

Tips for Studying Prophecy

1. Investigate the context.

- Study the historical background of the time period when the prophecy was given.
- Understand who the key people are in the setting.
- Regarding the Psalms, King David had appointed Levitical musicians who prophesized with song. (1 Chronicles 25:1,2,5)

2. Study common Hebrew terms and concepts.

- Read the Text in multiple translations.
- Make use of Blue Letter Bible and other books and online study tools.
- <https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/encyclopedia-of-the-bible/Prophets-Prophecy>

3. Analyze Prophetic Language and Imagery

- Look for recurring themes in prophecy, such as judgment, redemption, and covenant.
- Prophets point out man's failure to keep the Old Covenant and give hope for a New Covenant to come.
- Watch for *prophetic idiom*: using descriptions and illustrations applicable to the historical listener to describe future events.
- Look for dual fulfillments. There was often a present-day application as well as a hint of things to come.

4. Watch for ways in which the New Testament Scriptures cite, allude to, or echo the Prophets

- Luke 24:44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."
- Look for cross references.

Some Messianic Psalms and New Testament Fulfillments

Psalm 2:1-2	Rulers plot against Him	Acts 4:25-28
Psalm 2:7	You are my Son	Matt. 3:17, Mark 1:11
Psalm 8:6	All authority is given to Him	Matt. 28:18, Hebrews 2:6-8
Psalm 16:8-10	He would not be held by death.	Acts 2:25-28
Psalm 31:5	“Into your hand, I commit my spirit”	Luke 23:46
Psalm 34:20	Not one bone would be broken.	John 19:33
Psalm 35:11	False witnessed against Him	Mark 14:57
Psalm 35:19	Hated without a cause	John 15:25
Psalm 40:7-8	He came to do the will of God.	Hebrews 10:7
Psalm 41:9	Betrayed by a friend	Luke 22:47-48
Psalm 45:8-9	Rule on an eternal throne	Heb. 1:8-9
Psalm 69:9	Zeal for your house has consumed me.	John 2:17
Psalm 69:21	Sour wine to drink	John 19:28-29
Psalm 78:2	Jesus would speak in parables.	Matt. 13:35
Psalm 102:25-27	The Creator will not pass away.	Hebrews 1:10-12
Psalm 110:1	The Lord says to my Lord	Matt. 22:44
Psalm 110:4	Priest after the order of Melchizedek	Hebrews 5:6
Psalm 118:22	Rejected stone becomes the cornerstone	Matt. 21:42
Psalm 118:26	Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!	Matt. 21:9, Mark 11:9, Luke 13:35, 19:38, John 12:13

* For a more in-depth look at Messianic Prophecy, I recommend *The Moody Handbook of Messianic Prophecy Studies and Expositions of the Messiah in the Old Testament* by Michael Rydelnik and Edwin Blum.

* ESV Study Bible - Old Testament Passages Sited in the New Testament

<https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-study-bible/chart-ot-nt-passages/>