

11. The prophetic guidelines contained in Scripture that are specifically related to the Messiah – His lineage, His accomplishments, and His Person – are made available for the sole purpose of providing infallible evidence of His authenticity.
12. Thus, the ID test is found in the Bible. The Messiah/Christ must fulfill each and every one with none being excepted. Find that personality and you will have identified the God/Man Savior.

Messianic Clues: Old Testament

1. The question to be resolved is not one to be discussed among the curious from human viewpoint or from biased reasoning. What we seek is verification, not debate.
2. The search must begin at the beginning. First there must be a need for a Savior before one would be required. That takes us back to the fall in Eden when God confronted the three guilty parties: Lucifer, Ishah, and Adam.
3. The culprit to be addressed first is Lucifer who tempted Ishah to eat the forbidden fruit. Secondly, the woman who, from power lust, submitted to the devil's propaganda – "You will be like God," and, finally, Adam, who as the responsible party violated the divine mandate and ate the offered fruit.
4. Note the process: **(1)** Thesis: status quo perfection, followed by **(2)** antithesis: rebellion creating the chaos of a fallen environment, culminating in **(3)** synthesis, the angelic conflict.
5. The process is documented in Scripture:
Genesis 3:14 - "The Lord said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you will go, and dust you will eat all the days of your life."

6. The combatants in the angelic conflict are now revealed:

Genesis 3:15 - “And I will put enmity between you [Lucifer] and the woman [Eve], and between your seed and her seed [Messiah/Christ]; He shall bruise you on the head [2d Advent: Messiah/Christ will seize global authority from Lucifer], and you shall bruise him on the heel [First Advent: crucifixion of Messiah/Christ].”

7. This verse indicates that the commencement of procreation will, in time, produce a victor over Lucifer resulting in his removal as the ruler of this world to be replaced by Messiah/Christ.
8. This puts in place the necessity to discover the person that fulfills the prophecy: that Someone will crush Lucifer on the head and rob him of his authority over this world.
9. In Genesis 11:31, God instructs Abram to leave his home in “Ur of the Chaldeans”:

Genesis 12:31 - Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran, his grandson, and Sarai his daughter-in-law, his son Abram’s wife; and they went out together from Ur of the Chaldeans in order to enter the land of Canaan; and they went as far as Haran, and settled there.

10. That it was Abram who was instructed to leave Ur is indicated by the Abrahamic Covenant which was unconditionally directed to Abram in:

Genesis 12:1 - Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go forth from your country, and from your relatives and from your father’s house, to the land which I will show you;

v. 2 - I will make you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great; and so you shall be a blessing;

v. 3 - and I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.

11. “Unconditional” puts it in the divine decree therefore; it is directed to Abram who is the beneficiary without merit.
12. Principle: An unconditional covenant indicates that it is a prophecy committed to by God and guaranteed to the recipient. It will be revealed in a subparagraph that Abram will become the bloodline of the Messiah/Christ’s true humanity.
13. This is the blessing that is promised to Abram and by application to every person that ever lives. The blessing, it will be later disclosed, is the vicarious sacrifice of the Messiah/Christ for the gift of salvation to anyone that believes in Him through faith alone.
14. This takes us to Genesis 15. It is in this passage that Abram is told that he will personally sire a son:

Genesis 15:1 - After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, “Do not fear, Abram, I am a shield to you; your reward shall be very great.”

v. 2 - Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, since I am childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”

15. Merrill F. Unger gives us some information about the identity of Eliezer \el-ī-ē-zer\:

Divine encouragement was designed to enable Abram to face this burning question upon which the covenant promise hinged. Abram had followed the common Mesopotamian custom, archaeologically well attested, of childless couples adopting an heir. It was stipulated, however, that if a natural son were subsequently born, he would replace the adopted son as heir. God’s reassurance was offered in the context of the customary law of the period 2000 to 1500 B.C.

It was one thing to trust God for a son and an heir when he was young; it was another thing to believe when he and Sari had grown old. But God declared explicitly that not Eliezer but Abram’s very own son would be his heir. This shall not be thine heir; but he shall come forth out of thine own loins.¹

¹ Merrill F. Unger, *Unger’s Commentary on the Old Testament*, (Chicago: Moody Press, 1981), 1:60

16. Further confirmation is given to Abraham in:
Genesis 18:18 - Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and in him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.
17. Note that the prophecy relates at this point to nations that are to be blessed. However, between chapters 15 and 18, Abraham at age 86, did sire a son, but out of wedlock with Sarai's housemaid named Hagar, the son being named Ishmael. (Genesis 16:15-16)
18. It is in the sixteenth chapter that Ishmael is born. The Lord commanded Abram to change Sarai's name to Sarah which means "princess." (Genesis 17:15).
19. In chapter 17, the Lord changes the names of Abram and Sarai to Abraham ("father," v. 5) and Sarai to Sarah ("princess," v. 15).
20. Ishmael will sire twelve sons of his own, promised to him by the Lord in Genesis 17:20 and listed by name in:
Genesis 25:12 - Now these are the records of the generations of Ishmael, Abraham's son whom Hagar the Egyptian, Sarah's maid, bore to Abraham;
v. 13 - and these are the names of the sons of Ishmael, by their names, in the order of their birth: Nebaioth, the firstborn of Ishmael, and Kédar and Ádbēel and Míbsam
v. 14 - and Míshma and Dúmah and Mássa,
v. 15 - Hádad and Téma, Jétur, Náphish and Kédemah.
21. Also in chapter 17, the Lord informs Abraham and Sarah that they will produce a son named Isaac who will also produce twelve sons.
Genesis 17:16 - "[the Lord] will bless her, and indeed I will give you a son by her. Then I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her."

22. Abram was incredulous upon hearing this news. He was ninety-nine years old and would be an even one hundred at the child's birth. In disbelief, Abraham pled to the Lord that Ishmael could be his heir:

Genesis 17:17 - Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man one hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?"

v. 18 - And Abraham said to God, "Oh that Ishmael might live before You!"

v. 19 - But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife will bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac [he laughs]; and I will establish My covenant with him for an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.

23. This promise of "an everlasting covenant" to the yet to be conceived Isaac extends the Messianic line indefinitely. Anyone who claims to be the Messiah and is not in the line of Isaac is lying and may be immediately discarded as a legitimate pretender to the throne of Israel.
24. In chapter 28, Isaac commissions his son Jacob to continue the line of Messiah. Jacob had twelve sons recorded in Genesis 29:32-30:24; 35:18: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah; Dan, Naphtali, Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulun, Joseph; Benjamin.
25. But eleven of them will be excluded from the Messianic line leaving only Judah remaining.
26. In Genesis 49, Jacob, now known as Israel, gathered his twelve sons around his deathbed to give them his final remarks.
27. Israel addresses each one in the order of their birth from Reuben to Benjamin. What he says to Judah isolates the Messianic line through the tribe of Judah:

Genesis 49:8 - "Judah, your brothers shall praise you; your hand shall be on the neck of your enemies; your father's sons shall bow down to you.