

Sam Rood, "Jews for Jesus"

Messianic prophecy ... patterns

1st Messianic prophecy - Genesis 3:15

- a son is favored
- cast down
- and finally lifted up

The fall and rise of the Beloved Son, starts with sibling rivalry

- **Cain and Abel:** Gen 4:4-5 - Two brothers are born, but the Lord favored Abel. Cain was the older one who was supposed to be the favored son. Abel is favored and Cain is angry. Cain murders Abel (cast down).
- **Another child in place of Able:** Gen 4:25-26 - God granted me another child in place of Abel. In this culture children are seen as an extension of oneself. When we are older the children take care of us, especially the favored son. Eve recognises this as a rebirth of Abel. Abel is raised up.
- **Isaac favored:** Gen 21:10-12 - enmity continues between the favored son and the other son. Sarah wants her son to be favored but Abraham wants Ishmael to be favored. God reassures Abraham that Isaac will be the favored one.
- **Isaac cast down:** Gen 22:2-10 - God tells Abraham to sacrifice his only son. Abraham was used to the idea of God receiving the sacrifice of the favored son. The Torah commands that a ransom be paid for the firstborn son. For Abraham when God tells him to sacrifice his only son this was to be expected. Abraham had to trust God because God said that the promise would come through Isaac. This sacrifice seemed to be in conflict, but Abraham trusted that God would reconcile this.
- **Isaac raised up:** Gen 22:11-14 - God rescues Isaac.
- **Jacob is favored:** Gen 25:23-28 - God says there are two nations in Rebekah's womb. One will be stronger. The elder (Esau) will serve the younger. This initiates a rivalry.
- **Jacob cast down into exile:** Gen 27:42-45 - Rebekah realizes Esau wants to kill Jacob. Rebekah tells Jacob he must flee or one son would be killed and the other sent into exile just like Cain and Abel. She says Jacob will only be away for a few days, but in reality he was gone for decades. Rebekah will never see her son again.
- **Jacob raised up:** Gen 33:4-9 - Jacob meets Esau. For decades Jacob was estranged from Esau. He now had to flee Laban, but he was dreading more and more this encounter with Esau. He was shocked to recognize a reconciliation.
- **Joseph favored:** Gen 37:3-4 - A favoring of the younger son which displaces the elder children and results in sibling rivalry.
- **Joseph cast down:** Gen 37:19-24 - The brothers initial intent was to kill Joseph, but they decided to send him into slavery instead.

- **Joseph raised up:** Gen 45:3-15, Gen 46:29-30 - The enmity was so strong that the brothers could not even speak a word to him. This is also the raising up of Jacob (46:29) - life from the dead. His father and his brothers were transformed.

**The pattern continues:** Israel is cast out (Egypt) but God restores them. Israel is cast out again (70 AD), but God says they will be rescued.

No sooner does God announce the favor of Jesus, He is cast out to the wilderness and tormented by Satan. He will suffer and die. Again the pattern continues as Jesus is raised up.

The Bible story of the fall and rise of the beloved son gives meaning to our lives. Just because we are cast out doesn't mean we are lost. God will raise us up, if we trust Him through the dark time.

Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up. James 4:10

Because Jesus was cast down and lifted up, when we believe in Him we are lifted up. The Gospel is a message of hope to those who are cast down --share it!!

The world needs to hear about Jesus, because, if we believe in Him, we will be lifted up! He is Risen. Amen!