

REVIVAL NEWS
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FINDING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

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In **Acts 8:26-40** we have the story of Philip meeting the Ethiopian eunuch. The key verse for us is **verse 35** which says *“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture preached Jesus to him”*. The actual Scripture that the Ethiopian man was reading we identify as **Isaiah 53:7-8**. Philip was able to show the Ethiopian that this prophetic passage is actually referring to Jesus the Son of God and His suffering as a lamb slain for us. This is a perfect example of preaching Jesus from the Old Testament. We are going to look at a number of Old Testament verses that are quoted in the New Testament, and show their fulfillment in Jesus.

Can you preach Jesus from the Old Testament?

Peter also refers to the suffering servant of **Isaiah 53** in **1 Peter 2:24** saying, *“by whose stripes you were healed”* (quoting from **Isaiah 53:5**). Jesus is the suffering servant that Isaiah is prophesying about.

Preaching Jesus

We are looking for Jesus in the Old Testament. Firstly, let us look at the very name ‘Jesus’, to find out that His name is the name of God in the Old Testament brought forth into the New. In the Greek ‘Jesus’ is translated as *Iesous*, pronounced ‘yay-soos’. The name Jesus comes from the Hebrew *Yeshua*, which means ‘He will save’, and that is written in **Matthew 1:21**, *“You shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins”*. *Yeshua* comes from *Yehoshua*, which means ‘Yahweh is salvation’.

It is interesting that the New King James writes the name ‘JESUS’ in upper case [caps lock] in this instance, thereby acknowledging that Jesus is Yahweh come in the flesh. The name YAHWEH is the translation of the name of God, but unfortunately our English Bibles do not translate the name, YHWH, but write it as LORD. Whenever you see LORD in the English Bible in upper case, you know it is referring to the name of God. This is very important to finding Jesus in the Old Testament and seeing the fulfillment of the Scriptures in the New Testament.

The Psalmist speaks of the resurrection of Christ

“You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will you allow Your Holy One to see corruption” **Ps.16:10**. In **Acts 2:25-28**, Peter the apostle, preaching on the day of Pentecost, quoted from this Psalm. Peter goes on to say in **verses 31-32**, that this was *“concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul would not be left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption. This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses”*.

THE SON OF GOD

In **2 Samuel 7:14a**, the scripture says *“I will be his Father, and he shall be My son”*. The seed promised to David, the Messiah [Christ] will be David’s son according to the flesh (**Romans 1:3**), but He would also be the Son of God, proven to be so *“with power according to the Spirit of holiness by the resurrection of the dead”* (**Rom.1:4**).

When Jesus came for baptism *“behold the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice from heaven saying ‘This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased’”* (**Matt.3:16b-17**). When Jesus came into the earth at the appointed time and came for baptism, God declared Him to be the Son of God.

The quote from **2 Samuel** is repeated in **Hebrews 1:5** where the Holy Spirit is teaching us who the Son is. Jesus is identified as the Son of God. So much of Hebrews chapter one and two, and many other places in the Book of Hebrews, give us the revelation of the Son.

In **Psalms 2:7** the Anointed King of **verses 2 & 6** is declaring that He is the Son of God, *“I will declare the decree that YAHWEH has said to Me, You are My Son, today I have begotten You.”* In **Acts 13** Paul is preaching his first recorded sermon and after giving some of the awesome history of the Israelites, he preaches Jesus and the resurrection very powerfully; then he says *“God has fulfilled this for us their children, in that He raised up Jesus. As it is also written in the second Psalm: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You’”* (**Acts 13:33**).

Jesus is prophesied to be the Son of God in the Old Testament and the apostles use those references to identify Jesus in the Old Testament.

The verse from **Psalms 2** is also quoted in **Hebrews 1:5**. There is a double witness in **Hebrews 1:5** that Jesus is the Son of God as promised to David in **2 Samuel** and prophesied in **Psalms 2**.

Psalms 2:7 is quoted again in **Hebrews 5:5** showing us that Christ is the Son of God and being the Son of God, He is declared to be *“a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”*. In Jesus the new order of priesthood is revealed.

THE CORNERSTONE

The Scripture in **Psalms 118:22-23** speaks of the cornerstone: *“The stone the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was YAHWEH’s doing; it is marvellous in our eyes.”* This Scripture features in the New Testament a number of times, revealing who the cornerstone is and the significance of the cornerstone being set in place.

Isaiah also prophesies about the cornerstone. Isaiah tells us more about the stone: *“Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation”* (**Isa. 28:16**).

Rejected by men

In **Matthew 21:33-40**, Jesus tells the parable of the wicked vinedressers. In **verse 41** the listeners said to Him, *“He will destroy those wicked men ...”* [read the verse for yourself]. Jesus then said *“Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘the stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was YAHWEH’s doing, and it is marvellous in our eyes’”* (**Matt. 21:42**).

eyes” (v.42). Jesus is presenting Himself as the cornerstone. He has been set in place by coming into the earth and preaching the kingdom of God and beginning the building of His church.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the cornerstone

In Acts 4:5-6 Peter was addressing the *“rulers, elders, and scribes, as well as Annas the high priest”* and others. This was in the wake of the lame man being dramatically healed. Peter declares *“the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole”* (Acts 4:10). Then Peter declares that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is actually *“the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone”* (Acts 4:11). The builders are the ones Peter was addressing. According to Peter, it was because the cornerstone had been set in place through the death and resurrection of Jesus, that now signs and wonders could be done in His name.

The house of God is built on the cornerstone

Paul refers to Christ Jesus being the cornerstone which has been set in place as the foundation of the house of God. He says *“the household of God, having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone”* (Ephesians 2:19b-20). As the cornerstone, Jesus is more than a foundation stone. Because Jesus is the cornerstone *“the whole building [the church], being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord”* (v.21). Hallelujah! Because the cornerstone is set in place the church is being built in the earth *“for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit”* (v.22).

Peter presents Isaiah 28:16 as being totally relevant to the building of *“a spiritual house, a holy priesthood”* (1 Peter 2:5-6). Peter presents Jesus as a living stone, *“rejected indeed by men but chosen by God, precious”* (v.4). Then Peter calls us *“living stones”* who are able *“to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ”* (v.5).

A sure foundation

Peter quotes from the prophecy in Isaiah 28:16 and we learn that Jesus is the living stone that has been laid in Zion; that Jesus is *“a chief cornerstone, elect, precious”* (1 Peter 2:6) and that we are to believe on Him. Jesus is also *“a stone for a foundation ... a sure foundation”* (Isa.28:16). Paul speaks of laying that foundation in 1 Corinthians 3:10-11 *“for no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ”*.

THE MESSIAH IS BORN IN BETHLEHEM!

Micah prophesied, *“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting”* 5:2. God chose Bethlehem Ephrathah; the House of Bread and place of fruitfulness, to be the place where He would manifest in the flesh as the King! The Messiah born in Bethlehem is *“from everlasting”* which is literally in the Hebrew, *“from the days of eternity”*. The Ruler comes from Eternity. He is the Eternal One, the I AM, coming in the flesh, born in Bethlehem.

The King is found and worshiped in Bethlehem – Matthew 2:2-11

The wise men came and found the young Child who was born to be King. He was born in Bethlehem in fulfilment of the prophecy. They worshiped the Child Jesus because they knew from prophecy that He was the Ruler, *“the King of the Jews”*. Only God is to be worshiped, but these men worshiped the Child Jesus. There is a huge discovery for us in finding Jesus in the Old Testament!

JESUS IS SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND

Psalm 110:1 speaks of YAHWEH [LORD] speaking to *“my Lord”* saying *“sit at My right hand till I make your enemies Your footstool”*. This verse is quoted by Jesus in **Matthew 22:44**. In this passage of **Matthew 22:41-45**, Jesus is posing a deep question: if Messiah [Christ] is David’s son, how then can David call Him ‘Lord’. This confounded the Pharisees who were gathered together against Jesus, as they realised, they did not understand the Scripture concerning Messiah being the Lord and sitting at God’s right hand.

Jesus exalted

Psalm 110:1 is quoted by Peter when he was preaching of the Day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:34-35**. Peter is proving that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah; that He is the One who rose from the dead and that He has been *“exalted to the right hand of God”* (**Acts 2:30-33**). Peter then quotes **Psalm 110:1**, showing that Jesus is the Christ, the fulfilment of the Scripture in the New Testament. From this Scriptural basis, Peter then says, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom your crucified, both Lord and Christ”* (**Acts 2:36**).

**Finding Jesus in the Old Testament and seeing the fulfilment of the
Old Testament Scriptures in the New, is awesome!**

A PRIEST FOREVER

There are further riches concerning who Christ is [finding Jesus in the Old Testament] in **Psalm 110**. This Psalm is regarded as a very clear Messianic Psalm, talking about Jesus and fulfilled in Jesus being the Messiah. **Verse 4** says that this One who is seated at the right hand is also *“a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek”*. As the writer to the Hebrews says concerning the order of Melchizedek *“of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing”* (**Heb.5:11**). But the amazing reality is that Jesus is a *“a priest forever”*.

The Messiah, the Anointed King, is also the Anointed Priest. Melchizedek is explained to be a priest and a king in **Genesis 14:18-20**, and confirmed in **Hebrews 5:6** and again in **5:10**. Jesus is a Priest forever, of the order of Melchizedek! In **Hebrews 3:1**, we are urged to consider Jesus *“the Apostle and High Priest of our confessions”*. We need to know and understand the reality of Jesus being a High Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.

FINDING JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURES

In **Luke 24:13-35** the resurrected Jesus met two of the disciples on the road to Emmaus. Verse 27 says *“and beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself”*.

When Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection, He said to them, *“These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me. And He opened their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures”* **Luke 24:44-45**.