nevi'im), who wrote hundreds of years before Jesus' birth, envisioned a messianic age as a period of universal peace, in which war and hunger are eradicated, and humanity accepts God's sovereignty. By the first century, the view developed that the messianic age would witness a general resurrection of the dead, the in-gathering of all the Jews, including the 10 lost tribes, to the land of Israel, a final judgment and universal peace.***
  - ***Some Jews expected the messiah to be a descendant of King David (based on an interpretation of God's promise to David in 2 Samuel 7 of an eternal kingdom). Still other Jews expected the prophet Elijah, or the angel Michael, or Enoch, or any number of other figures to usher in the messianic age.***
  - ***More than 1,000 years after Jesus' crucifixion, the medieval sage Maimonides laid out in his Mishneh Torah specific things Jews believe the messiah must accomplish in order to confirm his identity — among them:***
    - ***restoring the kingdom of David to its former glory,***
    - ***achieving victory in battle against Israel's enemies,***
    - ***rebuilding the temple (which the Romans destroyed in 70 CE)***
    - ***and gathering the exiles to the land of Israel.***
  - ***"And if he's not successful with this, or if he is killed, it's known that he is not the one that was promised by the Torah," Maimonides wrote.***

That is a VERY precise, brief, and clearly NOT “exhaustive” answer to why Jews reject Jesus.

- However, it gives **the 4 “biggies”** as they see it.
- It may surprise you that “most” (I can’t ever find a percentage – just “most”) Jewish Teachers believe Jesus IS a historical figure.
  - Primarily because of Jewish Historian Josephus, who lived at the time of Christ and mentioned him in his writings as one who led Jews astray with his teachings, listing that as the primary reason he was killed.
- Here are a few **Other Reasons Jews Reject Jesus:**
  - **Jesus never stated a desire to start a new “religion”.**
    - Understandable... but...
    - Of course, they are fully aware themselves that God is no fan of religion – only that the whole world know HIM as God, and all other gods as false.
    - God Himself never desired people to join a religion.
    - Just to know the truth about Him and about life, and live accordingly.
  - **New Testament writings can’t be reliable because they were written 20-30 years after Jesus’ death.**
    - Understandable... but...
    - Ironically, Moses wrote the Pentateuch in 1440 BC, 760 years before God called Abraham! And 1200 years before Noah walked out of the Ark. And arguably 2300 years before Eve took a bite from the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
      - So let’s just stop that argument, shall we?
    - The Apostles – and those Christian leaders charged with prayerfully collecting the books included in the New Testament had very strict rules, such as being an eye-witness of Jesus himself, and not contradicting each other while still allowing for personal vantage points of the events, etc.
  - **Jews hold to a very PHYSICAL interpretation of Messianic prophecies.**
    - This is perhaps the best argument.
    - We’ve detailed this well in our Romans series, but the idea of a Spiritual Kingdom is rejected by Jews as they try to uphold the very physical LAW of God as detailed in the Ten Commandments and Leviticus.
      - Jesus, however, spoke of a spiritual kingdom dozens of times as He ushered in the New Covenant.
      - As did Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Zechariah, and Malachi.
  - **There is no mention of any sort of “Second coming” in OT Scriptures.**
    - Again, understandable depending on your standards of proof.
    - See, Christians argue that Jesus is Messiah not only because he has ALREADY fulfilled so many of the OT prophecies about Messiah, but also because of what He promises to fulfill in his Second Coming, namely the 4 “biggies” mentioned earlier and a lot more.
    - **However, consider these undeniable truths about how God works:**

- NONE of the 6 covenants following the Edenic Covenant were foretold of in Scripture.
  - The Adamic was a surprise – filled with grace in not killing them!
  - Between Adam and Noah, there was no prophecy of the Noahic Covenant.
  - The same is true of the Abrahamic
  - And the Mosaic
  - Not to mention the Davidic and the Palestinian Covenants, which many consider to be sub-points under the Abrahamic.
  - All of them are believed by Jews to indeed be separate covenants God made with His people, and NONE of them were prophesied about. Not their details, not their timing, nothing.
  - Therefore, the argument that the Second Coming – a major element of the New Covenant – had no prophetic warning is a very weak argument.
- Finally, ironically, **The Dead Sea Scrolls arguably** (one interpretation, anyway) **speak of Messiah being TWO people:**
  - A Military ruler, and a Priest.
  - The fact they'd give the Dead Sea Scrolls' mention of two types of Messiah as a reason to reject Jesus might give them pause to wonder if "two separate comings" of the same Messiah might be in play?
    - One to conquer death, descend to hell, kick Satan's booty, rise again to life, and ascend into heaven with a promise to return in His glorified body to finish the job!

Now let's take a quick look at the **Prophecies Jesus DID Fulfill in His First Coming** (for time's sake, I'm just going to do rapid-fire on 20 of them – 20 Old Testament prophecies Jesus fulfilled while he walked the earth). He fulfilled dozens more, but...

First, take a look at this:

- **Mathematically speaking**, the odds of any one person fulfilling 300 Messianic prophecies are staggering.
  - Mathematicians put it this way:
    - **1 person fulfilling 8 prophecies: 1 in 100,000,000,000,000**
    - **1 person fulfilling 48 prophecies: 1 chance in 10 to the 157th power**
    - **1 person fulfilling 300+ prophecies: Only Jesus!**

Alright, here's the list of just 20...

- 1. Messiah Will Be Born In Bethlehem (Micah 5:2)**
- 2. Messiah Will Be Born Of A Virgin (Is 7:14; 9:6-7)**
- 3. Messiah Will Be Tempted By Satan, but will not sin (Ps 91:10-12)**

4. **Messiah Will Enter Jerusalem Triumphantly (Zech 9:9)**
5. **Messiah Will Be Rejected By His Own People (Is 53:1,3)**
6. **Messiah Will Be Betrayed By One Of His Followers (Ps 41; 55:12-13)**
7. **Messiah Will Be Betrayed For 30 Pieces Of Silver (Zech 11:12-13)**
8. **Messiah Will Be Tried And Condemned (Is 53:8)**
9. **Messiah Will Be Silent Before His Accusers (Ps 35:11; Is 53:7-8)**
10. **Messiah Will Be Smitten And Spat Upon (Micah 5:1; Is 50:6)**
11. **Messiah Will Be Mocked And Taunted (Ps 22:7-8)**
12. **Messiah Will Die By Crucifixion (before it was invented!), With Pierced Hands And Feet (Ps 22:14-16; Zech 12:10)**
13. **Messiah Will Suffer Alongside Sinners at His death (Is 53:12)**
14. **Messiah's Garments Will Be Divided By Casting Lots among his guards (Ps 22:18)**
15. **Messiah's Bones Will Not Be Broken (Num 9:11)**
16. **Messiah Will Die As A Sin Offering (Is 53:5-12)**
17. **Messiah Will See His Seed (Is 53:10-11)**
  - Isaiah 53:10-11 – “He will have a multitude of children, many heirs. He will enjoy a long life, and the Lord’s plan will prosper in His hands... My Righteous Servant will make it possible for many to be counted righteous, for He will bear all their sins.”
    - Ephesians 1; “His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ.”
18. **The Messiah Will Be Buried In A Rich Man's Tomb (Is 53:9)**
19. **The Messiah Will Be Raised From The Dead (Ps 16:10; 30:3)**
20. **The Messiah Will Sit At God's Right Hand (Ps 110:1)**
  - Psa 110:1-2 The LORD says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.” The LORD sends forth from Zion your mighty scepter. Rule in the midst of your enemies!
    - Hebrews 10:12-13 But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, he sat down at the right hand of God, waiting from that time until his enemies should be made a footstool for his feet.

As a side note, one of the neatest things I saw while perusing dozens of websites this week in preparation for this message was the huge amount of Messianic Jews engaging in the comments sections on these websites.

- And 90%+ signed off with “Isaiah 53” in their signatures.
- Some signed off with Psalm 22.
- Others with Jeremiah 31:31-34
- And unlike most comments section on websites (“you read the comments???”), these sites were ALL respectful of one another.
- There doesn't seem to be a universal angst between Practicing Jews and Messianic Jews.
- I believe Jews have a strict rule not to slam other religions, and I KNOW for a fact that Messianic Jews across the globe LOVE their Jewish brothers and sisters – a lot like Paul did, with great sorrow for their rejection of Jesus Christ.

**(next)** Closing

- It takes more faith to be an Atheist...
  - Jesus really IS the King of Kings!
  - He really IS who he claims to be.
  - That means He really DOES answer prayers in perfect timing.
  - He really DOES provide for you personally, in every way.
  - He really IS worthy of your constant devotion.
  - He really IS deserving of the title of being EVERYTHING and EVERY ANSWER to EVERY QUESTION.
- I encourage you – especially in a season when many in your circle of influence might be a little more open to the true Reason for the Season, give glory to Jesus in your conversations, in the walls of your home, and among those who still reject Him.
  - Use these notes – available online this afternoon – as a guideline for Who Jesus truly IS.

I have a sophomore T.A. named Lily whose dad is Joshua Taiz, one of the pastors on staff at Beth Sar Shalom – a Messianic Jewish church here in Tucson.

- He was a single non-practicing Jewish man, in his mid-30's, and fell in love with Lily's mom, a Christian.
- Lily's mom said they could never be married unless he came to Jesus, and he was heart-broken.
  - Because he knew what his parents and other Jewish friends had said about Jesus all his life – that he could never be the Messiah because of all the things I mentioned earlier.
  - But he began to study – driven by love.
    - He knew she'd see right through him if he faked it, so he had more motivation to really seek the truth than most people might!
    - He eventually did see Jesus for Who He is – at almost the age of 40!
- This story is not unique. Jewish people all over the world come to Jesus every day.
  - As do many non-Jewish people.
  - Muslims are coming to Christ in bigger daily numbers than at any other time in history!
  - Maybe it's your neighbor's turn, fueled by your love, words, and model.
  - Maybe it's your grandparent's turn, or estranged sibling... or friend, or whomever...

And now for a special treat...

- Our children are ready to sing for us!

CHILDREN SING

**PK Final Announcements:**

- Give glory to Jesus this week!
- Next week, we'll set up the room a bit different, and enjoy a 1-hour time together as a family, with Christmas songs, PJs, a devotional from yours truly, and more!

PRAY/CLOSE