

THE PROPHETS WROTE OF GOD'S PLAN / *Romans 1:2*

Paul did not specify the passages from the prophets he had in mind when he wrote of “the gospel [God] promised . . . through his prophets in the Holy Scriptures,” probably because of his reader’s familiarity with those Scriptures. For these early Christians, the Old Testament continued to be their authority, and they knew of many references to God’s plan and the Messiah. Here are several references Paul might have pointed to:

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| Genesis 12:3 | The Messiah would come from Abraham’s line, and through the Messiah “all the families of the earth will be blessed through you.” |
| Psalms 16:10 | The promise of the resurrection given to David: the Messiah, “your godly one” would be resurrected. |
| Psalms 40:6-10 | The Messiah would “take joy in doing your will, my God,” and would accomplish that will so completely as to die on the cross. |
| Psalms 118:22 | The Messiah would be rejected by his own people, but would become the “cornerstone,” the most important part of the church. |
| Isaiah 11:1ff | The Messiah will be the “Branch” that will be “bearing fruit” in the form of believers. “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him.” |
| Isaiah 49:5-6 | The Messiah will gather Israel and be a light for the Gentiles. |
| Zechariah 9:9-11 | The Messiah would come to his people “riding on a donkey,” which he did in his Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem. |
| Zechariah 12:10 | The Messiah would be “pierced” on the cross, and many would mourn his death. |
| Malachi 4:1-5 | The Messiah’s arrival will be heralded by one like the “prophet Elijah,” who was to be John the Baptist. |