

How Could the Messiah Die, He's Supposed to Reign Forever?

By Karen Sue Nyquist

1. **What do the scriptures say about the Messiah?** They describe two different ways the Messiah would arrive and two different roles He would fulfill.

2. **THE MESSIAH'S FIRST COMING AS THE SUFFERING SERVANT** - "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth *are* from of old, From everlasting ... Until the time *that* she who is in labor has given birth;" (Micah 5:2-3).

The Messiah has existed from everlasting but will be born in Bethlehem. Prophecy Fulfilled: Angels announce Jesus' birth, "For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ (*Messiah*) the Lord" (Luke 2:1-11).

"Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He *is* just and having salvation, Lowly and riding on a donkey," (Zechariah 9:9). **The Messiah will reveal Himself to Israel by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. Prophecy Fulfilled:** Jesus rode one into Jerusalem and was hailed as "The Son of David" - the Messiah (Matthew 21:1-11).

3. **The Angel Gabriel told Daniel that the Messiah would be killed.** - "The Messiah shall be cut off, (*killed*) but not for Himself; And the people (*Rome*) of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city (*Jerusalem*) and the sanctuary (*temple*)" (Daniel 9:26).

4. **Why would the Messiah be killed?** - "For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken ... All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; ... And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ... He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter ... Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put *Him* to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, ... By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for transgressors" (Isaiah 53:5-12). **Prophecy Fulfilled:** Jesus continued praying for others, even during His crucifixion. "Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them, for they do not understand what they are doing'" (Luke 23:34). "And by His stripes we are healed," (Isaiah 53:5) **Prophecy Fulfilled:** The stripes refer to the whipping or scourging that Jesus experienced just before He was crucified (Mark 15:15). Read Isaiah 52:13-53:12

for a more complete picture. **Prophecy Fulfilled:** "For (*Jesus*) Christ our Passover (*Lamb*) was sacrificed for us" (I Corinthians 5:7). "Knowing that you were not redeemed by corruptible things ... but by the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot; Who truly was fore-known before the foundation of the world, but was manifested in these last times for your sakes" (I Peter 1:18-20).



5. **How would the Messiah be killed?** - Jesus explained about His upcoming death, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent (*on the stake*) in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up (*on the cross*), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:14-15). David had described the Messiah's death. "For dogs (*mockers, unbelievers*) have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. They pierced My hands and My feet (*The nails pierced Jesus' hands and feet.*); I can count all My bones. (*During crucifixion many bones pop out of joint, so they can be seen through the skin.*) They look and stare at Me. They divide My garments among them, And for My clothing they cast lots (*The soldiers cast lots for His clothing.*)" (Psalm 22:16-18). **Prophecy Fulfilled:** Jesus' crucifixion is described in Mark 15:1-38. While on the cross, Jesus quoted Psalm 22:1 helping those watching His death understand He was the Messiah. Many did understand what they had just done for "the whole crowd ... beat their breasts" showing deep regret and fear (Luke 23:48). Compare Psalm 22 with Mark 15.

6. David prophesied the Messiah's resurrection - "For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, Nor will You allow Your Holy One (*the Messiah*) to see corruption (*His body won't decay in the grave.*)" (Psalm 16:10). Jesus declared He had the power to resurrect Himself from the dead. - "Therefore My Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it again. ... I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:17-18).

Prophecy Fulfilled: An angel told them Jesus had risen from the dead (Matthew 28:5-7).

7. David prophesied the Messiah's ascension into heaven. "You (*Jesus*) have ascended on high,...That the Lord God might dwell *there*" (Psalm 68:18). "The LORD (*Jehovah/Yehweh*) said to my Lord (*Jesus Christ*), 'Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool'" (Psalm 110:1). Jesus said, "I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God" (John 20:17). "In My Father's house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also" (John 14 2-3). **Prophecy Fulfilled:** "Now when He (*Jesus*) had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9). Jesus will return the same way He left (Acts 1:11).

8. **THE MESSIAH'S SECOND COMING AS THE RULING KING** - The prophet Daniel called the Messiah, "The Son of Man." "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days (*God*), And they brought Him near before Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom *the one* Which shall not be destroyed" (Daniel 7:13-14).



9. Jesus prophesied His Powerful Return - "He (*Jesus*) asked His disciples, saying, 'Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?' ... Simon Peter answered and said, 'You are the Christ (*Messiah*), the Son of the living God.'" (Matthew 16:13,16). "Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory" (Matthew 24:29-30). "And the high priest answered and said to Him (*Jesus*), 'I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ (*the Messiah*), the Son of God!' Jesus said to him, '*It is* as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven'" (Matthew 26:63-64). **When will Jesus return? He tells us in Matthew 24:3-51. It could be very soon!**

10. **Would you like to know Jesus Christ, God's Messiah? Are you ready to receive Him as Your Messiah and accept His payment for your sins? Suggested Prayer:** Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Messiah. I want to follow You, have my sins forgiven, and have everlasting life with You in heaven. I know I am a sinner, that You died to pay for my sins, then rose again. You are calling me and I want to obey You and follow You. Please, continue to teach me Your way. I accept You as my Lord and Savior. Name _____ Date _____

Now that you have asked Jesus into your life, He will start revealing Himself to you. But to steadily improve your relationship with Jesus, spend time with Him. Start talking (praying) to Him. Read the Bible, where He reveals Himself even more clearly so you can get to know God. Go to a good church where you feel God's presence, they preach and teach the Bible, and you can fellowship with other believers. We learn much about God from each other.

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