

Consider Him....

Finding Christ in the Major Prophets

Isaiah

Jeremiah (inc. Lamentations)

Ezekiel

Daniel



What do we want to get out of tonight?

Examples of where & how to find Christ through prophecy, type, & shadow

Enthusiasm to study scripture & see revelation of Christ & His Glory – the big picture

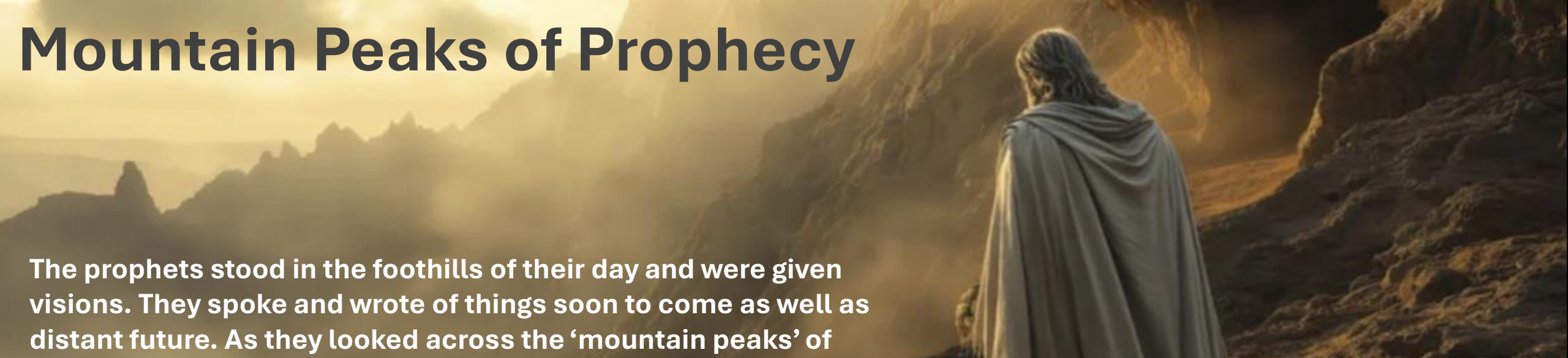
Desire to get to know Christ better (not just know facts about him)

Motivation to live well in this light!

(P.S. More slide content than time.....review later if you want a copy)

Helpful to Remember:

- 1. Scripture interprets scripture:** start with the Bible & learn with the Holy Spirit's teaching.
- 2. Be like Bereans:** Don't take it as read! Search the scriptures whether these things are so!
- 3. Let words have their normal plain meaning:** Literal meaning. Avoid spiritualising or allegories for application (will send off track). It's clear when words are symbolic metaphors (E.g. Jesus said 'I am the Door'). Symbolic imagery in the Major Prophets points to real things.
- 4. Context is Key:** what it meant historically to speaker & audience. Read it in full context of chapter, book & Bible.
- 5. Prophecy:** Major Prophets were **forthtelling** (telling the audience then what God had said) & **foretelling** (future events). We only have & need forthtelling today, to proclaim God's complete revelation
- 6. Types & prefigures:** (People, places, events) **as supported by NT** (careful not to stretch!)
- 7. Antitype is primary:** Types fall short of completeness. They show all scripture speaks of Him.
- 8. Mountain peaks of prophecy:** Prophets did not see or understand full picture in their day.



The prophets stood in the foothills of their day and were given visions. They spoke and wrote of things soon to come as well as distant future. As they looked across the ‘mountain peaks’ of prophecy, they didn’t see the ‘valleys’ between. Some texts cover near events and first and second coming of Christ in one or two verses. Familiarising ourselves with all scripture helps for a proper sense of the ‘topography’! (E.g. Isa. 9v1-7)



Benefit of Studying the Major Prophets?

Prophecy: important part of scripture, 27 to 30% (80% of which already fulfilled)

Quoted throughout New Testament: by Jesus and the Apostles.

New Testament says Old Testament speaks of Christ:

Luke 24v27 Beginning at Moses & **all Prophets**, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures **things concerning Himself**

Luke 44&45 “...all must be fulfilled **written** in the Law of Moses & **the Prophets** & Psalms **concerning Me.**”

John 5v39 You search **the Scriptures**, for in them you think you have eternal life; & these are they which **testify of Me**

Acts 8v35 Then Philip opened his mouth, and **beginning at this Scripture** (Isa. 53v7-8), **preached Jesus** to him.

1 Cor 15v3 Christ died for our sins **according to the scriptures**.....

1 Peter 1v10&11He **testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow**

Colossians 2v17 Which are a **shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ**

Hebrews 8v5 ‘,,,**example and shadow** of heavenly things’ Heb 9v9 ‘.....**a figure** for the time then present...’,

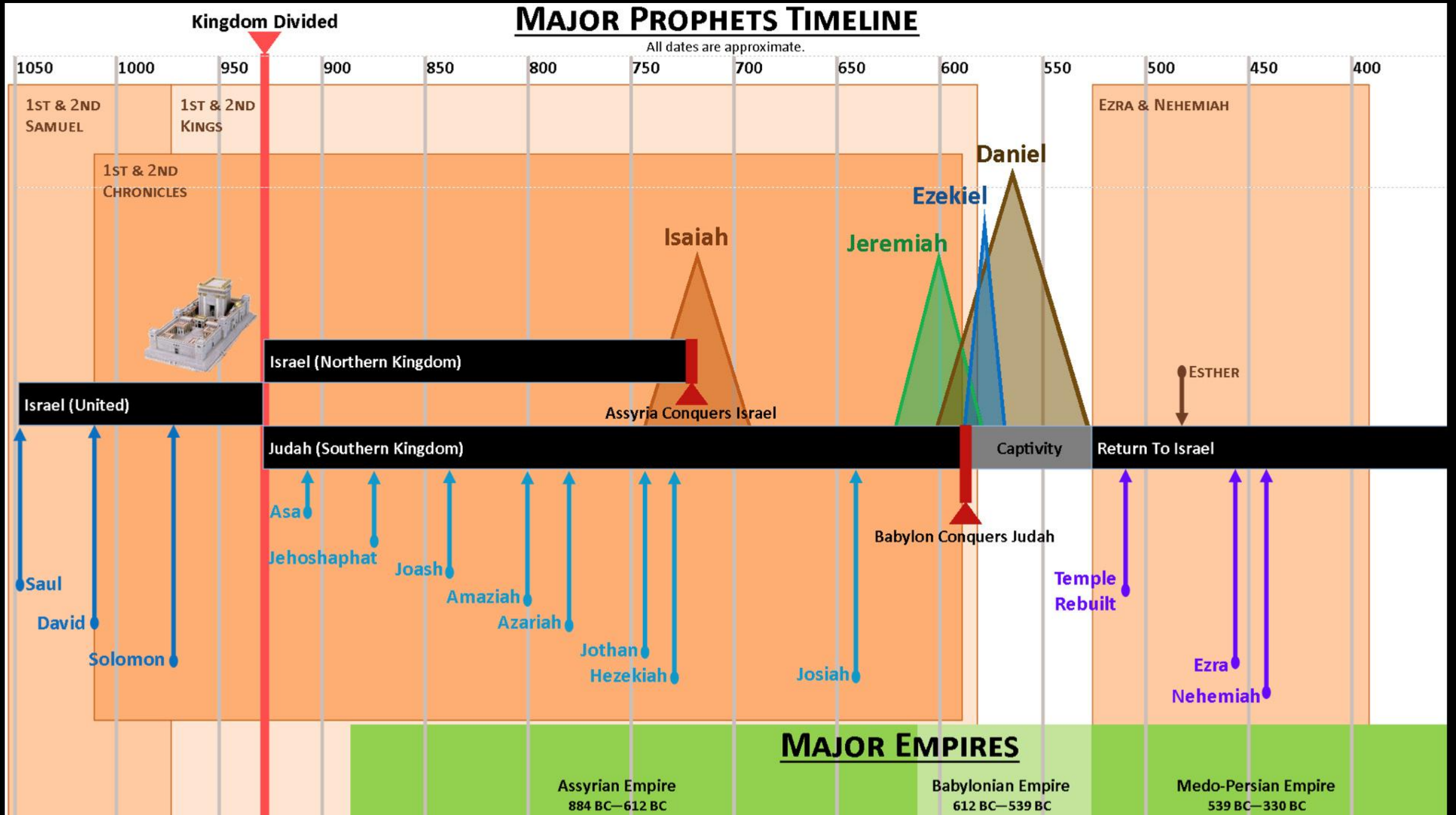
Heb 9v23 ‘.....**patterns** of things in the heavens....’ v24 ‘....**figures of the true**....’

Relevant: **Produce:** worshipful life, not facts to impress! **For life:** see the big picture. **Rightly Divide** the Word.

Inspire: **Major Prophets were young people when called** (range 15-30 yrs) with individual ministries of 40 -72 yrs.

MAJOR PROPHETS TIMELINE

All dates are approximate.



Prophet	Name	Timescale	Emphasis	Prophecy of Christ	Prefigure (Christophany, type, shadow, figures, themes)
Isaiah	God has SAVED	740-680BC Before Exile (Assyrian Period)	Salvation God's provision for His sinful people Judah (& Israel & world)		
Jeremiah (with Lamentations)	God will RISE / EXALT	627-586BC Pre-exile & start (Babylon Rising)	Judged & Restored Judah judged for unfaithfulness. Promise of hope.		
Ezekiel	God will STRENGTHEN	593-570BC During Exile (in Babylon)	Glory & Holiness Shown through judgement of sin & restoration		
Daniel	God will JUDGE	605-530BC During Exile (in Babylon)	Sovereign Power Over every earthly power. The triumph of Christ's Kingdom		

ISAIAH: Prophet of Salvation

Name God has saved	Date 740-680BC Before Exile	Place & Audience In Judah to Judah (& Israel/nations)	Emphasis Salvation: Suffering Servant & Kingdom	A Key Verse Ch 53v5 (Centre of Section 2)
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Quoted 61 times in the New Testament, sometimes more than once resulting in **85 citations**

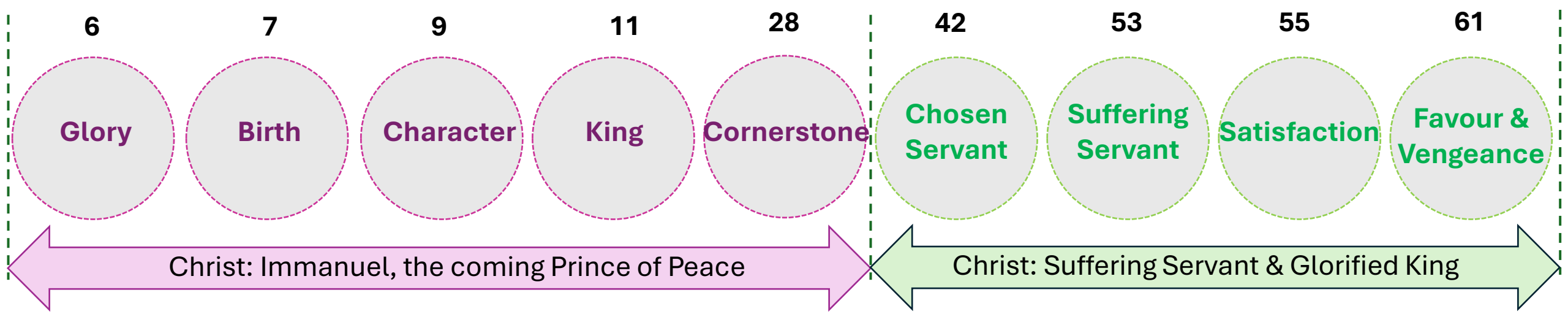
66 Chapters (same no. as books of Bible). **Divides into two main parts:**

Part 1 (1-39) **focuses** on oppression by Assyria & ultimate hope & blessing for Israel.

Part 2 (40-66) **focuses** on God’s perfect suffering servant & future glory of Messiah

His name describes the key theme of his prophecy: **God will save His people from their sins**

We will take a brief look to find Christ in these chapters:



GLORY & HOLINESS: Isaiah's Vision



Key Text: Ch6v1-13	Key Cross Ref: John 12v40-41	Key Theme: Nature of Christ	Time Ref: Timeless!	What we find: Holiness & Glory
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He saw (v1-7): *the Lord sitting on a throne, high & lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple*

² *Above it stood seraphim....& said: “**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!**”*

He heard (v8-13): “I heard the voice of the Lord saying.....Go, and tell this people: Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. Make the heart of this people dull, their ears heavy, shut their eyes; Lest they see with eyes, hear with ears, understand with heart, return & be healed””

Who? Pe-incarnate Christ (John 12v37-41) *Although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe Him, that the word of the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled, which He spoke: “Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed?” (Isa.53v1). Therefore, they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: “He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see.... understand.....and turn, so that I should heal them.” (Isa.6v9,10) **These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him***

See also: Visions of Lord Jesus Christ: Ezekial 1v4-28; Jeremiah 1v9; Lamentations 5v19; Daniel 10v4-6

Takeaways: **Eternal glory & holiness of Lord Jesus Christ. He is the physical revelation of the glory of God** ‘No man has seen God at any time, **the only begotten** Son which is in the bosom of the Father, **He has declared Him**’ (Jn 1v18).
Woe is me! View of Christ gave need for cleansing before service. Good place to start!

7 DEITY: Sign of His Birth



Key Text: Ch7v10-16	Key Cross Ref: Matt 1v22-23	Key Theme: Future hope	Time Ref: 1st Coming	What we find: Deity (Immanuel)
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Sign_(v14): Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.....

Fulfilment (Matthew 1v22-23) So all this was done (Lord's appearance to Joseph in a dream) **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet**, saying: ²³ "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, **"God with us."**

Takeaways: **Sign** for Isaiah's day to encourage King Ahaz & God's people of deliverance from the enemy. Ultimate **fulfilment in the coming of the Deliverer**, the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Immanuel (God with us). Same one Isaiah saw in the vision. God manifest! Deity in virgin birth.
Note again: NT confirming the interpretation of the OT passage.

CHARACTERISTICS: at His 1st & 2nd Coming



Key Text: Ch9v1-7	Key Cross Ref: Matt 4v15-16	Key Theme: Character & Impact	Time Ref: 1st & 2nd Coming	What we find: Titles & Qualities of Christ
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Hope at His 1st Coming (v1-2,6a): Land of Zebulun & Naphtali...beyond Jordan....Galilee.. People who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.(v6)....unto us a Child born....Son given

Fulfilled: Future then, looked forward to Christ coming. Exact places named. The ‘**Light of the world**’. See Matt 4v12-16 ‘...He came and dwelt in Capernaum...in the regions of Zebulun & Naphtali that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying...’ (then follows exact quote about places & light in the darkness)

Peace at 2nd Coming (v3-5,6b-7)government upon His shoulder, His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of increase of His government & peace ..no end, upon the throne of David & over His kingdom From that time forward, even forever.....

Fulfilment Future from now: In effect when Christ returns in glory to reign and rule (Millennial Kingdom).

See also: Daniel 2v44, Luke 1v32-33, and many other OT & NT references to Christ’s coming kingdom

Takeaways: **Three mountain peaks in one text:** **1.** Isaiah’s day (hope in dark times). **2.** Light & hope at Christ’s 1st coming (saviour, Light of world). **3.** Government & character at Christ’s 2nd coming

THE BRANCH & HIS RULE: 2nd Coming



Key Text: Ch11&12	Key Cross Ref: Isaiah 60 Romans 15v12	Key Theme: Future hope in the Branch	Time Ref: 1st & 2nd Coming	What we find: Spirit of the Lord Wise Righteous Judge
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The Branch (v1-5): There shall come forth **a Rod from the stem of Jesse, & a Branch** shall grow out of his roots. The **Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him**, the Spirit of **wisdom**with **righteousness** He shall **judge**...

See Rev 22v16 I am the Root & the offspring of David.....

For Gentiles Too! (v10) “And **in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse**, who shall stand as a banner to the people; for **the Gentiles** shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious.”

See Rom 15v12 And again, Isaiah says: **There shall be a root of Jesse**; And He who shall rise **to reign over the Gentiles**, in Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

See also: Isa. 60 & 65 for what the millennial kingdom will be like. **Rev 20** is key NT text for 1000yr reign

Takeaways: Prophecy of Lord Jesus returning to establish His kingdom. The character & rule of the King.
Will we be there? **How often do we allow Jesus' reign and rule in our lives now?**

CORNERSTONE: Security



Key Text: Ch 28v16	Key Cross Ref: 1 Peter 2v6	Key Theme: Only sure basis of salvation	Time Ref: Applicable then, & 1st & 2nd coming	What we find: Proven & prized foundation
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The Cornerstone (v16): Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion **a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation;** Whoever believes will not act hastily. Contrasted with the alliances Judah made foreign nations (covenant of death). Only sure foundation is the Cornerstone.

Quoted to NT Christians (1 Peter 2v6)it is also contained in the Scripture, **“Behold, I lay in Zion A chief cornerstone, elect, precious, And he who believes on Him will by no means be put to shame.”**

See also: Isa. 8v14; Zech 10v4; Eph 2v20; Matt 21v42; Mark 12v10; Luke 20v17; Acts 4v11; Rom 9v33; Psalm 118v22; 1 Peter 2v7&8

Takeaways: **Fulfilment in Christ at 1st coming** (we have a sure foundation for salvation)
Fulfilment at 2nd coming: Messiah the hope of Israel after ‘covenant with death’ in Great Trib).
Who/what do we depend upon? He is Proven, Precious, never lets us down or disappoints.

Quote: *‘His justice as a measure, His righteousness so true, my Rock, my Lord, my Treasure, all glory be to You’*
 (From the song: **‘Cornerstone’** 2013 by Geoff Walls, based on Isaiah 28)



Key Text: Ch 42v1-18 (see 1-4)	Key Cross Ref: Matthew 12v15-21	Key Theme: God's Elect Servant	Time Ref: 1st & 2nd coming	What we find: Beloved, meek, gentle, just & true
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Chosen Servant (v1-4): “**Behold! My Servant** whom I uphold, **My Elect One** in whom **My soul delights!** I have put **My Spirit upon Him**; He will **bring forth justice** to the Gentiles. He will **not cry out, nor raise His voice**, nor cause His voice to be heard in the street. **A bruised reed He will not break**, and **smoking flax He will not quench**; He will **bring forth justice for truth**. He will **not fail** nor be discouraged, till He has established justice in the earth; And the coastlands shall wait for His law.”

Quoted by Matthew about Jesus (Matt 12v15-21) Great multitudes followed Him, & He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: “Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen.....(quotes Isa. 42v1-4 with word variations)**

Takeaways: **God's perfect Servant** – seen in the gospels. Came to Israel (and gentiles) in kindness. Israel were God's servant, but a poor one. Lord Jesus is the perfect model of service.
Looks to 1st & 2nd coming (justice established on earth & gentiles also submit to Him with Israel in the Kingdom). See also Isa. 2v1-4.

Us? John 13v15: I have given you an **example**, that you should **do as I have done to you'**

53 SUFFERING SERVANT: the Cross



Key Text: Ch 52v13 - 53v12	Key Cross Refs: 1 Peter 2v24 Matt 8v17; Acts 8	Key Theme: Servant Sacrifice for sin	Time Ref: Passage looks to 1st & 2nd coming	What we find: Substitutionary suffering
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Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures! Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows (v4).....He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed (v5).....the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all (v6).....He shall bear their iniquities (v11)....He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors (v12)

Peter's clear statement (1 Peter 2v24): who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed (quoting Isa. 53v5)

Other refs: 53v4 with Matthew 8v17; Isa. 53v7-8 with Acts 8v35 'At same scripture (Philip) preached unto him (Ethiopian Eunuch) Jesus; Isa. 53v9 with 1Peter 2v22; Isa. 53v12 with Mk 15v28 & Lk 22v37

Takeaways: Ch 53 is central to the 2nd part of the book – **central to scripture** – to history – to us?
Ch 53v5&6 the **centre point: wounded for our transgressions** (like lost sheep)...**Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.**
Firstly, to Israel (who will realise this one day - Zech12v10). **For us too: He suffered for us!**

TRUE SATISFACTION: Living Water

Key Text: Ch 55v1-3a	Key Cross Refs: John 7v37b-38; Jn4v7-15; Isa 12v3	Key Theme: Living water for the thirsty soul	Time Ref: 1 st & 2 nd Coming	What we find: Ever satisfying Lord Jesus Christ
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Invited to receive living water from God as a gift! “Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend money for *what is* not bread, and your wages for *what* does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, & eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in abundance. Incline your ear, & come to Me.

Fulfilled in Christ (John 7v37b-38): Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me & drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

Other refs: John 4v 7-15 Woman at the well. Of interest: Ezekiel 47v1-11 (River in millennium)

Takeaways: **Living water a regular theme in scripture.** Speaks of Lord Jesus the Living Water and Holy Spirit life flowing in believers (see John 7v37-39)
Relevant us now & to Israel at 2nd coming (who will ‘draw water from the wells of salvation’)
‘Now none but Christ can satisfy, none other name for me!’ (Frances Bevan 1858)

FAVOUR & VENGEANCE: Grace & Truth



Key Text: Ch 61v1-9	Key Cross Refs: Luke 4v17-19	Key Theme: A time for favour & judgement	Time Ref: 1 st & 2 nd Coming	What we find: Good news, health, liberty
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Year of Favour & Day of Vengeance: “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim **the acceptable year of the LORD** (Day of grace: from time of the Lord’s 1st coming & through Church age) **and the day of vengeance of our God.....** (Future, when Christ returns in judgement at 2nd coming)

Year of Favour (Grace) (John 7v37b-38): *And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the LORD *is* upon Me.....* (note: He stopped at ‘**To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord**’ & doesn’t speak of judgement then)

Other refs: Isaiah 49v8 & 2Cor6v2 “In **an acceptable time** I have heard you, & in the **day of salvation** I have helped you.” **Behold, now *is* the accepted time**; behold, **now *is* the day of salvation**

Takeaways: **Two mountain peaks** in Isaiah 61. **Christ stopped before vengeance** part in Luke 4.

Now: we live between these two peaks. **Are we saved? Received God’s grace through faith?**

Future: divine **judgement** (vengeance) will follow at Great Tribulation & Great White Throne (on the unsaved). **Restored Israel** will know the time of favour in the millennial kingdom.

JEREMIAH: Weeping Prophet of Judgement

Name God will rise	Date 627-586BC Pre-exile & start	Place & Audience In Judah to Judah (& to captives)	Emphasis Judged & Restored (New Covenant)	A Key Verses Ch 31v31-34
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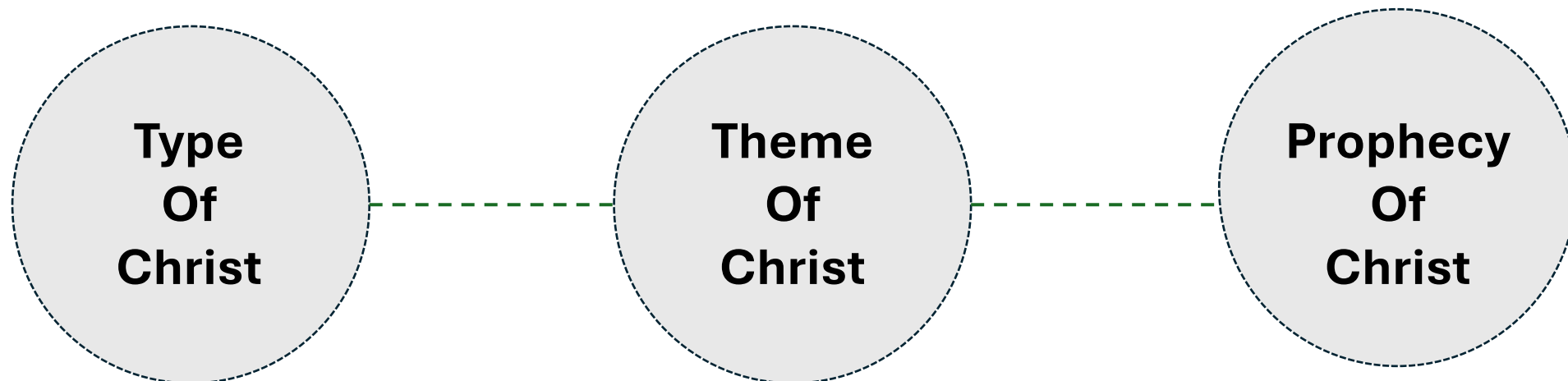
Most scholars agree **Lamentations** was written by Jeremiah due to its similar themes and historical context.

His name describes the key theme of his prophecy: **God will rise in judgement & restoration**

Quoted 7 to 11 times in the New Testament.

Jeremiah is a ‘**type**’ case study with ‘**themes**’ in his life as ‘**shadows**’ of Christ.

We will look at Jeremiah & Lamentations to find Christ in these ways:





Key Texts: Jer 11v19; 18v18; 20v7b-8; Lam1v12	Key Cross Refs: Matthew 16v13-16	Key Theme: Weeping Prophet calling to people	Time Ref: 627BC – 586BC	What we find: Pictures of Christ
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Pictures: ‘man of sorrows’ who ‘wept over his people’ (Jesus wept over Jerusalem: Jer 9v1; Luke 19v41); compared to a ‘lamb for slaughter’ (Jer 11v19); ‘faithful & persistent’ (never turned back); imprisoned, mocked, opposed, but carried on with his message 40 years. Glimpse of calvary: (Lam 1v12 “Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see if there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has been brought on me, which the LORD has inflicted n the day of His fierce anger); laughingstock of all people (3v14)..... man of prayer (see Jer Ch 1, 4, 10, 12, 14, 17, 18, 20, 32)

People thought Jesus was Jeremiah! (John 7v37b-38): Who do men say that the Son of Man, am?” So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets

Other refs: Lam 2v15,16; 3v8; 3v19

Takeaways: The type, always falls far short of the antitype (The Lord Jesus). We have eyewitness accounts of him in the gospels as well as many tremendous references in the epistles.
The type aids appreciation, pointing out Christ in all scripture, but not the main occupation.

THEMES OF CHRIST: referenced by Jeremiah



Key Texts: Jer 2v13; 9v22; 30v9; 31v10;	Key Cross Refs: John 4 & 7 v38; Mark 2v17; John 10;	Key Theme: There is a future hope in the Lord	Time Ref: 627BC – 586BC	What we find: Goodness & greatness
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References: Fountain of Living Waters (2v13); Great Physician (9v22); Good Shepherd (31v10; 23v4), as David the King (30v9)

Christ: E.g.

Compare 9v22 with Mark 2v17: ‘those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance.

Compare 31v10b with John 10v11: “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep”

Takeaways: These are themes we can trace through the Bible and find their fulfilment in Christ.

PROPHECY: referenced by Jeremiah



Key Texts: Jer 23v5&6; 31v31-40; 32v36-Ch33	Key Cross Refs: Isa 53v2; Rev 22v16; Rom11v27; Lk22v20	Key Theme: Righteous King & eternal covenant	Time Ref: Looks ahead to 1 st & 2 nd Coming	What we find: Right, Faithful, Complete
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References:

Jer 23v5-6: Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; a King shall reign & prosper, & execute judgment & righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; now this *is* His name by which He will be called: THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Jer 31v31: Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.....

Branch of David: “I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.” (Rev 22v10)

New Covenant: “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you. (Luke 22v20)

Takeaways: Few direct prophecies. What is there is **key to what Christ accomplished at Calvary**. The **New Covenant** (with Israel) in Christ’s blood which cannot be annulled (in which Gentile believers are included ‘grafted’ in).
The King will sit on the throne of David in a day to come & the covenant with Israel fully realised.

EZEKIEL: Prophet of Glory

Name God Will Strengthen	Date 593-570BC During Exile	Place & Audience In Judah to Judah in Babylon	Emphasis Glory & Holiness of God	A Key Verses Ch 1 v 4-28
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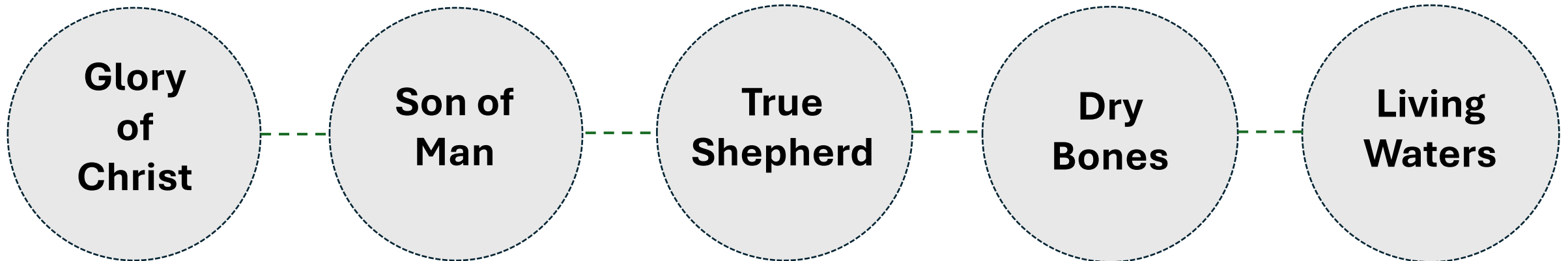
Quoted twice in the New Testament (31v27:2Cor6v16; 20v34; Cor6v17).

Contains **allusions to Christ** through visions and themes.

Apocalyptic genre (meaning revealing / unveiling).

Like Jeremiah, he was **prophet & priest**.

His name God will strengthen describes what was needed in his day. Written under **hardship of captivity** in Babylon, to deliver a **difficult message** to **rebellious people** including warnings about the idolatry around them, and to **comfort** them in distress, inspiring them with **future hope** if they turn to God in their hearts.





PRESENCE OF GLORY: Ezekiel's Visions

Key Texts: Ch 1v26-28; Ch 43-44	Key Cross Ref: Revelation 1v13-17	Key Theme: Glory of Christ	Time Ref: Then & Future	What we find: Shining in Brightness
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Visions of God (Ch1v1,26-28): on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also, from the appearance of His waist & upward I saw... colour of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the GLORY OF THE LORD

See John's vision (Rev1v13-17): Having turned I sawone like the Son of Man.....His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

Returning Glory: The glory of the Lord features in chapters 1-10 until a vision of the glory departing the temple because of the people's sin. In chapters 40 to 42, Ezekiel sees a vision of a new temple (still future – for Christ's reign); and in chapter 43 the glory of the Lord returning, coming the same way he'd seen it go in Ch 10.

Takeaways: Ch1: another **vision of glory before service**. Preincarnate representation of God in Christ.
Ch 10 The idolatry of the people grieved God and Ezekiel saw **his glory gradually departing**.
Careful our hearts don't become like the ruined temple with no glory. Not to let the allure of the world appeal above the resplendent Glory of Christ!

A SON OF MAN & 'THE' SON OF MAN



Key Texts: Ch 2v1; 3v1; 4v1; 5v1; 6v1.....	Key Cross Ref: Mark 10v45 (1 of 80)	Key Theme: Emphasises Humanity	Time Ref: 1st Coming	What we find: Similar title but not same man
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A Son of Man (2v1&6): emphasises the humanity of Ezekiel. First occurrence in Ch 2v1 immediately after the vision of the glory of Christ. Falling on his face, he knew his weakness. Invited to stand on his feet, God would give strengthen so he need not be afraid of the people to whom he was to deliver God's message.

The Son of Man: God became man in Jesus! Fully God & fully man in one person.

Notice the definite article 'the'. Only one true Son of Man but many sons of men.

Used over **80 times in New Testament, mostly by the Lord Jesus** (His preferred title for Himself)

No weakness, rather meekness and humility.

Other refs: 'Son of Man' takes significance from its use by the Prophet Daniel which we shall look at shortly.

Takeaways: The title is used of Ezekiel, God's servant. Finds fulfilment in Christ the perfect Son of Man.



TRUE SHEPHERD: Contrast False & Good



Key Texts: Ch 34	Key Cross Ref: John 10	Key Theme: The Good Shepherd	Time Ref: 1st & 2nd Coming	What we find: Caring Shepherd of His Flock
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False (v1-10): Ezekiel passes on God's word that the shepherds of Israel have failed. They are false shepherds who look out for their own interests and don't care for the flock. God would intervene!

The True Shepherd: God himself will be their shepherd. He will seek them out & rescue them from where they have been scattered.....he will feed them....make them lie down.....bind the injured.....strengthen the weak....and I will set up over them one shepherd.....He shall feed them and be their Shepherd

The Good Shepherd: **Luke 15** – parable of the lost sheep beautifully illustrates the **shepherd care** of the Lord Jesus. **John 10** – The Lord Jesus says he is 'the Good Shepherd who gives his life for the sheep'

Other Refs: Psalm 23 – The Lord is my Shepherd.....

Takeaways: **The Lord Jesus** is the **Good Shepherd**. His sheep follow him.

Warning to be on guard against false shepherds.

Importance of caring shepherds in local assembly. Under shepherds of the True Shepherd.



LIFE FROM THE DEAD: Picture of New Life



Key Texts: Ch 37	Key Cross Ref: John 1v1-13; Isa 66v8; Rom 11v26,27	Key Theme: Israel's Physical & Spiritual Rebirth	Time Ref: 2nd Coming	What we find: Picture of New Birth in Christ
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Primary meaning wholly about the regathering & restoration of nation of Israel in a day to come.

Restored physically to their land and spiritually restored. Pictured in vision of valley of dry bones. 'I will cause breath to enter into you, and you shall live. I will put sinews on you and bring flesh upon you....then you shall know I am the Lord'

NT Confirms this: especially **Romans Ch 9-11**. God not finished with Israel & this is only possible because of Christ and His gospel.

Picture for us now: Power of God in Christ to give new life when dead in trespasses & sins (Born again, **Jn 3**).

Takeaways: This scripture does not relate to the church, must be kept in context of the rebirth of Israel. However, it serves as a reminder of Christ's power to give life from the dead for all who trust in Him.

The believer has eternal life now which will be fully realised when raised from the dead (assuming we die before Christ comes for the Church at the rapture!)



LIVING WATER: Ezekiel Sees a Flowing River



Key Texts: Ch 47	Key Cross Ref: John 7v	Key Theme: Blessing, life & satisfaction	Time Ref: Millennial Reign of Christ	What we find: Living Water a Picture of Christ
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A Real River: not a spiritual symbol. Will flow out of the sanctuary from the future temple into the Jordan River at the mouth of the Dead Sea which will lose its saltiness and thrive with fish.

A Picture: Of life-giving water which believers receive now through Christ and of the gift of the Holy Spirit John 7v38,39 **He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”** .

Takeaways: Firstly, does not relate to the church age but describes future refreshment, life, & blessing through Christ during the millennium .

Secondly, as Isaiah 55 we can have the blessing now of Water of Life in Christ.

Something to look forward to when Christ will transform this world to be suitable for His reign.

DANIEL: Prophet of the Sovereign

Name God Will Judge	Date 605-530BC During Exile	Place & Audience In Judah to Judah in Babylon	Emphasis Sovereign Power (of the Son of Man)	A Key Verses Ch 7v13-14
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Interprets dreams & visions – God given ability

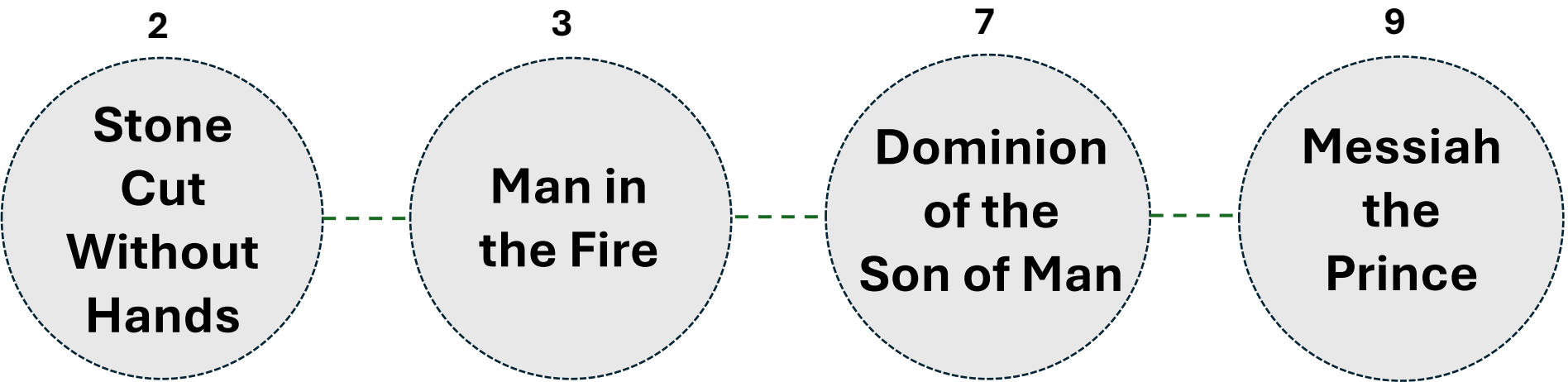
His name describes the key theme of his prophecy: **God will judge. He is Sovereign.**

Unswerving faithfulness & man of prayer. **Enemies couldn't find fault in him,** apart from the law of his God!

Quoted 5 times in NT about the coming Son of Man of Ch 7v13 (Matt 24v30, 26v64; Mk 13v26, 14v26; Lk 21v27)

Apocalyptic genre with imagery revealing Christ's sovereignty over the kingdoms of this world, his reign & rule.

Prophetically covers time of the Great Tribulation & the antichrist to coming of the Son of Man in victory .





STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS: Sovereign



Key Texts: Ch 2v31-45 (see v34&44&45)	Key Cross Ref: Matthew 21 v 42 - 44	Key Theme: Christ's Kingdom Replaces Gentiles'	Time Ref: Future: Gt Trib end & Kingdom	What we find: Powerful King - He will Reign
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Dreams: That troubled Nebuchadnezzar. A statue. **Daniel interpreted:** Gold head (Babylon); Silver chest (Medes & Persians); Bronze middle & thighs (Greece); Iron legs (Rome), part iron/part clay feet (brittle future world empire). A stone cut without human hands strikes the image on the feet and broke it in pieces. Stone becomes a great mountain that fills the whole earth.

Interpretation: In the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed.....it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, & it shall stand forever.....the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, & that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, & the gold...Dan2v44&45



Christ & His Kingdom: Jesus said, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone..... Whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.’”

Takeaways: God has told us the future (2v45b). The Most-High rules in the kingdom of men Dan 4 v17. The metaphor of the stone used of the Lord Jesus. His kingdom will come & never fail.

THE FOURTH MAN: Divine Protector



Key Texts: Ch 3 (see v25)	Key Cross Ref: Deut 31v8; Heb 13v5; Psalm 34v7	Key Theme: Divine Protection	Time Ref: Then & Now	What we find: God (Lord Jesus) with us in trials
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Context: Three brave young men refuse to bow to an idol and are cast into a furnace. Nebuchadnezzar astonished to see them unharmd & a that there is a fourth Man whose 'form who is like the Son of God'

Who is that man?: Most commonly thought to be a preincarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus (Christophany: like Isa. 6; Ezek 1 etc). Nebuchadnezzar blessed the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who sent His angel, & delivered His servants that trusted in him & yielded their bodies that they might not serve or worship any god but their own God (v28).



Protection: He is with us & walks with us through our 'fiery trials'. Never leaves or forsakes us (Deut 31v8; Heb 13v5). Jesus said: 'I am with you always even unto the end of the age' (Matt 28v20).

Other refs: Dan 6v22 'My God has sent his angel, and has shut the lion's mouths, that they have not hurt me' Is this the same person who was in the fire?

Takeaways: They didn't bend, bow or burn but trusted in God. When faced with a choice of allegiance to Christ with great testing, will we be steadfast knowing the same Lord Jesus is with us?

ONE LIKE THE SON OF MAN: He Reigns



Key Texts: Ch 7 (see v13 & 14)	Key Cross Refs: Ps110v1; Matt 25v31-34; Rev13v1,5,7; 19v20	Key Theme: Christ's Dominion	Time Ref: Future: 2nd Coming	What we find: Glory, a Kingdom with no End
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Four beasts: the four kingdoms described in Ch 2 statue. 10 horns on fourth beast out of which another horn arises, a little horn with eyes of a man, and a mouth speaking great things (see 1-8; 15-27) The language is figurative and parabolic but speaks of real things (E.g. Verse 17 interprets verse 3)

Court in heaven: Ancient of Days (God the Father) takes his judgement seat & books are opened (see 9-12)

Son of Man: Comes with the clouds of heaven. Presented to the Ancient of Days. To him was given dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom shall not be destroyed (v13&14)

Correspondence: Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies your footstool (Ps 110v1).

Son of Man comes in gloryholy angels with Him...will sit on the throne of His glory. All nations gathered before Him...He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats (Matt 25v31-35)

Other refs: Revelation 13 & 19. Note, **Daniel** key to understanding Revelation. Revelation reveals Christ!

Takeaways: Depicts end of Great Tribulation when Christ returns. He triumphs over the antichrist & his kingdom & sets up His everlasting kingdom. Believers won't be in the tribulation but they will reign with Him (see Dan 7v18). Note: physical future kingdom, not spiritual (not the church)

MESSIAH THE PRINCE: Timing (70th week)



Key Texts: Ch 9v24-27	Key Cross Ref: Matt 21v1-9 Matt 24v15	Key Theme: Christ cut off & antichrist rule	Time Ref: Then (temple build), Cross & Tribulation	What we find: Timetable for Coming Christ
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Exact Timing: 70 weeks is 490 years (week = 7 years). From decree to rebuild Jerusalem by Artaxerxes (Ezra 7v 11-18) **until Messiah the Prince shall be 69 weeks (7wks+62wks)....****Messiah shall be cut off.....then he (antichrist) shall confirm a covenant (with Israel) for one week (70th week, 7 year tribulation) but in the middle of the week he shall bring to an end sacrifice & offering, and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate.....** until the consummation, which is determined is poured out on the desolate (Antichrist rules until Christ judges & destroys him at the end of the tribulation). **Follows Daniel finding prophecy of Jeremiah** in 9v2 (Jer 25v1-11, 29v1-10) which describes end of captivity of the nation in Babylon after 70 years.

NT Ref: Scholars calculate 69 weeks coincides exactly with **Jesus riding into Jerusalem (Matt 21v1-9)** – He would then be rejected and crucified (cut off). Lord Jesus make specific reference in Matt 24v15 **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place....”**

Takeaways: Complicated maths but point is **God has a precise timetable** concerning the Lord Jesus Christ’s 1st & 2nd coming. When He (Lord Jesus) ‘**knew his hour was come**’ that He should depart out of this world.... (Jn 13v1). **God keeps his Word which he has told in advance.**
Great **reward to find Christ in Daniel** (& Revelation).
Lord Jesus quotes Daniel & so commends him to us for our study.

Close

Find Christ through prophecy & prefigures (Christophany, type, shadow, pattern, copy, parable....etc)

Enthusiasm to study scripture & see Christ & His Glory – the big picture – continuity of revelation

Desire to get to know Christ better - not just facts about Him (knowledge without love puffs up!)

Motivation to live well *‘What we really believe determines how we really behave’* (P. Weaver)

Tips & Tools:

Read scripture regularly & widely. At same time **study a Bible book** noting cross references.

Pray for God to reveal His truth & help to put it into practice. If possible, use a **wide margin Bible** and make notes as you go. Include diagrams and sketches if that helps! (Thin point technical pen & highlighters are great to mark out patterns, key verses etc.) Use a **cross-reference Bible** and good **concordance**. Strong's references help understand words. Lastly, after above, refer to good **commentaries** to see if what you have found ties up with the commentator. (Ask others for recommendations if not sure where to start with commentaries).

Now your turn!

Thanks for Listening

**And beginning at Moses & all the Prophets,
He expounded to them in all the Scriptures
the things concerning Himself**

(Luke 24v27)