

rich in his death.” (Isa 53:8). Messiah is portrayed as a suffering servant in many Scriptures (e.g. Zec 9:9, Isa 52,53, 42:11). These Scriptures are recognized as referring to the Messiah by several Jewish sources (e.g. the Talmud [3] [4] [5], the Targum [6] [7] [8] [9], the Midrashim [10] [11], the Zohar[12] and Pesikta Rabbati [13]). Rabbinical authorities clearly have been aware of Scripture teaching of the suffering Messiah, who would die. This suffering Messiah is known as “Messiah Ben Yoseph”. Isaiah 52 and 53 are good examples of Scriptures that speak of Messiah, the Suffering Servant. These Scriptures are not part of the Haftora (i.e. conclusion of the Torah readings in synagogues), but are still important Scriptures and are discussed at length in Jewish religious literature.

Messiah, a Conquering King

Some Talmudic sources imply [14] and others convey [15] that the Suffering Messiah was to be resurrected from the dead. It is clear from Scripture that, although Messiah would suffer a death of crucifixion (Psa 22:14-16), He would not be left in the grave (Psa 16:8-11). The prophet Zechariah, who spoke of Messiah being pierced through (Zec 12:10) also speaks of Him as coming back in power and ruling from Jerusalem as King (Zec 14:4, 16-17). The resurrected Messiah is the Conquering King with David-like characteristics (Messiah Ben David). “...And there was given him dominion and glory, and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations and languages, should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:13-14).

Yeshua (Jesus) Fulfilled Suffering Servant Prophecies

The Tenach (Old Testament) contains over 300 prophetic passages that refer to the Messiah’s first coming (as Suffering Servant). Figure 1

describes just some of these prophecies and their fulfillment by Yeshua (Jesus). The chance of any one man fulfilling just eight prophecies has been calculated at 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000 (Peter W. Stoner in *Science Speaks* [16]). Yeshua (Jesus) is the only person in history who has fulfilled these prophecies. In Yeshua’s (Jesus’) second coming, He will fulfill the prophecies of Messiah, the Conquering King.

Summary

We have overviewed the dual role of Messiah as Suffering Servant and Conquering King and described a few of the many prophecies that Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled in His first coming as a Suffering Servant.

References

- [1] Sukkah 52
- [2] Patai, Raphael, The Messiah Texts, p.166; Meyer Waxman, Galut U’ge’valh Be’ Sifrut Yibsr’a’el (Hotsa’at Oten 1952) chap.7. (Wayne State Univ. Press 1979)
- [3] Berachot 56b
- [4] Sanhedrin 98b
- [5] Sanherdrin 98a
- [6] Targam on Isaiah 52:13
- [7] Targum on Isaiah 53:5
- [8] Targum of Isaiah 53:2,5
- [9] Stenning, J. F. , The Targum of Isaiah (Oxford 1953) p. 180
- [10] Midrash Rabbah, Lamentations 3:49-50, 59
- [11] Midrash Rabbah, Ruth v. 6
- [12] Zohar II, 212a
- [13] Pesikta Rabbati, Piska 35
- [14] Sanhedrin 97a; Ketubot 111b
- [15] Midrash, Pirke d’ Rab Eliezer 51 quoted in Meyer Waxman, Galut U’ge’valh Be’ Sifrut, p. 315
- [16] Stoner, Peter W. and Newman, Robert C., Science Speaks. Chicago: Moody Press, 1976.

Bible quotations are from the King James Version

Copyright 2001 Return To God.

All Rights Reserved

P.O. Box 159, Carnation, WA 98014

<http://www.ReturnToGod.com>



This pamphlet overviews the dual role of Messiah as Suffering Servant and Conquering King and describes a few of the many prophecies that Yeshua (Jesus) fulfilled in His first coming as a Suffering Servant.

Messiah as Suffering Servant, Conquering King

The common modern-day Jewish view of Messiah isn’t the traditional Jewish view. The modern-day Jewish view is of Messiah as King, ruling and reigning and establishing peace on earth. However, Scripture speaks of the Messiah in two ways: as a Suffering Servant and as a Conquering King. Talmudic[1] and other Jewish sources (e.g. Raphael Patai [2]) recognize these two disparate roles. One explanation commonly used by the rabbis to resolve these disparate roles is that there would be two Messiahs: one who would suffer and be humbled and another who would rule and reign. Although some rabbinic sources identify these as two Messiahs, Scripture shows that those two roles will be fulfilled by two appearances of one Messiah.

Messiah, a Suffering Servant

Messiah the Suffering Servant was “despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief”(Pro 18:12, 1 Pet 1:10-11) “He was cut off out of the land of the living” (Isa 53:3) “And he made his grave with the wicked and with the

Figure 1. Some Prophecies Fulfilled by Yeshua (Jesus)

Summary	Prophetic Scripture	Fulfilled
Seed of a woman	Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed: He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”	Galatians 4:4: “But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law.”
Abraham’s seed	Genesis 22:18: “And in thy seed (Abraham’s) shall all the nations of the earth be blessed because thou has obeyed my voice.”	Galatians 3:16: “Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not ‘And to seeds’, as of many; but as of one, ‘And to thy seed’, which is the Messiah.” Hebrews 2:16: “He (Yeshua) took on him the seed of Abraham.”
Heir to the throne of David	Jeremiah 23:5: “I will raise unto David a righteous Branch ... [who] shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.”	Acts 13:23: “Of [David’s] seed hath God according to His promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Yeshua.”
Born in Bethlehem	Micah 5:2: “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”	Matthew 2:1: “Yeshua was born in Bethlehem of Judea.”
Born of a Virgin	Isaiah 7:14: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel.”	Matthew 1:18-25: “Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Spirit... and [Joseph] knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son...”
Rejected by His Brethren	Psalms 69:8: “I am become a stranger unto my brethren and an alien unto my mother’s children.”	John 1:11: “He came unto his own and his own received him not.” John 7:3,5: “His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence... for neither did his brethren believe in him.”
Entry into Jerusalem	Zechariah 9:9: “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: Behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon a donkey, and upon a colt the foal of a donkey.”	Matthew 21:2-5: “...ye shall find a donkey tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me... All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet... Behold, thy King cometh unto thee meek and sitting upon a donkey and a colt the foal of a donkey.”
His disciples forsake him	Zechariah 13: “Smite the shepherd and the sheep shall be scattered.”	Matthew 26:56: “Then all the disciples forsook him and fled.”
Betrayed by close friend	Psalms 41:9: “Yea, mine own familiar friend, in whom I trusted, who did eat of my bread, hath lifted up his heel against me.”	John 13:18-21: “I speak not of you all; but that the scriptures may be fulfilled. He that eateth bread with me hath lifted up his heel against me... Verily, verily, I say unto you, that one of you shall betray me.”
Betrayed for 30 pieces of silver	Zechariah 11:12: “If ye think good, give me my price; so they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver.”	Matthew 26:15: “What will ye give me, and I will deliver him unto you? And they covenanted with him for thirty pieces of silver.”
His price given for potter’s field	Zechariah 11:13: “Cast it unto the potter, a goodly price that I was prized at of them. And I took the thirty pieces of silver, and cast them to the potter in the house of the Lord.”	Matthew 27:3,7: “Judas brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders ... and [they] bought with them the potter’s field, to bury strangers in.”
Smitten	Micah 5:1: “They shall smite the judge of Israel with a rod, upon the cheek.”	Matthew 27:30: “And took the reed and smote him on the head.”
Spit Upon	Isaiah 50:6: “I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting.”	Mark 14:65: “And some began to spit on him, and to cover his face, and to buffet him.”
Mocked	Psalms 22:7-8: “All they that see me laugh me to scorn: they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him: let him deliver him, see he delighted in him.”	Matthew 27:39-44: “They that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads ... Likewise also the chief priests mocking him with the scribes and elders, said ... he trusted in God: let him deliver him.”
Pierced	Zechariah 12:10 They shall look upon me whom they have pierced. Psalms 22:16: “They pierced my hands and my feet.”	John 19:34, 37: “One of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side... And again another scripture saith, They shall look upon him who they have pierced.” John 20:25: “... in his hands the print of the nails.”
No bones broken	Exodus 12:46: [the Passover lamb] “Neither shall ye break a bone thereof.” Psalms 34:20: “He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken.”	John 19:33-36: “When they came to Yeshua, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs. For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, a bone of him shall not be broken.”
Lots cast for clothing	Psalms 22:18: “They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.”	Matthew 27:35: “And they crucified him and parted his garments, casting lots; that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet.”
Crucified with malefactors	Isaiah 53:12: “He was numbered with the transgressors”.	Mark 15:27-28: “And with them they crucify two thieves. The scripture was fulfilled which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors.”
Buried with the rich	Isaiah 53:9: “He made his grave with the rich in his death.”	Matthew 27:57-60: “There came a rich man named Joseph... who went to Pilate and begged the body of Yeshua ... and laid it in his own tomb.”
Arose from the dead	Psalms 16:10: “Neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption”.	Luke 24:6, 31, 34: “He is not here, but is risen ... And their eyes were opened, and they knew him... The Lord is risen indeed.”