

Lesson 2

CLUES FOR THE JEWS TO KNOW JESUS

In Lesson 1 we quoted the apostle John, “He came to that which was His own but His own did not receive Him.” John 1:11. The Jews thought that knowing the Scriptures was enough. But Jesus told the Jews “If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me.” John 5:46. Moses and the prophets and the psalms left a lot of clues the ruling Jews were too blind to see. There are too many clues to include in this lesson. The following are a few of them.

1. (Moses himself gave two strong clues.)

“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You MUST listen to him.” Deuteronomy 18:15; also Genesis 49:10.

2. (A new covenant will replace “Law of Moses”. The new covenant will forgive sins.)

“The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their ancestors when I led them out of Egypt. This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel after that time. I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. They will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest for I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.” Jeremiah 31:31-34. (Paraphrased.)

3. (A child will be born to accomplish all these things.)

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.” Isaiah 9:6-7a.

4. (The descendant from the father of David will have God-given special gifts.)

“A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.
² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.” Isaiah 11:1-3.

5. (God will be the real father. Two passages make that clear.)

“I will be his father, and he will be my son.” 2 Samuel 7:14.
 “You are my son; today I have become your father.” Psalms 2:7.

6. (A sign of the mother’s identity was given by God to Isaiah.)

“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.” Isaiah 7:14.

7. (The place of birth was identified. Ephrathah was a small region of Judah.)

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:2.

8. (Two passages say that the Lord would come during John's lifetime.)
 "I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come, says the LORD Almighty." Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3-5.
9. (Jesus will teach with parables as He did many times.)
 "My people, hear my teaching; listen to the words of my mouth. ² I will open my mouth with a parable; I will utter hidden things, things from of old—³ things we have heard and known, things our ancestors have told us." Psalms 78:1-3.
10. (Jesus calmed the Sea of Galilee when His disciples were afraid.)
 "You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them." Psalms 89:8-9.
11. (Jesus will be a priest forever although he is not Aaron's descendant.)
 "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek." Psalms 110:4.
12. (This prophecy is referred to five times in the New Testament.)
 "The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; ²³ the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes." Psalms 118:22-23.
13. (How could the Jews have missed this one?)
 "Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the tongues of speechless sing for joy." Isaiah 35:5-6.
14. (David says he will be resurrected, but his Lord will see no decay in the tomb.)
 "Therefore my heart is glad and my tongue rejoices; my body also will rest secure, ¹⁰ because you will not abandon me to the realm of the dead, nor will you let your faithful one see decay." Psalms 16:9-10.
15. (If the Jews really knew the scriptures they should have caught this one.)
 "Rejoice greatly, Daughter Zion! Shout, Daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you, righteous and victorious, lowly and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey." Zechariah 9:9.
16. (The Psalmist knew what Judas would do.)
 "Even my close friend, someone I trusted, one who shared my bread, has turned against me." Psalms 41:9.
17. (The price Judas received for betraying Jesus and the resulting potter's field.)
 "So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ And the LORD said to me, 'Throw it to the potter'—the handsome price at which they valued me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them to the potter at the house of the LORD." Zechariah 11:12b-13.
18. (Jesus quoted this one to the apostles before his arrest.)
 "I will strike the shepherd and the sheep will be scattered." Zechariah 13:7.

19. (They taunted Jesus when he was on the cross.)

“All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads.

⁸ ‘He trusts in the LORD,’ they say, ‘let the LORD rescue him.

Let him deliver him, since he delights in him.’” Psalms 22:7-8.

20. (The thirst, the piercing, and the division of garments all foretold.)

“My mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth; you lay me in the dust of death. ¹⁶ Dogs surround me, a pack of villains encircles me; they pierce my hands and my feet. ¹⁷ All my bones are on display; people stare and gloat over me. ¹⁸ They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment.”

Psalms 22:15-18.

21. (How many things are foretold in this one chapter? Try to count them.)

“Who has believed our message and to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? He grew up before him like a tender shoot, and like a root out of dry ground. He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him, nothing in his appearance that we should desire him. ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering, and familiar with pain. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. ⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. ⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away. Yet who of his generation protested? For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgression of my people he was punished. ⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death, though he had done no violence, nor was any deceit in his mouth. ¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD’s will to crush him and cause him to suffer, and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand. ¹¹ After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities. ¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the transgressors, for he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.” Isaiah 53.

22. (What a beautiful summary.)

“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.” Zechariah 12:10.

23. (Where Jesus is now and for how long.)

“The LORD says to my lord: ‘Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet.’” Psalms 110:1 and Psalms 45:6.

Jesus wanted the Jews to turn and let Him heal them and a lot were influenced by John the Baptist, but the ruling class could not accept the change. Jesus said, “This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand. ¹⁴ In them is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah: ‘You will be ever hearing but never understanding; you will be ever seeing but never perceiving. ¹⁵ For this people’s heart has become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them.’” Matthew 13:13-15. Isaiah 6:9-10.

There were many reasons they were blinded and did not want to understand. A few follow:

1. They wanted a powerful king to get rid of Roman control.
2. They did not want a new covenant that would replace the Law of Moses.
3. They could never accept a forever lasting priest from the tribe of Judah.
4. They could not imagine doing away with their form of temple worship.
5. When Jesus said, “Sacrifice and offerings you did not desire, but a body you did prepare for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, ‘Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will. O God.’” Hebrews 10:5-7. Psalms 40:6-8. In their minds that just could not be true.

But, after Jesus’ resurrection, thousands did believe and were baptized. Many more will now, and in the future, if we do not harden our hearts as the ruling Jews did.

Hebrews is a good book to study concerning the change of covenants. It was mainly written to prevent Jewish Christians from being persuaded to return to the Law of Moses. The author states, “We are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved.” Hebrews 10:39.