

Appendix

1. Messianic Scriptures

The following Scripture references are major Messianic prophecies (note: not an exhaustive list):

- Genesis: 3:15; 22:18; 49:10
- Numbers: 23 & 24
- Deuteronomy: 18:15-19
- 1Chronicles: 17:10-14
- Psalms: 2:7-12; 16:1-11; 22:1-31; 80:17; 110:1-7
- Proverbs: 30:4
- Isaiah: 7:1-17; 8:9,10; 9:6,7; 11:1,2; 40:3-5; 42:1-6; 49:1-13; 50:4-9; 52:13-53:12; 61:1-3
- Jeremiah: 23:5,6
- Daniel 9:1-27
- Micah: 5:2
- Zechariah: 11:1-7; 12:10; 13:7
- Malachi: 3:1

2. Propitiation

Propitiation: The word “propitiation” is little understood today, and most modern translations of the Bible use phrases such as, “sacrifice of atonement” or “atoning sacrifice” in its place. Such phrases do not do justice to the true meaning expressed by the original Greek group of related words: *hilaskomai* (verb); *hilasterion* (noun) and *hilasmos* (noun). The use of these words in the New Testament is few, but significant: *hilaskomai* (Lk. 18:13; Heb. 2:17); *hilasterion* (Rom. 3:25; Heb. 9:15); *hilasmos* (1Jn. 2:2; 4:10). For the original writers and readers of the New Testament this word group had very clear meaning:

The uniform acceptance of the word in classical Greek, when applied to the Deity, is the means of appeasing God, or of averting His anger; and not a single instance to the contrary occurs in the whole of Greek literature. (G. Smeaton in Leon Morris, *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, 3rd ed, London, Tyndale, 1998, p.145)

The *hilaskomai* word group signified appeasement of an angry god, it included the act (such as sacrifice) by which the anger of the god was placated and his attitude to the worshipper changed from one of wrath to one of favour. In the New Testament, it refers to the sacrificial act of Jesus in giving His own life to appease God’s anger against the sins of the world. The propitiation achieved by Jesus is unique, because Jesus is both the one making the propitiation (*hilaskomai*) and He is the propitiation (*hilasmos*); Jesus is both the offerer and the offering. Hebrews expresses this truth several times, for instance:

. . . He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (Heb. 9:26)

But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God. (Heb. 10:12)

Propitiation therefore, properly understood, brings together several important doctrinal truths: God’s wrath is directed against the sinful human race; there is enmity between God and humankind; Jesus’ death appeased God’s wrath; by virtue of Jesus’ death, God offers reconciliation to humankind.

Liberal theologians have disdained the evangelical teaching on the doctrine of the wrath of God, and what appears to them the crude and unworthy notion of Jesus’ death appeasing that wrath. Such thinking has had a detrimental influence on the church, and, it would seem, some of the modern translations of the Bible.

Propitiation, it seems to me, is the only English word that properly expresses the true meaning of the *hilaskomai* word group. It would be good for Christians to re-new their acquaintance with this word and add it to their vocabulary - with understanding.

Further Reading:

See under, “Propitiation”; *Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*.

For a full and technical study of the use of the hilaskomai word group see: Chapters V and VI; *The Apostolic Preaching of the Cross*, Leon Morris.

3. Table of Messianic Teaching and Preaching in Acts

Text and Occasion	Subject	OT Quotes/References
Acts 2:14-39 Peter preaches on the Day of Pentecost	The Messiah could not stay in the grave - Jesus' resurrection.	Joel. 2:28ff., Ps. 16:8-11; Ps. 68:18; Ps. 110:1; Ps. 132:11
Acts 3:12-26 Peter preaches following healing of lame man	The Messiah would suffer - Jesus suffered.	Deut. 18:15 A prophet like Moses. Seed of Abraham.
Acts 4:8-12 Peter preaching to the Sanhedrin.	The Messiah rejected - They crucified Jesus, God raised Him from the dead.	Ps. 118:2: The stone rejected by the builders is the chief cornerstone.
Acts 4:24-31 Disciples pray	Request for boldness in face of persecution and opposition to Jesus,	Ps. 2:1,2: The nations gather together against the LORD and His Messiah.
Acts 5:42 Comment on apostles	Daily ... they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Messiah,	
Acts 8:5 Philip goes to Samaria	He preached the Messiah to them.	
Acts 8:29ff Philip meets the Ethiopian	Reading from the prophet Isaiah - who does he speak of? He speaks of Jesus.	Isa. 53:7,8 The sufferings of the Messiah.
Acts 9:20 Saul begins to preach	He preached that the Messiah is the Son of God.	
Acts 10:36 Peter preaching to Cornelius	Peace through Jesus the Messiah, He is Lord of all.	
Acts 13:16ff Paul preaching at Antioch	A Saviour from the seed of David, promises to the fathers fulfilled in Jesus. His rejection, suffering, resurrection.	Ps. 2:7; Isa. 55:3; Ps. 16:10
Acts 16:31 Paul and the Philippian Jailer	Believe on the Lord Jesus the Messiah and you will be saved.	
Acts 17:3 Paul preaching at Thessalonica	He explained and demonstrated that the Messiah had to suffer and rise from the dead. Jesus is the Messiah.	
Acts 18:5 Paul at Corinth	He was compelled by the Spirit and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Messiah.	
Acts 18:28 Apollos (an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, 18:24).	He vigorously refuted the Jews, showing from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.	
Acts 26:22,23 Paul preaches to King Agrippa	Things that Moses and the prophets said would come - the Messiah would suffer, would rise from the dead and proclaim light to Jew and Gentile.	
Acts 28:31 Paul in prison in Rome	Preaching the kingdom of God and teaching the things concerning the Lord Jesus the Messiah.	