

MESSIANIC PROPHECY— ISAIAH PART THREE

Isaiah 29:18-19

"On that day the deaf will hear words of a book, And out of *their* gloom and darkness the eyes of the blind will see.¹⁹ The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel." (NASB)

- The Messiah will open the eyes of the blind and heal the deaf; the poor will rejoice (Matt 11:2-5)

Isaiah 35:5-6

"Then the eyes of the blind will be opened And the ears of the deaf will be unstopped.⁶ Then the lame will leap like a deer, And the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness And streams in the Arabah." (NASB)

- The Messiah will heal the blind, deaf, lame, and mute (Matt 11:2-5; Luke 7:20-23)

"Now when John, while imprisoned, heard of the works of Christ, he sent *word* by his disciples³ and said to Him, "Are You the Expected One, or shall we look for someone else?"⁴ Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you hear and see:⁵ *the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM.*⁶ "And blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."" (Mat 11:2-6 NASB)

Quote from Craig Evans:

According to 4Q521, "Heaven and earth will obey his Messiah and all that is in them will not turn away from the commandments of the holy ones ... for (the Lord) will honor the pious upon the throne of the eternal Kingdom, setting prisoners free, opening the eyes of the blind, raising up those who are bowed down.... For he will heal the wounded, revive the dead, proclaim good news to the poor."

This passage, which contains allusions to Isaiah 26:19 (raising the dead), 35:5-6 (opening the eyes of the blind), and 61:1-2 (proclaiming good news to the poor), parallels Jesus' reply to John the Baptist. Because 4Q521 implies that these wonderful things happen at the time of the Messiah, we may correctly assume that by describing his ministry in the same terms, Jesus was telling John that, yes, indeed he is the Messiah, the "one who is to come." (from *Jesus and Judaism* by Craig Evans¹).

4Q521

Frgs.2 + 4 Col.2¹[. . . For the hea]vens and the earth shall listen to His Messiah²[and all w]hich is in them shall not turn away from the commandments of the holy ones.³Strengthen yourselves, O you who seek the Lord, in His service.

⁴Will you not find the Lord in this, all those who hope in their heart?⁵For the Lord attends to the pious and calls the righteous by name.⁶Over the humble His spirit hovers, and He renews the faithful in His strength.⁷For He will honor the pious upon the th[ro]ne of His eternal kingdom,⁸setting prisoners free, opening the eyes of the blind, raising up those who are bo[w]ed down. (Ps. 146:7-8)]⁹And for[ev]er I shall hold fast [to] those [who h]ope and in His faithfulness sh[all . . .]¹⁰and the frui[t of] good [dee]ds shall not be delayed for anyone¹¹and the Lord shall do glorious things which have not been done, just as He said.¹²**For He shall heal the critically wounded, He shall revive the dead, He shall send good news to the afflicted (Isa. 61:1),**¹³He shall sati[sfy the poo]r, He shall guide the uprooted, He shall make the hungry rich,¹⁴and [. . .] disc[erning ones . . .] and all of them as the ho[ly] ones . . .]¹⁵and [. . .]

¹ <<http://www.wcg.org/lit/jesus/judaism.htm>>

Comparison of Dead Sea Scrolls 4Q521 and Jesus' Response to John the Baptist

Work of the Messiah- 4Q521	Work of the Messiah- Matthew 11:2-5	Old Testament Source
Prisoners freed		Isaiah 61:1
Eyes of blind opened	Blind receive sight	Isaiah 29:18b, 35:5a; 61:1 LXX
Raising up of lame ("bowed down")	Lame walk	Isaiah 35:6a; Isaiah 29:19a
Heal the wounded	Lepers cleansed	Luke 4:25-27; 1 Kings 17:17-24 (dead raised); 2 Kings 5:1-16 (lepers)
	Deaf Hear	Isaiah 29:18a; 35b
Reviving the Dead	Dead raised up	Isaiah 26:19?
Proclaim good news to the poor	Poor have gospel preached to them	Isaiah 61:1

"Who made heaven and earth, The sea and all that is in them; Who keeps faith forever; ⁷ Who executes justice for the oppressed; Who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free. ⁸ The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; The LORD raises up those who are bowed down; The LORD loves the righteous;" (Psa 146:6-8 NASB)

Isaiah 61:1-3

"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD has anointed me To bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to captives And freedom to prisoners; ² To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD And the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³ To grant those who mourn *in* Zion, Giving them a garland instead of ashes, The oil of gladness instead of mourning, The mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified." (NASB)

- The Messiah will would be anointed (Messiah) by the Spirit to fulfill His diverse ministry

Luke 4:14-30

¹⁴ And Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district. ¹⁵ And He *began* teaching in their synagogues and was praised by all. ¹⁶ And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, ¹⁹ TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." ²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" ²⁴ And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. ²⁵ "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; ²⁶ and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, *in the land* of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ And all *the people* in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; ²⁹ and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff. ³⁰ But passing through their midst, He went His way. (NASB)