

Messiah in the Tanach, 01



A Short Course for Men

What is a 'messiah'?

The LORD! His adversaries will be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king and exalt the power of his anointed." 1 Samuel 2:10

- **Anointed:** Mašîaḥ (מָשִׁיחַ), Christ (ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ).
- **Whom:** Kings, priests, prophets.

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Basic approaches to messianic prophecies.
Pages 27-33

The Messianic Hope: Is the Hebrew Bible Really Messianic? (NAC Studies in Bible & Theology, 2010). by Michael Rydelnik (Author), E. Ray Clendenen (Series Editor)



Messianic prediction in the Tanakh

- The origin of Jewish messianic (hope) speculation in the 2nd temple period.
- A biblical apologetic for Messiah Jesus.
- To assure Christians that the Tanakh (OT) is the inspired Word of God.
- To identify Jesus as the true Messiah.
- To affect how we understand inspiration and interpretation of the Bible.

Matthew (NRSVue)

34 "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see..."

- **One to come:** Malachi 3:1.
- **Another:** Popular expectation.
- **See & hear:** Eye-witness evidence.

Matthew (NRSVue)

11¹⁰ It is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ... **13** All the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John came.

- **Written:** Malachi 3:1
- **Messenger:** Referring to John B.
- **Prophesied:** Fulfillment time has come.

Malachi 3 (NRSVue)

1 I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord [**'adôn**] whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom[**which**] you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts.

- **'adôn:** 'YHWH said to my lord' Ps 110¹

Luke (NRSVue)

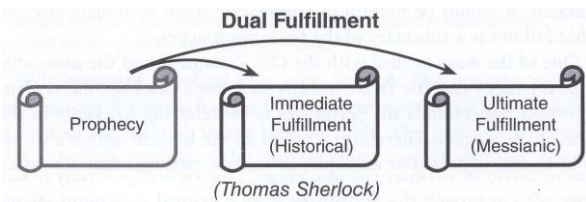
24⁴⁴ “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

- **Written:** Formula = Scripture
- **About me:** Messianic claim
- **Fulfilled:** Past, present, future?



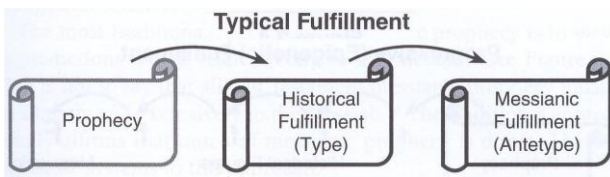
(Anthony Collins, Critical Scholars)

- All prophecies refer to events in the time of the prophets.
- Prophecies refer to historical figures.
- Old Testament messianic prophecy teaches that Christianity is the *outgrowth of history* not the *fulfillment of prophecy*.



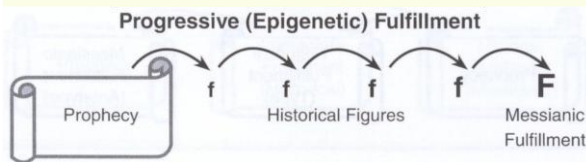
(Thomas Sherlock)

- Also known as “*Sensus Plenior*” (fuller sense).
- There are two fulfillments, one referring to an immediate historical figure and the second referring to the Messiah.
- The Divine author may have an added meaning that the human author did not intend.



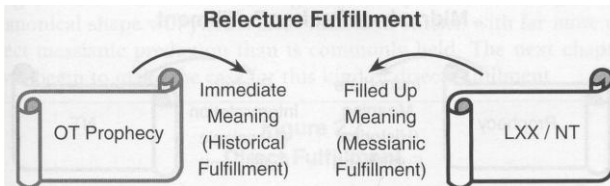
(Aage Bentzen)

- The literal meaning refers to a historical figure.
- The historical figure is a type of the Messiah (or something related to his life).
- The type/antitype is the messianic sense of the Hebrew Bible seen in the New Testament



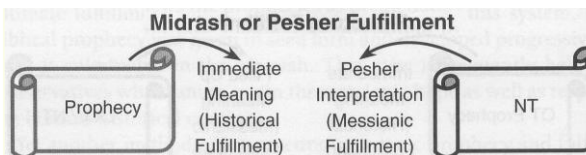
(Willis Beecher, Walter Kaiser)

- There is but one, single meaning of the passage and it is the meaning the author intended.
- The prophecy is given in seed form and grows progressively, with various historical figures, into the ultimate intended Messianic fulfillment.



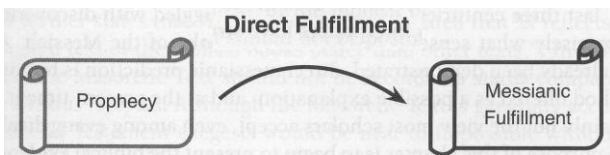
(R. E. Clements, P. D. Wegner)

- The literal prophecies refer to historical figures in the prophet's own day.
- Prophecies were re-read later (LXX translators, New Testament authors) in new ways so they have new meanings.
- The new readings “fill up” the original meaning with a messianic sense.



(R.L. Longnecker, Donald Juel)

- The literal prophecies refer to historical figures in the prophet's own day.
- Prophecies were interpreted according to the intertestamental Jewish method called Midrash or Peshet.
- Midrash or Peshet interprets ancient passages in a creative way to show their fulfillment in contemporary events.
- New Testament writers can do this under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.



Dogmatic/Confessional Approach (E. W. von Hengstenberg)

- The prophecies of the Hebrew Bible are read through the New Testament.
- The New Testament is the final arbiter for the meaning of messianic prophecy and fulfillment.
- There is not much concern for the literary context or the original audience.