The Prophecies of Jesus

Introduction

Lesson 1

* Hello. My name is Ken Samuel, and this is the first part of an eleven-part series that was originally created by Stephen Katz, a member of Jews for Jesus. Jews for Jesus, if you don’t know, is an organization of Jews who believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Now, I’ll let a member of Jews for Jesus, Lon Solomon, former head pastor of McLean Bible Church, introduce the series. <play>
* Now, do *all* Christians attribute these prophecies to Jesus, and do *all* Jews claim that the Old Testament has nothing to do with Jesus? I want to be careful about overgeneralizing. <click> Not all Christians believe that these prophecies are about Jesus. Actually, many of them don’t even care. And not all Jews claim that these prophecies are not about the man from Nazareth. Most of them could care less too. But more importantly, there are many Jews who do believe that the Jewish Bible talks about Jesus Christ, Jesus the Messiah, Yeshua Hamashiakh. And, although I don’t know any Christians who believe these prophecies don’t apply to Jesus, if they do exist, I want to be careful to respect their beliefs too. <click> Therefore, I will use the word “missionaries” to refer to the first group of people, those that believe that references to Jesus are scattered throughout the Old Testament, and for the opposing group, those who agree that the prophecies are about the Jewish messiah, but think that that great man has not yet come, even today, I will refer to those people as “anti-missionaries”. <click>
* The New Testament makes it clear that there are prophecies of Jesus in the Jewish Bible. <click>
* In the book of John, it says, “Philip found Nathanael and told him, ‘We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote — Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph.’” Where Philip says “the Law”, he is referring to the first five books of the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. And the prophets’ writings can be found in the Old Testament books of Samuel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi, and others. So Philip is saying that Jesus is referred to in the Jewish Bible. By the way, when I say, “the Jewish Bible,” I mean the book that Christians call the Old Testament and Jews call the TaNaKH. <click>
* And “Peter said, ‘Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days.’” <click>
* And Luke reported that Jesus himself claimed that he can be found in the Jewish Bible. “Jesus said to them, ‘This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms.’” So it’s undeniable that the New Testament *claims* that there are prophecies of Jesus in the Jewish Bible. But, of course, the anti-missionaries don’t believe the New Testament is true, so these passages won’t convince them of anything. <click>
* Now the anti-missionaries do believe that the Messiah, Christ, Hamashiakh is in prophecies in the Jewish Bible. Here are a couple of quotes from the Jewish writings to prove that. <click>
* The Talmud is a large set of books that is considered to be inerrant scripture by many Jews, and it says, “None of the prophets prophesied except of the days of Messiah.” In other words, the only thing the prophets talked about was the Messiah. Of course, that’s intended to be an exaggeration. They certainly predicted other things, such as the Babylonian exile. <click>
* Rambam was a famous rabbi in the 12th century AD. He said, “This belief in the Messiah is in accordance with the prophecies concerning him, by all the prophets, from our master Moses until Malachi, peace be unto them.” So, the anti-missionaries believe that references to the Messiah are scattered throughout the Jewish Bible. They just don’t believe that Jesus is the Messiah. <click>
* So, in each of the following ten presentations in this series, we will focus on a different prophecy that missionaries claim to be about Jesus. In each lesson, I will read the prophecy, then give you the missionaries’ interpretation, then let the anti-missionaries argue, and then give the missionaries a chance to rebut those arguments. And in the end, I’ll let you decide who is right. <click>
* How many prophecies of Jesus are there in the Jewish Bible? It depends on who you ask. I have found more than 200 passages in the Jewish Bible that at least one person claims in writing is about Jesus. But, while some of them are very clearly about Jesus, some are less clear. <click>
* For example, Hosea 11:1 says that God said, “‘When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.’” Some missionaries read this and say, “Hey! Jesus came out of Egypt! This must be about Jesus!” Really? But doesn’t it say it’s talking about Israel? And didn’t the nation of Israel come out of Egypt. Yeah, I think the book of Exodus says something about that. And the Bible records God referring to the nation of Israel as His son many times… Maybe, just maybe, this is talking about the nation of Israel… Yes, it might be referring to Jesus, but good luck convincing me. <click>
* Now, let’s give the anti-missionaries a turn to speak. Rabbi Michael Skobac is a leader of an organization called Jews for Judaism, which was formed to counter the missionaries of Jews for Jesus. <click> <click> <click>
* If you’d like to hear the rabbi’s entire message, I gave you the link below. <click>
* And what does Lon Solomon have to say about what the anti-missionaries claim? Let’s listen to his rebuttal. <play>