

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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JESUS: PROPHET, PRIEST AND KING

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 God's eternal Spirit, not bounded by time, prophesied through Moses in 1500 B.C. of the coming of a future prophet unto whom all should obey (Deuteronomy 18:15-18). In 528 B.C., the Spirit prophesied through Zechariah of the coming of one who would be both priest and king. (Zechariah 6:12-13). Then, over 500 years later, the same Spirit of truth pointed to Jesus as the one fulfilling all these prophecies, thus filling the offices of prophet, priest and king.

The Spirit-led Peter reminds his listeners of God's promise through Moses that He would raise up a prophet. *“Moses indeed said, ‘A prophet shall the Lord God raise up unto you from among the brethren like unto me; whatsoever he shall speak unto you’ Acts 3:22).* According to Peter, the time now had come, and this prophecy was fulfilled, *“God having raised up his Servant, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from your iniquities” (Acts 3:26).* Therefore, God's Spirit points to Jesus as God's servant, whom God raised up as prophet in the place of Moses.

Whatever this prophet would speak, all were to obey or be destroyed. *“And it shall be, that every soul that shall not hearken to that prophet, shall be utterly destroyed from among the people” (Deut. 18:19. Acts 3:23).* Jesus warns all that we will be judged in the last day by the standard of *“the word that I spake” (John 12:48).*

Abraham saw Jesus' day and rejoiced in it (*John 8:56*). God prophesied of a prophet who would stand in Moses' place, and Jesus fulfilled it (*Acts 3:22-26*). Yet, nowhere in the Old Testament do we read of Abraham, God or Moses seeing or prophesying of the coming of the prophet Mohammed. There is no time for Mohammed to replace Jesus as God's special prophet, for Jesus said, *“Teach them to observe all things whatsoever I commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:18-20).*

Zechariah prophesied of a “branch” growing out of his place and building the temple of Jehovah (Zechariah 6:12). “Zerubbabel” would “finish” the temple of his day (Zechariah 2:9) Zechariah

foresaw God's spiritual temple, the church being built (*I Corinthians 3:16*). In connection with building this spiritual temple, Zechariah adds that the “branch” would fill the offices of “priest” and “king.” God says *“and he shall be a priest upon his throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both” (Zechariah 6:13).*

Jesus not only built His church in the first century, but began to serve as priest, sitting as king upon His throne. *“We have such a high priest, who sat down on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens” (Hebrews 8:1).*

Many today believe that Jesus has not yet set up his kingdom. If Jesus is not king now, sitting on God's throne, then he is not our High Priest. If we have salvation through Jesus, as priest, offering up himself, then Jesus is king NOW! (Hebrews 8:4, 7:12-14, 9:26).

Jesus is God's prophet, not Mohammed. Jesus is serving now as priest and king, not waiting to set up a kingdom. Only Jesus is prophet, priest and king.