Sermon Notes - November 29, 2026

"The Promised Messiah"

Messianic Prophecies

God promised *specifics* of the character, behavior and work of Messiah in messages drawn out over **14 centuries** before the baby Jesus was laid in a manger.

Why is that important to us? This season we see anew that **God keeps His** promises literally, measurably and faithfully. God can be trusted to keep His Word, and that God *doesn't play games* with our hearts and His promises.

God didn't intend to *secretly introduce* the Messiah to His people. He wanted them to *recognize* Him.

1. One "promised mark" concerned Messiah's PURPOSE: He came for a *fight*. You can see that in the first promise recorded in Genesis 3:15 by Moses 1400 years before the birth of Jesus.

2. A second mark included the specifics of His GENDER and unusual CONCEPTION. Messiah was promised to be a *son* of a Jewish momma in Isaiah 9:6, miraculously born of a virgin in Isaiah 7:14.

3. A third mark even offered a picture of His FAMILY, and identified Messiah's *hometown*. The prophets promised Messiah would come from the *sons of Israel,* with an ancestry *meticulous* predicted to include… Abraham, Isaac (Genesis 22:18), Jacob (Genesis 26:3b), Judah (Genesis 49:10), the line of *Jesse* (2 Samuel 7:12-16 and Jeremiah 23:5), through his youngest son, David. Even more, Messiah was *specifically pictured* as coming from the little village of Bethlehem in Judea (Micah 5:2).

4. A fourth mark pointed to His POPULAR INFLUENCE. TO *SOME*, Messiah would be a real *celebrity*. Prophets indicated some would call Him titles like "Immanuel" or "God with us" (Isaiah 7:14), "the Lord our righteousness" (Jeremiah 23:6; 33:16; and Malachi 4:2) or even "called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6). These titles predicted honor and praise.

5. A fifth mark of Messiah ODDLY SUGGESTED A POOR RECEPTION by others upon entering Jerusalem humbly, and suffering some *poor treatment* (like Zechariah 9:9) with the King entering the city of Jerusalem on a donkey, or prophecies that were *bleak* concerning His reception like the one in Daniel 9:26: "… Messiah will be cut off and have nothing…"

6. A sixth mark even SUGGESTED HE WOULD SUFFER for His People, and even be put to death bearing their punishment to provide their forgiveness and rescue (Isaiah 53:1–12; Zechariah 3:9).

7. A Seventh "Mark of Messiah" (as the New Testament interpreted Jesus' coming) was that Messiah *would not remain dead!* David declared that God "would not abandon His Holy One to Sheol or allow Him to undergo decay" (Psalm 16:10). The Apostle Peter later identified *those very words* as a prophecy of Jesus' resurrection, explaining that *David was looking ahead to the resurrection* of the Messiah (Acts 2:29–31).

Rabbis long grappled with the apparent *dilemma* that Messiah who would be humble, rejected, and killed, in spite of other passages that cited a coming king. How could both descriptions be true?

- One tradition came to identify a suffering Messiah as *Messiah ben Joseph*.
- Another set of prophecies indicated He would be the conquering, reigning Messiah as *Messiah ben David*.

The early followers of Jesus reached *the* conclusion the prophecies did not require two Messiahs, but rather two comings of the *same* Messiah!

They recorded that Jesus came as a suffering servant, fulfilling the prophecies of rejection, sacrifice, and death. They said that Jesus explicitly made this claim at His own trial before Caiaphas, verbally combining two remarkable Old Testament passages, Psalm 110:1 and Daniel 7:13, declaring: **"**You shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven**"**
(Mark 14:62, NASB 1995; cf. Matthew 26:64).

It is important for the people of God to recognize that He doesn't play "cat and mouse" games with truth. God is direct, and though He can use poetic language, His prophecies are designed to help us build trust in Him.

This is the point of the Christmas celebration! WE *CAN* TRUST GOD!

When He makes a promise… you can take it to the bank.

Welcome to our Advent Season!