

Preparing the Way for the Messiah

One of my favorite things about the Bible is the interconnectedness between the Old & New Testaments!

- The Old has over 350 prophecies of the Messiah, as well as many “types” that looked forward to Jesus (e.g., Abraham was set to sacrifice Isaac as God commanded in Genesis 22 → the Father sacrificed Jesus for our sin)
- The first prophecy of the Messiah came in Genesis 3:15: “I will put enmity between you (the serpent) and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”
- God used His Word to prepare His peoples’ hearts & minds so they would recognize the Messiah; many prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus’ first coming; others were partly fulfilled & will be fully met in His second.
- Luke 4:16-20 tells how Jesus read Isaiah 61:1 in the Nazareth synagogue & declared it was fulfilled in Himself.
 - Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound;”
 - The people were astonished at His claim, but when He reminded them that God had given grace to Gentiles (widow of Zarephath [1 Kings 17] & Naaman the Syrian [2 Kings 5]) rather than Jews they sought to kill Him.
- As foretold, Jesus healed many: e.g., including blind (Mark 10:52), lame (John 5:9), deaf & mute (Mark 7:35)
 - Isaiah 35:5-6 “Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;”
- We must also prepare, as Jesus told us in Mark 13:35 “Therefore stay awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning”

⇒ We prepare by studying God’s Word, growing in Jesus & giving witness to Jesus as the Way, the Truth & the Life!

Comments or questions? Contact Mike Kaye, CE Elder