



A Savior's Promise

Christ points to the prophecies in the Old Testament and says, "I Am the One."

*Are you who you are?
What promises are you
making and fulfilling?*

PRAYERS

OPENING PRAYER—"ISAIAH DANCE THY JOY":

"O Isaiah dance thy joy, for a virgin is with Child, and hath born a Son Emmanuel, both God and Man, and Orient is His name, whom magnifying we call the Virgin blessed."

CLOSING PRAYER—FROM THE DIVINE LITURGY:

"O Christ our God, Who at all times and in every hour in heaven and on earth are worshipped and glorified; Who are longsuffering, merciful and compassionate; Who love the just and show mercy on sinners; Who call all to salvation through the promise of good things to come; O Lord in this hour receive our supplications and direct our lives according to Your commandments. Sanctify our souls, purify our bodies, correct our thoughts, cleanse our minds; deliver us from all tribulation, wrath and distress. Surround us with your Holy Angels, so that guided and guarded by them, we may attain to the unity of the faith and to the knowledge of Your unapproachable glory. For You are blessed unto ages of ages. Amen."

PASSAGES

Isaiah 7:10-14: The Lord sent another message to Ahaz "Ask the Lord your God to give you a sign. It can be from deep in the world of the dead or from high up in heaven." Ahaz answered, "I will not ask for a sign. I refuse to put the Lord to the test." To that Isaiah replied, "Listen, now, descendants of King David. It's bad enough for you to wear out the patience of people—do you have to wear out God's patience too? Well then, the Lord himself will give you a sign a young woman who is pregnant will have a son and will name him 'Immanuel.'"

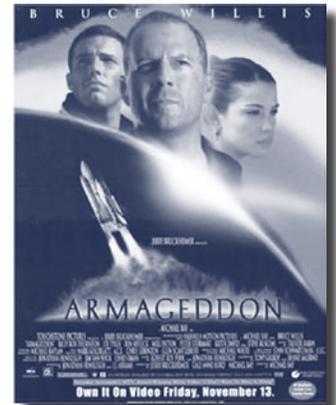
Exodus 3:13-14: But Moses replied, "When I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors sent me to you,' they will ask me, 'What is his name?' So what can I tell them?" God said, "I am who I am. You must tell them 'The one who is called I AM has sent me to you.'"



PRAXIS

Within the liturgical calendar of our Orthodox Church, we hear readings from the Old Testament only at certain services, such as:

- Festal Vespers on the eve of the major feast days of Christ and the Theotokos.
- Festal Vespers on the eve of feasts of several Great Saints.
- Pre-sanctified Liturgies (during Great Lent.)



Our Return to Eden: In Genesis 3:23-24 we read that God sent Adam out of the Garden of Eden to till the ground and placed a flaming sword to guard the way to the Tree of Life. In hymn, St. John of Damascus says, "The middle wall of partition of the ancient enmity is now laid low and destroyed by Thy coming in the flesh, O Christ, and the flaming sword now gives way before all who approach. And I partake in faith of the life-giving tree in Eden, becoming once again a husbandman of immortal plants."

PATRISTICS

St. John of Kronstandt: "If you indeed call God your Father, then trust in him as the one Father, most merciful, all-powerful, most wise, ever-loving, ever perfect. Trust in Him in respect of the blessings of this temporal life, but above all, in respect of the future blessings which shall be granted you in Christ Jesus. But as through the love of the heavenly Father for you, you have become a child of God. For you have come forth from Him endowed with reason and free will; so on your part you should make every effort to reach that blessed and eternal heavenly inheritance as promised by Him."

Bishop Kallistos Ware writes, "I am to see the Bible as God's personal letter sent specifically to myself. ... Whenever we open our Bible, we are engaging in creative dialogue with the Savior."

PARTICIPATION

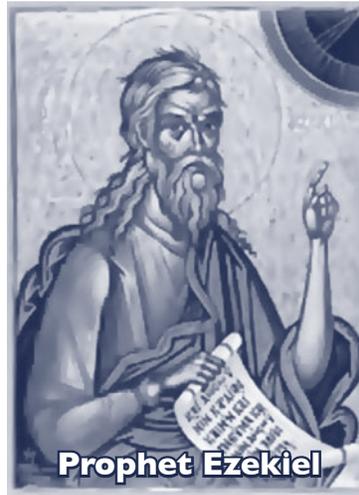
Read the Old Testament regularly, talk with your priest about the various meanings of the prophecies, and attend church services especially when there are readings from the Old Testament.

Construct a chart of prophets, what they prophesized, and how Christ fulfills them.

Visit the Bible Gateway web site, where you can search scripture in many languages and translations:

<http://www.biblegateway.com>.

Read pertinent passages from the Bible.



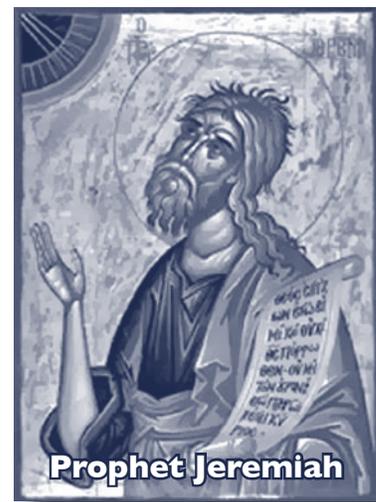
Prophet Ezekiel



Prophet Jonah



Christ the Teacher



Prophet Jeremiah



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