

2021: Saturday, 9/25 at 4:00 & Sunday, 9/26 at 9:00



Series: Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line?

Signposts for the Messiah

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Scripture: Genesis – Malachi, NAS 1995

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: This is part 3 of the series: **Are You Ready to Cross the Finish Line?** The finish line refers to ✦*your own death* **OR** ✦*the return of Jesus*. Those who are ready to cross are **living in repentance**, so they are ➡acknowledging *sin, hell, and helplessness*, and ➡living with *sorrow for sin and trust in Jesus for eternal life!*

So far in this series we have learned how the world went from **perfection to sin**; then, *on that very day*, **the Messiah was promised**♥! A **proper** response would have been sorrow, trust, and joy, BUT the **actual** response was wickedness. So, many years later, **the LORD caused the worldwide flood**💧!

After the HORRIBLE FLOOD, we would expect *ongoing sorrow, trust, and obedience*, **BUT, instead**, the OT Scriptures tell us about more sin, narrowing, and signposts.

- ✓ More sin: For example: ✦Noah planted a vineyard *and got drunk*, ✦the people *refused to fill the earth*, and ✦Terah, the father of Abram, *worshipped false gods* ([Josh. 24:2](#)), **BUT** the LORD did not forget His promise♥!

- ✓ Narrowing: The LORD first promised the Messiah in Eden, then, *about 2,000 years later*, “the LORD said to Abram... ‘in you all the families of the earth will be blessed’” (Ge. 12:1, 3). Meaning, ***the Messiah will eventually come into the world through your family.***
- ✓ Signposts: Then, *for the next 2,000 years*, God erected many signposts, *which pointed ahead to the coming Messiah!* This sermon will identify some of those signs.

1. **Isaac’s Replacement**: ^{NAU} **Genesis 22:7-9** Isaac spoke to Abraham his father and said... “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide...” [*then—with a ram; and later—with His only Son*] ...Abraham... bound his son Isaac... // Isaac’s willingness to be bound pointed ahead to Jesus’ willingness: “not My will, but Yours be done” (Luke 22:42).
2. **Jacob’s Fourth Son**: Judah; he spoke up to spare the physical life of his brother Joseph (Gen. 37:26), *pointing ahead to us being spared eternally through the Messiah.* Also, Jacob, before he died, said of Judah, “Your father’s sons shall bow down to you” (Gen. 49:8), indicating that of his twelve sons, *the Messiah would come through Judah!*
3. **The Passover**: When it came time for the descendants of Jacob/Israel to leave their slavery in Egypt, *the LORD caused ten plagues to show His power over the false gods of the Egyptians.* Plague ten, *involving the blood of unblemished male lambs*, pointed so clearly to Jesus, ***the Lamb of God***, who, in dying for us, ***set us free eternally!***
4. **The Sacrifices**: God commanded the sacrifices through Moses in **Leviticus chapters 1-7**; why? **To +** make the

people sorry for their sins and † keep pointing them to the coming Messiah and His ultimate, *all-sufficient sacrifice!*

5. **The Sabbath Day and Festivals:** *The weekly sabbath and the seven annual festivals* are explained in [Leviticus chapter 23](#). Each day of rest pointed ahead to the Messiah, *our ultimate rest (Heb. 4)!* The four spring festivals pointed ahead to the Messiah's first coming, *the three fall festivals pointed ahead to His second coming!*
6. **Joshua and Jesus:** After Moses, *Joshua led the twelve tribes of Jacob/Israel into the Promised Land. Why is that significant?* (1) The names **Joshua** and **Jesus** are the same: ☞Yeshua (Hebrew) to English is Joshua; ☞Yeshua to Greek is Ἰησοῦς; ☞Ἰησοῦς to English is Jesus. (2) Joshua leading into the Promised Land pointed ahead to Jesus leading all repentant ones into heaven – *the ultimate Promised Land!*
7. **Samson** ([Judges 13 – 16](#)): His life pointed ahead to the Messiah; *for example:* ♣at times the Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson mightily, and pointed to the Messiah who said, **"THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME"** ([Lk. 4:18](#)); ♣Samson was a God-appointed judge, pointing to Jesus who has been appointed by God to judge the living and the dead; and ♣Samson's defeat of the Philistines, pointed ahead to the Messiah's defeat of our greatest enemies!
8. **David:** Joseph (thru Solomon, [Mt. 1](#)), Mary (thru Nathan, [Lk. 3](#)), and Jesus were David's descendants. The LORD said thru Jeremiah, **"I will raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king (Jer. 23:5).** When it seemed impossible, the LORD enabled David to defeat Goliath, the 9'-6" Philistine warrior, *which pointed ahead to Jesus, the meek Son of God, defeating sin, death, and the devil!*

9. **Isaiah 53**: The chapter points ahead to Jesus, *the Suffering Servant*: †His appearance would not attract us, †He would be despised [*hated*], †He would be pierced for our transgressions and crushed for our iniquities, and †He would be cut off from the land of the living, **YET** He would 😊justify the many and 😊intercede for the transgressors!
10. **The Angel of the LORD**: He is **the very Son of God**, so He is Jesus – *before He put on flesh!* He is mentioned about 50 times in the OT; for example: ☞He stopped Abraham from sacrificing Isaac ([Gen. 22](#)); ☞He stopped Balaam from cursing the descendants of Israel ([Num. 22](#)); ☞He brought the Israelites into the Promised Land ([Judges 2](#)); ☞He won a great victory through Gideon ([Judges 6-7](#)); ☞He appeared to the parents of Samson ([Judges 13](#)); and ☞He struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers ([2 Kings 18-19](#))! Since Jesus had to be a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, David, etc., *the Angel of the LORD sustained that family line* – so, at the right time, *He could become the Messiah!*

Conclusion:

- **Truth** – During the OT, God kept pointing to the Messiah!
- **Relevance** – The Messiah came to remove all sins!
- **Inspiration** – All repentant ones will rejoice in heaven!

Let Us Pray: Dear LORD, even though people keep sinning, You keep calling for repentance and offering the gift of eternal life through Jesus. *Please 📌keep us in Your family and 📌help us to sincerely and successfully reach out to others!*

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