



Rooted in Scripture - Pointing to Jesus

KNOWING JESUS

# Messianic Prophecies Fulfilled by Jesus

## A Beginner Guide to God's Promises and Their Fulfillment

### The short answer

Long before Jesus' birth, God gave promises and prophetic hopes concerning a coming King, Servant, Shepherd, Savior, and covenant-maker. The New Testament identifies Jesus as the One in whom these promises reach their fulfillment.

*"All things must be fulfilled which were written in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms concerning me."*

Luke 24:44 WEB

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PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

## God promised before Jesus came

This Companion was not written to replace your Bible. It was written to help you fall in love with it. Every page is intended to send you back into God's Word with greater confidence, deeper understanding, and a clearer picture of Jesus Christ.

A prophecy is a message God gave through a prophet. Some prophecies spoke directly about future events. Others addressed the prophet's own generation while also building a larger hope that the New Testament says reaches fulfillment in Jesus.

### Three beginner guardrails

|    |                                                                                                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Read both passages</b><br>Read the Old Testament prophecy and the New Testament passage that applies it to Jesus.                      |
| 02 | <b>Keep the original setting</b><br>Ask what the prophecy meant to the first people who heard it.                                         |
| 03 | <b>Let Scripture explain Scripture</b><br>The strongest conclusions follow connections Jesus and the New Testament writers actually make. |

#### How to use this guide

Begin with Part One and read each Old Testament passage in your Bible before reading its New Testament connection. Use the three-question method on page 4. Stop after the beginner section if that is enough for today; return to the Intermediate pages when you are ready.

#### Beginner memory anchor

God promised. Jesus fulfilled. Scripture shows the connection.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

## The promises follow Jesus' whole mission

|    |                                                                                                                                                           |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>His family line</b><br>The Messiah comes through Abraham, Judah, and David.                                                                            |
| 02 | <b>His birth and preparation</b><br>God identifies where He will be born and promises a messenger who prepares the way.                                   |
| 03 | <b>His ministry</b><br>He brings light, good news, healing, justice, and God's kingdom.                                                                   |
| 04 | <b>His rejection and suffering</b><br>He is rejected, betrayed, pierced, and bears the sins of others.                                                    |
| 05 | <b>His resurrection and reign</b><br>Death does not hold Him; He is exalted as Lord and everlasting King.                                                 |
| 06 | <b>His covenant and future kingdom</b><br>He brings forgiveness, pours out the Spirit, gathers the nations, and will complete God's promised restoration. |

### One complete story

Messianic prophecy is not a collection of random predictions. Together the passages form a growing portrait of God's promised Savior and King.

### A promised birth sign

Isaiah's Immanuel promise reaches its fullest expression when Jesus is conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary (Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:18–23). Part Two explains the original historical setting and greater fulfillment.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

## Quick reference — promise and fulfillment

|    |                                                                                              |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Ruler from Bethlehem</b> — Micah 5:2–5 → Matthew 2:1–6 · Promised King                    |
| 02 | <b>Immanuel</b> — Isaiah 7:14 → Matthew 1:18–23 · God with us                                |
| 03 | <b>Messenger prepares the way</b> — Isaiah 40:3–5; Malachi 3:1 → Mark 1:1–8 · Preparation    |
| 04 | <b>Light in Galilee</b> — Isaiah 9:1–2 → Matthew 4:12–17 · Light and kingdom                 |
| 05 | <b>Spirit-anointed good news</b> — Isaiah 61:1–2 → Luke 4:16–21 · Jesus' mission             |
| 06 | <b>Humble King</b> — Zechariah 9:9–10 → Matthew 21:1–11 · Kingship                           |
| 07 | <b>Suffering Servant</b> — Isaiah 52:13–53:12 → Mark 10:45; 1 Peter 2:21–25 · Atonement      |
| 08 | <b>Resurrection hope</b> — Psalm 16:8–11 → Acts 2:24–32 · Resurrection                       |
| 09 | <b>Exalted Lord</b> — Psalm 110:1 → Acts 2:32–36 · Reign                                     |
| 10 | <b>New covenant</b> — Jeremiah 31:31–34 → Luke 22:19–20; Hebrews 8 · Forgiveness and renewal |

### Use this as a map—not a substitute

Each line is only a starting point. Read the complete passages to understand the context and the full connection.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER GUIDE

## Use this three-question method

01

### What did God promise?

Read the Old Testament passage and state the promise in plain language.

02

### How does the New Testament connect it to Jesus?

Notice whether the later passage quotes, explains, or clearly applies the prophecy.

03

### What does this reveal?

Ask what the fulfillment shows about Jesus, God's faithfulness, salvation, or future hope.

### Your beginner sentence

God promised \_\_\_\_\_. The New Testament shows Jesus fulfilling this by \_\_\_\_\_.  
This reveals \_\_\_\_\_.

### A complete beginner method

You do not need to calculate dates, count predictions, or solve every difficult passage. Begin with clear connections and let your confidence grow from Scripture itself.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER EXAMPLE

## The ruler born in Bethlehem

Read Micah 5:2–5 and Matthew 2:1–12.

Micah speaks during a time of danger and failed leadership. He promises that a ruler will come from Bethlehem, David's small hometown, and shepherd God's people in the Lord's strength.

01

### The promise

A ruler for Israel will come from Bethlehem and bring secure shepherd-like leadership.

02

### The fulfillment

When leaders ask where the Christ will be born, Matthew records them quoting Micah 5:2 (Matthew 2:4–6).

03

### The surprise

God's promised King enters the world in a humble town rather than an impressive center of power.

### Main truth

God keeps His promise in a way that displays both Jesus' royal identity and His humility.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER EXAMPLE

## A messenger prepares the way

Read Isaiah 40:3–5; Malachi 3:1; Mark 1:1–8.

Isaiah announces comfort and a voice preparing the Lord's way. Malachi promises a messenger who prepares the way before the Lord comes. The Gospels apply these promises to John the Baptist preparing people for Jesus.

01

### John calls people to repent

He prepares hearts by calling people to turn from sin and get ready for God's coming work.

02

### John points away from himself

He announces One greater who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

03

### Preparing for Jesus prepares for the Lord

The Gospel's use of these passages gives Jesus' arrival profound divine significance.

### Main truth

God prepared the way publicly. John's mission helps readers recognize that Jesus is the promised One.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER EXAMPLE

# Light and good news arrive

## Light in Galilee

Isaiah promises light for people walking in darkness, including the region of Galilee. Matthew connects Jesus' Galilean ministry with that hope (Isaiah 9:1–2; Matthew 4:12–17).

## Good news for the needy

Isaiah describes a Spirit-anointed messenger bringing good news, freedom, and comfort. Jesus reads this passage in Nazareth and says, "Today, this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing" (Isaiah 61:1–2; Luke 4:16–21 WEB).

01

### Jesus brings God's light

His words and works reveal God and call people out of darkness.

02

### Jesus brings God's good news

He announces God's kingdom, welcomes the broken, confronts sin, and offers freedom.

### Beginner memory anchor

The promised light is not merely an idea. The light comes in the Person and ministry of Jesus.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER EXAMPLE

## The Servant bears our sins

Read Isaiah 52:13–53:12 and 1 Peter 2:21–25.

Isaiah describes a Servant who is rejected and suffers innocently. He carries the wrongdoing of others, dies, and is later vindicated. The New Testament applies this passage directly to Jesus.

01

### We wander

Isaiah compares people to sheep who have turned to their own way.

02

### The Servant bears sin

His suffering is not only an example of courage; it accomplishes something for guilty people.

03

### Jesus fulfills the passage

Peter uses Isaiah's words to explain Jesus' suffering and death.

04

### His wounds bring healing

Through Jesus, sinners can die to sin, live to righteousness, and return to their Shepherd.

### Main truth

Jesus is the promised Servant who willingly bears sin and brings wandering people home to God.



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PART ONE · BEGINNER EXAMPLE

# The promised King is raised and exalted

## Psalm 16 and resurrection

David trusts that God will not abandon him to the grave. Peter explains that David died and was buried, so the Psalm ultimately looked ahead to the resurrection of the Christ (Psalm 16:8–11; Acts 2:24–32).

## Psalm 110 and exaltation

David speaks of his Lord seated at God's right hand. Peter uses this Psalm to announce that the risen Jesus is Lord and Christ (Psalm 110:1; Acts 2:32–36).

01

### Jesus truly died

Christian hope does not deny the cross or treat death as an illusion.

02

### God raised Him

The resurrection confirms Jesus' identity and victory.

03

### Jesus reigns

The risen Christ is exalted as Lord while His enemies are brought under His rule.

### A complete beginner stopping point

These examples provide a full beginner foundation. Continue only when you are ready to study more passages and interpretive details.



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## Read promise and context together

The following section requires more biblical synthesis. It asks how one prophecy can speak meaningfully in its first historical setting and still reach a greater fulfillment in Jesus.

|    |                                                                                                |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Immediate setting</b><br>What crisis, promise, person, or audience did the prophet address? |
| 02 | <b>Words of the prophecy</b><br>What did the passage actually say—and what did it not say?     |
| 03 | <b>New Testament use</b><br>How does the later writer quote, explain, or apply the passage?    |
| 04 | <b>Greater fulfillment</b><br>How does Jesus complete, expand, or surpass the earlier horizon? |

### Intermediate memory anchor

The later fulfillment does not erase the earlier meaning. God's unfolding plan holds both together.

### A gracious note about interpretation

Jewish readers who do not accept the New Testament interpret many of these passages differently and do not identify Jesus as the Messiah. Christians see Jesus as the fulfillment because of His life, death, resurrection, and the inspired witness of the New Testament. We should state that conviction clearly while representing Jewish readings respectfully and never using messianic prophecy to encourage contempt or antisemitism.



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## The promised family line

01

### Abraham's offspring

All nations will be blessed through Abraham's line; Paul identifies Christ as the promised offspring (Genesis 22:18; Galatians 3:8, 16).

02

### Judah's ruler

Jacob associates Judah with enduring rule, contributing to Israel's expectation of a royal deliverer (Genesis 49:8–10; Revelation 5:5).

03

### David's Son

God promises David an enduring house and throne. The angel identifies Jesus as the everlasting Davidic King (2 Samuel 7:12–16; Luke 1:32–33).

### One promise narrows through history

The promised blessing moves through Abraham, Israel, Judah, and David until the New Testament identifies Jesus as the Christ in that family line (Matthew 1:1–17; Romans 1:3–4).



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## Immanuel — Isaiah 7 and Matthew 1

Isaiah gives King Ahaz a sign during a real eighth-century BC crisis involving Judah's enemies. A young woman will conceive and bear a son called Immanuel, and before the child matures, the immediate threat will pass (Isaiah 7:1–17). Matthew quotes Isaiah 7:14 after describing Mary's virginal conception and identifies Jesus as the ultimate Immanuel —“God with us” (Matthew 1:18–23).

01

### Near meaning matters

The sign addressed Ahaz's historical crisis and assured Judah that the threatening kings would not prevail.

02

### Matthew presents a greater fulfillment

Jesus' conception by the Holy Spirit and divine identity fill the Immanuel promise beyond the earlier event.

03

### Translation questions require humility

Faithful scholars discuss the nuance of Isaiah's word for the young woman. Matthew's inspired narrative explicitly presents Mary as a virgin.

### Intermediate conclusion

Christians need not choose between a historical sign and messianic fulfillment. Matthew presents Jesus as the promise's fullest realization.



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# The child whose kingdom has no end

Read Isaiah 9:1–7; 11:1–10; Luke 1:30–33.

|    |                                                                                                                                                                |
|----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Light enters darkness</b><br>Isaiah announces hope in a region marked by invasion and distress.                                                             |
| 02 | <b>A child receives extraordinary royal names</b><br>The promised ruler embodies wise counsel, divine strength, fatherly care, and lasting peace (Isaiah 9:6). |
| 03 | <b>David’s fallen line produces a Branch</b><br>A shoot from Jesse's family will rule by God's Spirit with righteousness (Isaiah 11:1–5).                      |
| 04 | <b>His kingdom reaches the nations</b><br>The nations seek the Root of Jesse, a promise Paul connects with Christ (Isaiah 11:10; Romans 15:12).                |

## Main truth

Jesus fulfills the Davidic hope at a scale no ordinary king could: His righteous kingdom reaches the nations and never ends.



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# Royal triumph — Psalm 2 and Daniel 7

## Psalm 2 — God’s Anointed King

The nations rebel against the Lord and His Anointed, yet God installs His King and promises Him the nations. The New Testament applies the Psalm to opposition against Jesus, His resurrection, and His royal authority (Psalm 2; Acts 4:25–28; 13:32–33; Revelation 2:26–27).

## Daniel 7 — the Son of Man receives the kingdom

Daniel sees “one like a son of man” coming with the clouds and receiving everlasting dominion from the Ancient of Days (Daniel 7:13–14). Jesus repeatedly calls Himself the Son of Man and applies Daniel’s scene to His authority, exaltation, and future coming (Mark 13:26; 14:61–62).

01

### The kingdom is given by God

Jesus’ authority does not depend on human approval or political force.

02

### The kingdom reaches every nation

People from every language and nation belong under the righteous rule of the Messiah.

03

### The kingdom cannot be destroyed

Human kingdoms rise and fall; the Son of Man’s dominion is everlasting.

### Balanced portrait

The Messiah is both suffering Servant and triumphant King. The cross leads to resurrection, exaltation, and certain future victory.



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## The humble King enters Jerusalem

Read Zechariah 9:9–10 and Matthew 21:1–11.

Zechariah calls Jerusalem to rejoice because her King comes righteous, bringing salvation, humble and riding on a donkey. The Gospels describe Jesus deliberately entering Jerusalem in this manner.

01

### The King is humble

He does not imitate proud rulers who rely on military display.

02

### His rule brings peace

Zechariah's vision extends beyond Jerusalem toward worldwide peace and dominion.

03

### Jesus acts out the prophecy

His chosen entrance publicly identifies Him with Zechariah's promised King.

04

### The crowd's expectations remain incomplete

They celebrate, yet many do not understand that the King will first conquer through suffering and the cross.

### Main truth

Jesus fulfills the prophecy faithfully, but not according to every human expectation of power.



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# Rejected stone and betrayed Shepherd

## The rejected stone

Psalms 118 celebrates God's reversal: the stone rejected by builders becomes the cornerstone. Jesus applies this image to His rejection and vindication (Psalm 118:22–23; Matthew 21:42–44; Acts 4:10–12).

## Thirty pieces of silver

Zechariah's rejected shepherd receives thirty pieces of silver, which are thrown to the potter in the Lord's house. Matthew connects Judas's payment and its aftermath with this prophetic pattern (Zechariah 11:12–13; Matthew 26:14–16; 27:3–10).

### Read Matthew 27 carefully

Matthew names Jeremiah while the wording most visibly echoes Zechariah and the purchased-field theme also recalls Jeremiah. Faithful explanations differ on how Matthew combines or attributes the prophetic material; the textual difficulty should be acknowledged rather than hidden.



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## Psalm 22 and the crucifixion

Psalm 22 begins as the prayer of a righteous sufferer who feels forsaken, is mocked, and faces death. It ends in vindication and worldwide worship. The crucifixion narratives repeatedly echo its words and images.

01

### Jesus quotes the opening cry

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46 WEB).

02

### Mockers echo the Psalm

They challenge the sufferer to trust God for deliverance (Psalm 22:7–8; Matthew 27:39–43).

03

### Garments are divided

The soldiers cast lots for Jesus' clothing (Psalm 22:18; John 19:23–24).

04

### The ending reaches the nations

The Psalm looks beyond suffering toward future generations and worldwide worship (Psalm 22:27–31).

### Read with care

Psalm 22 first gives voice to real righteous suffering. The Gospel writers show its fullest pattern embodied in Jesus' crucifixion and vindication.



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## Isaiah 53 across the New Testament

01

### Jesus understands His mission through the Servant

He speaks of giving His life as a ransom for many (Isaiah 53:11–12; Mark 10:45).

02

### Jesus is counted with transgressors

He applies Isaiah 53:12 to His approaching arrest and death (Luke 22:37).

03

### Philip preaches Jesus from Isaiah

Beginning with Isaiah 53:7–8, Philip announces the good news to the Ethiopian official (Acts 8:30–35).

04

### Peter explains substitution and transformation

Jesus bears sins so believers may die to sin and live to righteousness (1 Peter 2:21–25).

### The passage's center

The Servant is innocent, suffers willingly, bears the guilt of others, dies, is vindicated, and brings many into right standing. The New Testament consistently identifies Jesus with this saving work.



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# The pierced One and the Shepherd struck

## They will look on the One pierced

Zechariah describes deep mourning as people look upon the One who was pierced. John quotes the passage after a soldier pierces Jesus' side (Zechariah 12:10; John 19:34–37). Revelation also echoes it in connection with Jesus' visible return (Revelation 1:7).

## Strike the Shepherd

Zechariah speaks of the Shepherd being struck and the sheep scattered. Jesus applies these words to His disciples' scattering at His arrest (Zechariah 13:7; Matthew 26:31, 56).

### Multiple moments can share one prophetic line

The New Testament can apply prophetic language to Jesus' suffering and also carry its imagery toward His future revelation. This does not permit unlimited meanings; the later biblical texts establish the connection.



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## The promised new covenant

Read Jeremiah 31:31–34; Luke 22:14–20; Hebrews 8:6–13.

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>The need</b><br>God's people repeatedly break covenant and need more than external instruction.                                                                                                               |
| 02 | <b>The promise</b><br>God promises inward transformation, personal knowledge of Him, and full forgiveness.                                                                                                       |
| 03 | <b>Jesus announces fulfillment</b><br>At the Last Supper, Jesus identifies the cup with the new covenant in His blood.                                                                                           |
| 04 | <b>Hebrews explains its superiority</b><br>Jesus is the Mediator of a better covenant founded on better promises.                                                                                                |
| 05 | <b>The promised Spirit is poured out</b><br>Joel promises that God will pour out His Spirit. Peter says Pentecost fulfills that promise through the risen and exalted Jesus (Joel 2:28–32; Acts 2:16–18, 32–33). |

### Main truth

Messianic fulfillment includes more than identifying events in Jesus' life. Through His blood, He establishes the promised covenant of forgiveness and new relationship with God.



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## Suffering first — then glory

Many expected the Messiah's victory but struggled to understand His suffering. After the resurrection, Jesus explains that the Christ had to suffer and then enter His glory, drawing from Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms (Luke 24:25–27, 44–47).

01

### The Servant suffers

Isaiah 53 presents rejection, substitutionary suffering, death, and later vindication.

02

### The righteous sufferer is delivered

Psalms such as 22 move from anguish and mockery toward worship and vindication.

03

### The King is exalted

Psalms 110 and Daniel 7 show royal authority following suffering and rejection.

04

### Jesus' followers share the pattern

Christians do not suffer to atone for sin, but faithful discipleship often follows the path of suffering before glory (Romans 8:17–18; 1 Peter 4:12–13).

### Major biblical theme

The cross is not a failure interrupting the messianic plan. It is the God-appointed road to resurrection victory and glory.



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## Not every fulfillment works the same way

01

### Direct future promise

Micah identifies Bethlehem as the source of a coming ruler; Matthew applies it to Jesus.

02

### Near and greater fulfillment

Isaiah 7 addresses Ahaz's crisis and reaches its fullest Immanuel fulfillment in Jesus.

03

### Pattern brought to completion

Hosea 11:1 remembers Israel's exodus; Matthew presents Jesus reliving and faithfully completing Israel's son-story (Matthew 2:15).

04

### Words of a righteous sufferer embodied by Christ

Psalms 22 arises from suffering prayer and finds a striking fulfillment in Jesus' crucifixion.

05

### Promise with present and future dimensions

Jesus has begun the promised kingdom, yet its worldwide peace and visible fullness await His return.

### Intermediate memory anchor

"Fulfilled" can mean promised, completed, embodied, filled full, or brought to its appointed goal. Context determines how.



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## When quotations look different

A New Testament quotation may not match the wording of your English Old Testament exactly. This does not automatically mean the writer quoted incorrectly.

01

### Different ancient wording

New Testament writers often quote the Greek Old Testament, while many modern Old Testaments translate primarily from Hebrew manuscripts.

02

### Translation choices

Two accurate translations can use different English words for the same underlying text.

03

### Condensed or combined quotations

Biblical writers may summarize a passage or bring related prophetic texts together.

04

### Emphasis from context

A writer may quote the portion needed for the present argument while expecting readers to recognize the larger passage.

### A responsible response

Read both contexts, compare several translations, follow cross-references, and admit when a question remains difficult. Honest investigation strengthens careful faith; it does not threaten it.



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PRACTICE PAGE

## Verify one prophecy yourself

### Choose one passage pair

- Micah 5:2–5 and Matthew 2:1–12
- Genesis 12:1–3; 22:18 and Galatians 3:8, 16
- Isaiah 9:1–7 and Matthew 4:12–17; Luke 1:30–33
- Isaiah 40:3–5 and Mark 1:1–8
- Zechariah 9:9–10 and Matthew 21:1–11
- Psalm 22 and Matthew 27:27–50
- Isaiah 52:13–53:12 and 1 Peter 2:21–25
- Psalm 16:8–11 and Acts 2:22–32
- Psalm 110:1, 4 and Acts 2:32–36; Hebrews 7
- Jeremiah 31:31–34 and Hebrews 8:6–13

### Write what you find

|    |                                                                                                |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 01 | <b>Original setting</b><br>What was happening when the prophecy was first given?               |
| 02 | <b>Promise</b><br>What hope, warning, or future action did God reveal?                         |
| 03 | <b>Fulfillment</b><br>How does the New Testament connect the passage to Jesus?                 |
| 04 | <b>Confidence</b><br>Is the connection explicit, strongly supported, possible, or speculative? |
| 05 | <b>Response</b><br>What does this reveal about Jesus and God's faithfulness?                   |



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A PERSONAL INVITATION

## God's promised Savior has come

The prophecies lead to more than an argument. They lead to Jesus—the promised King and suffering Servant who came to save sinners. He lived without sin, died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried, and rose on the third day according to the Scriptures (Isaiah 53; Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:3–4).

### How do I respond?

01

#### Recognize your need

All have sinned and cannot make themselves right with God (Romans 3:23).

02

#### Look to Jesus

God demonstrates His love through Christ's death for sinners (Romans 5:8).

03

#### Repent and believe

Turn from sin and self-rule and trust the crucified and risen Savior (Mark 1:15; Acts 3:19).

04

#### Confess Him as Lord

Believe that God raised Jesus and entrust yourself to His rule (Romans 10:9–13).

### A simple prayer

Lord Jesus, I know I have sinned and cannot save myself. I believe You are God's promised Savior, that You died for my sins, and that You rose from the dead. Please forgive me, make me new, and teach me to follow You as Lord. Amen.

A prayer is not a magic formula. Salvation is God's gift received through faith in Jesus. If this is your sincere response, begin reading His Word, pray honestly, and connect with a faithful local church that teaches Scripture in context (Ephesians 2:8–10; Acts 2:42).

### Final memory anchor

God promised faithfully. Jesus fulfilled perfectly. Our response is to believe, worship, and follow Him.