

Christ proclaimed through the promises from the OT and proven through the confirmation from the NT.

*The fourth chapter* describes all the Messianic prophecies regarding the birth of Jesus. Hence, Messiah is described as “the seed of the woman” that crushes the head of the serpent; then, as the One who lives in the tents of Shem (“the seed” of Shem); then as “the seed of Abraham”, “the seed of Isaac”, “the star of Jacob”, “Shiloh from Judah” (from Judah’s tribes), “the Shoot of Jesse” and “the seed of David”.

Furthermore, within the same chapter we emphasized that through the Messianic prophecies even Messiah’s birth time, the supernatural characteristic of this birth (born out of a virgin) and the birthplace, in Bethlehem of Judea, were established. Also, the prophecies do not hesitate to announce the most important events that will take place after the Baby Messiah’s birth (the people who will visit Him, the presents brought for Him and even the king’s decision to kill all the children of a close age to his.)

In the *fifth chapter* we highlighted the way in which everything that had been prophesied about Messiah’s activity exactly fulfilled. Within the description of His activity we detailed the roles He had, namely: as King, High Priest (faithful in the order of Melchizedek); Prophet (as Moses), Shepherd of Jewish people, Savior of the mankind, the servant of the Lord and Redeemer.

Within *the sixth chapter* we highlighted both the tragedy of sufferings and the death of Jesus Christ, and the triumph of His resurrection. Therefore, this chapter marks out the sufferings of Messiah (His rejection, the mockery he had to support, the physical suffering and even His right reaction to the suffering), both from the perspective of very detailed promises and their fulfillments.

Also, the same chapter emphasizes the most significant moment lived by the Lord Jesus in the context of his death and burial, all from the perspective of the OT promises and the actual facts from the NT. Later on, we described the promises from the OT regarding the resurrection of Messiah, their reaffirmation (carried out by Jesus Himself) and eventually the confirmation described by evangelists and apostles. The event of the Lord Jesus’ ascension is not overlooked, as later on, the promise of the Holy Spirit’s gift said in the OT would be highlighted, reaffirmed in the NT (by Messiah) and fulfilled in the book of Acts.

*The last chapter* is especially intended for the study of the Messianic prophecies, of the eschatological dimension. Within the same chapter we marked out the most honest expectations regarding the events, such as:

the final judgment and the second coming of the Lord Jesus. Within the description of the second coming we analyzed the relationship between the millenary Kingdom and the moment of Messiah's returning, the relationship between the second coming of Messiah and the great tribulation, respectively, and finally we aimed to highlight the believer's attitude towards these promised eschatological events.

contemporary one. The correlation between the promises and their accomplishments proves that the Bible is the Word inspired by God, the man being incapable to write and fulfill all the prophecies that are described in the Bible;

- Proving the identity of the man Jesus of Nazareth, born out of the Virgin Mary, being the Messiah promised in the OT;

- The accidental accomplishment of the Messianic prophecies is considered to be a disinformation claimed by the skeptics who do not accept the history of Hebrew people only, but rather attempt to cause disorder within the divine creation. The accidental fulfillment of the Messianic prophecies is an unfounded supposition;

- Clear establishment of the place, time and way in which the unfulfilled promises will be accomplished up to this moment, namely those that emphasize the eschatological events.

The main structure of the doctoral thesis

Within each chapter (excepting the introductory one) for every single Messianic prophecy and for a group of prophecies, respectively, I wrote two subchapters: the first one aimed to provide an in-depth analysis of the promise (from the OT) whereas the second one to describe the way to fulfillment. As some of the Messianic prophecies have not fulfilled yet, it is necessary to highlight the preceding events to the accomplishment of the prophecies, and what kind of expectations we ought to have from these prophecies.

*The second chapter* is meant to analyze the main concepts of the Messianic prophecies. Thus, in this chapter we analyzed the following concepts: messianism and messianic waiting (including the way of relating of the man Jesus to Jewish Messianic expectations); Messiah, prophet and prophecy in the OT; Messianic prophecy (including the perspective of rabbinic writings) and the biblical terminology of “fulfillment” both from the OT point of view and the NT one.

*In the third chapter* we focused on those Messianic prophecies that reveal the existence of the Lord Jesus Christ before the embodiment. These prophecies present the Lord Jesus Christ not only as the Messiah promised in the Old Testament prophecies, but especially as God. Moreover, it emphasizes the fact that not only Messiah continued to exist “at the right hand of God” after His ascension, but especially He was preexistent to His embodiment. Therefore, neither His existence began with His birth of the Virgin Mary, nor finished with His physical death on the cross. Within the same chapter we laid special emphasis on the eternity and divinity of Jesus

century, to the prophecies regarding the future events, both with the Israel State and the whole world.

### **The Current Knowledge in the Research Field**

In this chapter we provided a brief presentation of the Messianic prophecies research from the ancient times to the contemporary writers, including the current century. Later on, I mentioned the level of studies conducted in Romanian context, on this topic, noticing that during the last two centuries in Romania less than fifteen volumes on this subject were published.

### **Defining the Goals of the Research**

The present paper aimed, and mostly it managed to be a new step within the study of Messianic prophecies. Approaching the Messianic prophecies both from the perspective of the OT promises and the one of fulfillments reflected in the NT, the present paper intends to evidence that there is a clear connection between the OT and the NT which is not directly carried out (the NT authors did not intend to prove that the OT prophecies are true), but providentially. As we shall notice, the authority of the Scriptures is clearly argued through the details spoken in the OT (hundreds or even thousands of years before) and accomplished during the NT time. Also, the present study intended to be a biblical foundation of Hebrew Messianism and, why not, a concise scriptural basis for the New Testament Christology.

Therefore, in the end of the present paper, I proposed the following objectives to be demonstrated:

- God is the only true God whose knowledge is infinite and whose word is never broken;

- Messiah is preexistent, divine and coeternal with God the Father (God described in the OT) having some specific attributes, namely: King, Prophet, High Priest and thus, the only Savior of the mankind;

- Triune God is the absolute Sovereign, so that all things, events, regardless of their nature (if they are positive or negative) are subordinated to His will, so that nothing of what He orders or permits can occur;

- Through the manner in which they were issued and especially fulfilled, the Messianic prophecies prove their author's, namely God's, authority and sovereignty.

- The biblical message (especially the one transmitted through Messianic prophecies) is authentic and relevant for every society, particularly for the

God's existence. Furthermore, it was mentioned that the Messianic prophecies present the major historical events of humanity before they occur; thereby an additional argument is being brought for the existence of God and mostly for the description of His character.

Perfect congruence between the Old and New Testament highlighted by the Messianic prophecies, on the one hand through the promises from the OT and, on the other hand through their fulfillment presented in the NT. In addition, it can be easily noticed that the importance of this topic, Messianic prophecies, increases in direct ratio with the lapse of time, taking into account the fact that many of them are still waiting for their fulfillment. The relevance of Messianic prophecies is even emphasized by the fact that the whole history depends on them, and notably the history of Jewish revolves around them. Everything that is going to happen to the State of Israel should not be considered as something new to those who study the OT prophecies.

### **Supporting the Chosen Topic**

The main reason that led me to choose this topic is represented by the current situation, namely the way through which the false liberal theologies perceive the concept of Messianic prophecy in a particular way, and in general, the one of prophecy. From the liberal theologians' point of view, many, if not all of the messianic prophecies are perceived merely as some predictions that can be either true or not, and before trusting them they need to be passed through the "filter" of reason. For instance, it is claimed that it is impossible that Messiah would have been born out of a virgin, as this matter is irrational; whereas others even hold the belief that the evangelists Matthew and Luke invented the birth of a virgin in order to cover the illegitimate birth of Jesus. Additionally, it is claimed that divinity was attributed to the Lord Jesus after the Council of Nicaea in the fourth century. Similar to the liberal theologies, during the last decades, volumes and libelous studies concerning the identity of Jesus of Nazareth are published. Also, concerning the resurrection of Jesus Christ during the twentieth century, different books were brought out, having the main purpose of disputing the identity of Jesus as the Messiah. The present paper aims to bring a counterargument to these false theologies.

A second reason was to find out exactly the way how Messiah was foretold dozens, hundreds and even thousands of years before the embodiment and especially the way we have to relate, at the beginning of the twenty-first

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# **MESSIANIC PROPHECIES: PROMISES, FULFILLMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS REGARDING THE PROMISES ABSTRACT**

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## **Keywords:**

Messianic prophecies; promise vs. fulfillment; the genealogy of Messiah; the attributes of Messiah; the activity, the suffering, the death and the resurrection of Messiah; Messiah's preexistence; Messiah's eternity; expectations regarding the unfulfilled prophecies.

## **Introduction**

Throughout the ages, among all the personalities of universal history Jesus Christ makes Himself conspicuous, as apart from His, nobody else's life was ever described with exact details, from birth to death, and it had been done thousands of years before His birth. These aspects were expressly proclaimed through the Messianic prophecies. By studying Biblical prophecies in general, we will notice the way in which they stood out throughout the time, due to the way they wrote history before it even happened.

The Messianic prophecies analyzed in the present paper are not considered to be ordinary provisions that accidentally took place in history, but through the accuracy they were transmitted and unrolled, proves that the whole Universe is in control of a Master whom the Bible calls God.

## **The Importance of Studying the Messianic Prophecies**

Over the introductory chapter, it was highlighted that the Messianic prophecies from the OT have a deep apologetic content due to the fact that the majority of them were spoken long before the fulfillment, therefore their aim is both to strengthen the recipients' faith (for those who already believe) and to make aware the skeptics of having no basis to believe in