

Jesus in the Older Testament

By Bob Mendelsohn

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Read: [Luke 24.13-27](#) (it's at the endnotes section of the sermon for those online)

Introduction: Comments from text

Shalom and thank you for welcoming me to this pulpit tonight. I'm honoured and delighted to be here in Seoul for my second trip to your wonderful city. And with this sermon tonight, may you understand more about our blessed Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ. May you have more confidence in His Holy Word, the Bible. And may you care about witnessing to the Jewish people, my people, even more than you do now.

Thank you Dr Cho for letting me address your people tonight and for the blessed time of fellowship we shared in your office two years ago when I visited last time.

Now to the Bible. We see from the text just read a picture of the situation in Jerusalem that first Easter day. There were no lilies and trumpets. There were no Hallelujahs in the people of God. Rather the situation was apparently bleak.

We see the despondency of Cleopas and his travelling companion and friend (maybe even his wife?). They were sad, the Bible says, almost depressed. They had hoped Jesus would redeem Israel. By redeem, they mean physical and political redemption. They believed that Messiah would remove Rome from the Temple area and allow Jews to worship freely again. And this Jesus, he had not done that political redemption.

The situation grew worse as it was now "the Third day" According to Jewish folklore, a person dies, then his spirit hovers around his corpse for 3 days, then on 4th day the spirit leaves... the person is dyingly dead. You might know of the ultra Orthodox Jewish men with sidecurls and hats and long coats. Their leader died in 1994 in Brooklyn, New York. He was a rabbi of over 90 years of age. His name was Menachem Schneerson. Some of his followers

claimed him to be the messiah. So when he died, tens of thousands of his followers from Israel, from Australia, from South America,, gathered and waited by his grave, until the 4th day. Then the crowds dissipated. They were not surprised to hear of his death. They were disappointed in his not rising from the dead.

Maybe that helps you understand why Jesus waited two extra days to heal his friend Lazarus. Or the quote from Psalm 16 in Peter's sermon on Pentecost.

I'm not sure of the Korean expression, but in English, they use the term "Old wives' tales" to describe wishful thinking and imaginations which are not true. They never are called 'old husband tales') So, it's usual for women to see spiritual things, but, says Cleopas, we sent our best detectives and they found nothing like the women had said.

Finally Jesus can take it no longer. He calls them "fools" (not like Raca...rather 'not seeing things from God's point of view), and he has a Bible class with them. This would be an amazing sermon I want to see when I get to heaven. Maybe we can rent this video when we get there, and without penalty of late fees! Imagine Jesus gave his great sermon here, to two people. And only two people. I need to always remember that, to teach well, to the many or to the few. And most of my ministry is to the few. I teach Jewish people in Australia one by one.

What might have been included in that sermon? The Bible doesn't tell us directly, but there was a list of messianic prophecies that were known as the testimonia and later found in recent days in the Dead Sea Scrolls. Using the three sections of Jewish Bible, Law, Prophets, and Writings, let's look at three passages today. First please turn to Genesis chapter 3.

Now while you turn, let me ask if you do jigsaw puzzles? If I understand it right, the way to do them is to open the box, dump the pieces onto the table, and put the box top away. No yellow goes here, red goes here, etc. You look once, and put the box top away. The way to do a puzzle is to put the pieces together and watch a picture emerge. I'm going to ask you to do what I ask Jewish people I meet with, to do. Put the box top of your own convictions, what you already believe about Messiah, put it away. And let's let the Bible puzzle pieces come together, and let's be honest with what we see. Is that fair enough?

Torah: Law

Now we look at Genesis 3, in the story the Garden of Eden, we read a curse on the Serpent, whom we later know to be Satan, the enemy of God. That curse on him is actually a blessing to the woman and the people who will come. This is found in verse 15. **Read text at the end of the sermon for those reading online.**

We see 3 puzzle pieces here.

1) the child who will come is the child of the woman.

No big deal right, everyone who is born is born of a woman, right? Not in Judaism. Abraham began Isaac, (where was Sarah?). Isaac begat Jacob (thank you Rebekkah). Men have children in Judaism, not biologically, but geneologically. So the Bible could comment on biology by calling the messiah 'son of man and woman' or geneology ('son of man'), but it doesn't. It starts with an exception. It doesn't say "virgin birth" but it anticipates it.

2) Bruise the head of the serpent. This is a picture of conquest.

This is certainly consistent with what I learned about Messiah, when I was a boy in the US. As an Orthodox Jew I always knew the Messiah would conquer. There were two enemies for us when I was a young man. (Russia and Russia). It was after all, the time of the Cold War and Russia was the enemy for US people, and also there were 3 million Jewish people who were not allowed to practice their religion in the Former Soviet Union. They were the enemy twice. Back In the times of Jesus, Rome would have been the enemy.

Messiah will conquer. Remember the image of taking land, planting flag for King. And in Romans 16.20, God will crush Satan under your feet soon.

3) Wounded in heel. **(same Hebrew verb for bruise of head/bruise of heel)**

What kind of messiah gets wounded? I always thought the Messiah would win, now the text says he will be wounded.

I was the third of three children in my father's house. As a result I rarely received new things, but rather 'hand me downs' or used items. So when I asked my father when would I receive a new bicycle, he would say, "Yeah, yeah, when messiah comes". And of

course, I thought Messiah would come to beat up Russia. And give us land in Israel and sovereignty. So to read here that Messiah would be wounded, that was a surprise.

Do we have enough to conclude what our photo/puzzle is?
Not yet.

Prophets:

So let's turn to Micah 5. **Read 5.1-2 (see below)**

1) Repeat of last. Judge of Israel beaten on face with rod. Again, a very big surprise to me, but it's right there in the text.

2) Birthplace of Messiah. Bethlehem. How strange a place. It's too little to be among the Where's Where in Israel. Not significant. We know it from the Christmas songs as being the birthplace of Messiah, but the ancients didn't know that. Remember the wise men from the east came to find the one born under the star. They followed the star and found the baby. But on their journey they asked for help in finding him. They came to Jerusalem to ask for the king. Of course, kings are born in Capital cities, not in the back woods, like Bethlehem, but in proper main cities.

So what a surprise it must have been to the magi to hear "go to Bethlehem" because that's what Micah the prophet declared.

The third puzzle piece is even more of a surprise. The text uses the phrase "from eternity" (Mikedem...from the East). This is not so much geographical east as it is chronological east. And what happens in the east? The sun rises. So this phrase has the meaning of 'before the sun rises' in the east, or what we commonly title 'eternity past'). And so the question has to be asked, "Who is an eternal being?" Only God. So somehow God takes on flesh and is born in Bethlehem. Any candidates?

Do we have enough info... not yet.

Writings: The Psalms

Turn to Daniel 9. **Let's read verses 24-27**

27 years ago I was a teacher of mathematics in high school. I tell you that not to seek for tutoring duties, but to tell you that numbers don't bother me. I understand however, that numbers and math might bother you. But don't worry, when we discuss the math in this chapter, you will understand very well. Trust me.

Here we see three more puzzle pieces.

1) Messiah will die. "Cut off and have nothing" Messiah is wounded, then wounded again, now dead. I never learned that as an Orthodox Jew in my youth. If I'd really read, I would have found Maimonides, "messiah will die and his son or grandson will take over" No wonder the Lubavitchers thought Schneerson would rise from the dead back in New York in 1994.

2) Time of the death of Messiah. 69 'weeks' is really 'units of 7 things'. So just think 70×7 or about 500 things. I don't mean to make light of the precision of the Bible, in fact, it's very precise. But I'm trying to help you without a blackboard and approximations. Then the text tells us what those things are. They are years. Note the beginning date is 'issue of decree to restore Jerusalem' which happened about 450 BC.

Then the closing date is when the 'people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city (Jerusalem) and the sanctuary (Temple) which is 70 AD. So we have about 500 years. And near the end of the period we see the death of Messiah. No wonder the rabbis tell Jewish boys not to read this section of Bible until they are at least 30 years old.

3) The purpose of the death of Messiah. Verse 24. "to bring in everlasting ...to forgive...to take away iniquity..." The purpose of the death of messiah was not to give me a bicycle. or to give Israel a piece of property; it was to forgive us our sins, and to make us clean before God.

So, let's look at our puzzle pieces.

We have a messiah, son of a woman, born in Bethlehem, wounded and wounded and beaten and dead, who died near the end of the 2nd Temple period, actually in 30 AD, who was eternal, and died for our sins and by that conquered the works of Satan.

Any candidates? Honestly, is your box top away? What picture of Messiah do you see in our texts?

Honestly, I think the only answer is Jesus.

Let's return to Luke and see some final thoughts.

Outline of final Bible thoughts

1) Jesus was a great teacher, but Cleopas and mate didn't 'get it' not until 'then their eyes were opened' (.16 'eyes were prevented'. .31 'eyes were opened')

2) .44 Jesus uses all three sections of Tenach to teach them that he was Messiah (just like we did in our lesson tonight)

You might ask me, Brother Bob, if God is responsible for opening the eyes of people, then what role do we have in helping people find God?

3) .47 “AND that repentance’... If you believe in the death of Christ (.46) and the resurrection of Christ (.46), then you have to believe in the proclamation of Christ. And that message has to go to all people.

This may be the simplest way to explain our role. God wants us to do the mouth thing, he will do the eye thing. He opens eyes and we open our mouth and God fills it. We preach and God opens the eyes of Jewish people and all people to his message.

What we do in US and Australia and Israel...

Since 1979 I have worked with the organization named “Jews for Jesus.” We are trying to help people around the world to know that it is all right for Jews to believe in Jesus. And that it’s more than acceptable; it’s mandated by God. So we have ministry centers in 22 cities around the globe, in Israel, in Russia, in the US, and many other countries, including where I live in Sydney Australia. There we preach Jesus via handing out Gospel tracts on the streets, and meet individually with hundreds of Jewish people each year. There are 100,000 Jewish people worldwide today who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour of the 13 million Jews.

We hope you will partner with us. We need Christians in Korea to pray for us. We always enjoy hearing via email from brothers and sisters who want to learn more about Jewish people finding eternal life in Jesus. So we have provided a card for you to fill out. Put your name in English if you want to get our English newsletter, or in Hangul if you want to receive information from us in Hangul. And fill out all the information and turn the card in to the offering boxes or drop it into the church office. You can even post it to us. Please let us hear from you and by that you are extending to us the privilege to speak to you again. Thanks for that. We will keep

you updated about our missions around the globe and how Jewish people are coming to Jesus.

My testimony book of how I came to faith in Jesus is being printed in Hangul and we want to send it to you. So for those who fill out the card completely, I will send it to you as soon as it's ready.

Dr Cho, thank you for this time on this night of power, for me to address the saints. Dear believers, you can trust the Bible, both Older and Newer Testaments. You can trust God who sent Jesus to die for us, and to rise from the dead to give us eternal life. If you are here tonight, or watching or listening electronically after this January evening, and you are one who is wondering if this is all true, let me ask you... did you see the Messiah Jesus in the Bible passages I mentioned? Did God open your eyes? If so, please make your way to one of the ushers or pastors and say, "I believe, now what?" And they will help you grow and get connected to a home group. Thanks again. Or you can email me on bobmendo@aol.com. God bless you all.

Shalom!

Bible Texts used:

Luke 24.13 And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

Luke 24.14 And they were conversing with each other about all these things which had taken place.

Luke 24.15 And it came about that while they were conversing and discussing, Jesus Himself approached, and began traveling with them.

Luke 24.16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

Luke 24.17 And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

Luke 24.18 And one of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

Luke 24.19 And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

Luke 24.20 and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him up to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

Luke 24.21 "But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

Luke 24.22 "But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,

Luke 24.23 and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels, who said that He was alive.

Luke 24.24 "And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

Luke 24.25 And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

Luke 24.26 "Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

Luke 24.27 And beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

Genesis

Gen. 3.14 And the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly shall you go, And dust shall you eat All the days of your life;

Gen. 3.15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

Gen. 3.16 To the woman He said, "I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you shall bring forth children; Yet your desire shall be for your husband, And he shall rule over you."

Gen. 3.17 Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it'; Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.

Gen. 3.18 "Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you shall eat the plants of the field;

Micah

Mic. 5.1 "Now muster yourselves in troops, daughter of troops; They have laid siege against us; With a rod they will smite the judge of Israel on the cheek.

Mic. 5.2 "But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Too little to be among the clans of Judah, From you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, From the days of eternity."

Daniel

Dan. 9.24 ¶ "Seventy weeks have been decreed for your people and your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sin, to make atonement for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most holy place.

Dan. 9.25 "So you are to know and discern that from the issuing of a decree to restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince there will be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; it will be built again, with plaza and moat, even in times of distress.

Dan. 9.26 "Then after the sixty-two weeks the Messiah will be cut off and have nothing, and the people of the prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary.