

# Roundtable Bible Discussion Series: How Jesus Used the Old Testament



hosted by  
Christadelphians of Champaign County &  
The UIUC Student Chapter of the Christadelphians

## Part 4: How Jesus Used the Prophets In His Teaching

**1. Early in His ministry**, Jesus was already calling upon the prophets' predictions of what he would do and be: Luke 4:16-21 (quoted from Isaiah 61:1-2a). His public declaration that He was the fulfillment of Isaiah's words astonished His hearers. (Cf.: John 7:14-17, Matthew 7:28)

**2. The Beatitudes** in the Sermon On the Mount were derived from OT prophets:

- Matthew 5:4 – see Isaiah 40:1-2
- Matthew 5:6 – see Isaiah 55:1-2
- Matthew 5:7 – see Micah 6:6-8
- Matthew 5:9 – see Isaiah 52:7
- Matthew 5:10 -see Isaiah 66:5

We shouldn't be surprised that He adapted such OT words. Most of Jesus' teaching was not intended to be *new*, but *original* (fresh light on the well-known); greater than novelty, it is the hallmark of genius. (Cf.: Matt.11:29—Jeremiah 6:16, Matt.15:7-9—Isaiah 29:13)

**3. Jesus and parables:**

Matt.13:10-15 – see Isaiah 6:9-10. As Jesus read His Isaiah, He was acutely aware of His own situation: one effort after another seemed to produce nothing. (Cf.: Mark 12:1-9—Isa. 5:1-7)

**4. Teaching the teachers:**

Matt. 21:42 “Have you never read ...” (Psa. 118:22-23)

Matt. 9:13 “Go and learn what this means ...” (Hosea 6:6)

Matt. 21:12-13 “It is written ...” (Isa. 56:7, Jer. 7:11)

Matt. 12:7 “If you had known ...” (Hosea 6:6, 1Sam.15:22)

**5. The Son of Man:**

Jesus' favorite title for Himself (phrase used 81 times in the gospels, always of Jesus).

Origin: Daniel 7:13 – the first reference to Messiah as Son of Man.

Jesus' use in gospels (examples):

- In His earthly ministry: Mark 2:10,28; Mark 7:1-8, 9:9,12; 10:33,45; Mark 14:21; Luke 19:10; Luke 22:48, John 5:27.

- In His suffering and death: Luke 18:31-33; (see Isa. 50:6, 53:5; Psa. 22:16)
- In His exaltation: Luke 17:22,24; Luke 21:36; Luke 22:69; (see Rev.1:13; Rev.14:14)
- In His Second Coming: Matt. 16:27-28; Matt. 26:64; Mark 14:62

## 6. Jesus, Messiah (= Christ = Anointed)

John 1:45, 4:25-26 – Deut. 18:15,18; Isa. 7:14, 53:2; Ezek. 34:23; John 1:41

## 7. Jesus' "Bible Class":

(Luke 24:27) And beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself.

**What did He talk about?** *Maybe* He included:

Gen. 3:15, 12:3; Num. 21:9 (John 3:14); Deut. 18:15 (John 1:45); Psa. 22:1-31; Isa. 7:14 (Matt. 1:23); Isa. 9:1-2 (Matt. 4:15-16); Isa. 42:1-25 (Matt. 12:18-21); Isa. 53:1-12 (Matt. 8:17, Luke 22:37); Dan. 7:13 (Matt. 24:30); Micah 5:2 (Matt. 2:6); Zech. 9:9 (Matt. 21:5); Psa. 110:1-7 (Matt. 22:43-44); Psa. 118:1-29 (Matt. 21:42)

And He certainly wouldn't have missed Daniel 7:13-14:

13 I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of Man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.

(See also verses 18 and 27.)

Excerpt from *Expositor's Bible Commentary*, vol.7, page 91:

"The final outcome of human history will be a return of Adam's race under the rule of the divine Son of Man to loving obedience and subjection to the sovereignty of God, never again to fall away from Him."