

Christmas, 2010 Special

Lesson #1

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Dean Bible Ministries

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A starburst light in a dark, colorful sky over a silhouette of mountains. The sky transitions from dark blue at the top to purple and pink near the horizon. The mountains are silhouetted against the lower part of the sky.

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What is So Important About a Messiah?

“Serpents, Seeds, and Scepters”

What is a Messiah?

מָשִׁיחַ. (*māšîaḥ*) *anointed one, appointed one*

Used of priests, kings, and others whom God appoints to a task; also used of Cyrus, and the pre-fall Satan—the anointed cherub.

Psa. 2:2, “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against His Anointed, saying,”

Dan. 9:25, “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

Dan. 9:26, “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined.”

1 Sam. 2:10, 35

2 Sam. 22:51; 23:1

Hab. 3:13

Psa. 20:6; 28:8, 9; 89:51; 132:17

**Every prophet prophesied only of the days of the
Messiah (b. Berachot 34b)**

~Rabbi Jochanan ben Zakkai

- 1. The writer of the Torah focuses on the Messiah. Though this may not be apparent at first, it only takes a small amount of analysis to discover this.**

2. Not only is this clear in the details, but also in the overall organization and structure.

Narrative
Gen. 1–48

Poem
Gen. 49
Last Days

Epilogue
Gen. 50

3. The exclamation points in the Torah are 4 key poetry sections. These each indicate they are fulfilled in the last days. Gen. 49, Ex. 15, Num. 23–24; Deut. 32–33,

All except Exodus 15 focus on the last days and a coming king.

- 4. Each of these poems focuses on a coming ruler, a coming king who will eventually be worshipped by all the people (Gen. 49:8–11).**

5. This ruler will also rule over all the nations including the kingdom of Gog (Num. 24:7) who is the end-time enemy of Israel and God (Ezek. 38–39; Rev. 20:8).

6. This ruler is identified by the term “seed” which is traced meticulously through the pages of the Pentateuch.

7. By the end of the Torah, Moses identifies the coming King as also a Prophet who will be like him. (Deut. 18:15–19). He, too, will speak with God face to face as Moses did.

8. Conclusion

One of the major themes of the Torah is the promise, lineage, and predictions for the identification of this end-time ruler who will bring glory to God's people Israel.

Gen. 3:15, “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel.”

Eve had respect to that seed which is coming from another place. And who is this? This is the King Messiah.

~Midrash *Rabbah Genesis 23:5*

Messiah, the Son of David, who shall wound Satan, who is the head, the King and Prince of the house of the wicked.

~Rabbi David Kimchi, (1160–1235)

Rabbi Chlomo Yitzhaki (1040–1105) “Rashi”

Why the Serpent is More Than a Snake

- a. The serpent can talk. This is not normal.
- b. The serpent, as part of creation, was pronounced good, there was as yet no sin or evil in the creation.
- c. It is not the serpent's seed that will be crushed, but the serpent, after a long conflict. The physical serpent would not live that long, but the one empowering the serpent would.
- d. Later, New Testament revelation identifies the serpent as Satan (Rom. 16:20, Rev. 12:9).
- e. In 3:14 the Lord addresses the serpent; in 3:15, the empowering power.
- f. The readers in the ancient world understood this to predict a long conflict between good and evil and not a long conflict between snakes and humanity.

Why the Serpent is More Than a Snake

Wisdom 2:24

“But by the envy of the devil death entered into the world, and they that belong to his realm experience it.” (1 Enoch 69:6; 2 Enoch 31:3)

Pss. Sol. 4:9

**“And their eyes (are fixed) upon any man’s house that is (still) secure,
that they may, like (the) Serpent, destroy the wisdom of ... with words of transgressors.”**

Why the Serpent is More Than a Snake

אִיבָה (*ʾêbâ*) enmity, hatred

This Hebrew word always refers to enmity between moral agents.

“seed” זֶרַע (*zera*)

Can serve as a singular or collective noun.

Thus, in one phrase it can refer to a group and in another to an individual. As such, the distinction between singular or plural will be indicated by the pronoun or the verb.

“between your seed and her seed”

A collective sense

“He shall bruise you on the head and you shall bruise Him on the heel,”

The seed is an individual.

***He* and *Him*, and *You* are singular pronouns.**

Heb. 2:14, “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,”

Gen. 9:9, “And as for Me, behold, I establish My covenant with you and with your descendants [seed] after you,”

Gen. 12:7, “Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, ‘To your descendants I will give this land.’ And there he built an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.”

Gen. 13:15, “for all the land which you see I give to you and your descendants forever.”

Gen. 17:6, “I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

Gen. 17:7, “And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.”

Gen. 22:17, “indeed I will greatly bless you, and I will greatly multiply your seed as the stars of the heavens and as the sand which is on the seashore; and your seed shall possess the gate of their [HIS] enemies.”

Gen. 35:11, “Also God said to him: ‘I am God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

Gen. 35:12, “ ‘The land which I gave Abraham and Isaac I give to you; and to your descendants after you I give this land.’ ”

Gen. 49:10, “The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh comes; and to Him shall be the obedience of the people.”