

Lesson 121

The Messiah Has Come

God is faithful to keep his promises.

Studying God's Word

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Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Introduction

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. We have used the Seven C's of History to help us remember some of the major events in the past.

Who can name the first four C's in the Old Testament? Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, and Confusion. Briefly review these events.

Remember, those first four events all took place in the first book of the Bible, Genesis. As we continued through the Old Testament, we saw how God chose Abraham and his descendants, the Israelites, to be his people and how he delivered them from slavery in Egypt and gave them the promised land. Then we learned how they were ruled by judges and kings and were led into sinful idolatry and rebellion against God. We saw how God punished them and allowed enemies to conquer and scatter them but then allowed them to return to their land later. And through it all, God taught the people about their sin problem and promised to provide a way for them to be forgiven.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. At the end of the Old Testament, we looked at Malachi's message of hope from God. He spoke about a messenger who would come one day to prepare the way for the Messiah, the Savior.

Who was that messenger? John the Baptist.
How many years did the people wait after hearing Malachi's message of hope? It's the number of years between the end of the Old Testament and the beginning of the New Testament. 400 years.

Have the paper strips, stapler, and tape ready, or prepare two separate paper chains before class.

To begin our lesson, I'm going to give each of you a strip of paper. There are two colors. Your job is to work together to make two chains, one of each color. Allow students to curl and staple their paper strips together to make two different-colored paper chains to represent the Old and New Testaments. Or to save time, use the chains you made before class. Save the "Jesus" strip until later in the lesson to connect the two chains.

Tape one chain to the board, allowing one end to hang loose, and label it "Old Testament." We've been studying the Old Testament for quite a while. We've seen how many events link together like a chain and connect the first 4,000 years of history! Tape the New Testament chain next to the first chain, allowing one end to hang loose, and label it "New Testament." Now we're ready for the New Testament.

Some people think you don't need to bother reading the Old Testament because it's so old. But it's important to remember that the whole Bible is God's Word.

It's true that the Bible is separated into two parts, like these chains. But what if these two chains should be together as one long chain? What do we need in order to create one long chain? Allow answers.

I'd have to find something to connect the chains, wouldn't I? It's the same way with the Bible. There's a special connection between the Old Testament and the New Testament—and that's what we'll be looking for today. Depending on your students' familiarity with the books of the Bible, you may want to have your students find the passages in their Bibles or race to them in a sword drill rather than reading from the Scripture Sheets. Adapt the instructions to read the passages based on your choice.

The Messiah Will Come

In the Old Testament, God tells us what we need to know to understand the message of the New Testament. From the beginning, God had a plan to save his people from the curse of sin. Let's go back to where it all began.

Slide #3

Genesis 3:15

Pass out the Scripture Sheets and the Class Notes.

Follow along as I read Genesis 3:15. That's the first verse on the Scripture Sheet. Read the verse.

This happened right after the second C, Corruption. God made everything perfect when he created the world, but Adam and Eve chose to disobey God by eating the fruit he had told them not to eat. Their sin brought corruption, or evil, into God's very good creation.

Slide #4

What did God say would be between the serpent and the woman and her offspring? Enmity.

Enmity: a feeling of unfriendliness or hatred

This word sounds a lot like "enemy." It means a feeling of unfriendliness or hatred.

Who was speaking through the serpent? What do we call him today?

The devil, Satan.

That's right. He was Satan. This verse also says that the serpent—Satan—would bruise the heel of someone, but that someone would bruise the serpent's head.

Slide #5

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. This is the first message about Jesus—the Savior—who would come to save sinners. The serpent—Satan—would bruise Jesus' heel. That means Jesus would be hurt by Satan.

How was Jesus hurt? How did he die? He died on the cross.

Jesus suffered and died on the cross to save sinners. And when he died, Satan thought he had won!

But what happened to Jesus on the third day after he died? He rose from the dead!

That's right! This was God's plan all along—to send a Savior so people could be forgiven of their sins and live with him in heaven. Jesus won over death when he rose from the dead. He defeated Satan and "bruised" him—just like God said he would back in the book of Genesis.

Slide #6

Let's start the Class Notes, which has matching shapes to help us fill in the blanks. Who will read #1 about God's promise and give us the answer? Choose a reader. Satan. Have students complete #1.

Can you see how this verse in Genesis connects to the New Testament?

Slide #7

Slide #8

Slide #9

Genesis 22:17–18

Let's look at another piece of the Old Testament connection. Who will read what the Lord said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17–18? Choose readers. Show the Lesson Theme Poster. God promised to bless Abraham with many offspring. That means Abraham would have many descendants in his family! They would be as numerous as what? Stars in heaven and sand on the seashore.

God also promised that one of Abraham's descendants would bless all the nations of the earth. Who blessed all nations by dying for their sins? Jesus.

Right. God was talking about the Savior again, the promised Messiah.

Do you remember what Messiah means? Allow discussion.

Messiah is a Hebrew word that means "anointed one." Remember how David was anointed with oil to show he was chosen to be the next king? Anointing, or pouring oil over, someone usually showed that the person was chosen for something special. So, when we say Jesus was the Messiah, we mean he was anointed by God, chosen to be the Savior.

Look at #2 on the Class Notes now. Whose name will go in the blank? Choose a reader. Abraham's. Have students complete #2.

Slide #10

Exodus 12:23

The next verse is part of God's command to the Israelites before the last plague of punishment against Egypt. The angel of the Lord would pass through the land, killing the firstborn sons. God told his people to choose a perfect lamb and kill it then spread its blood on the doorposts of their homes.

Listen to what would happen next in Exodus 12:23. Have students follow along as you read.

Slide #11

Slide #12

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. When God sent the angel to punish Egypt by killing all the firstborn, what would he do when he saw the blood of the lamb on the doorposts? He would pass over that house and not harm anyone inside.

Right! He would pass over the houses protected by the blood of the lambs.

How was this a picture of the Savior who would come? Allow discussion.

Just as the blood of a lamb was shed to protect the Israelites from death, Jesus' blood would be shed on the cross to save sinners from the punishment of hell.

Who will read #3 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. Lamb. Have students complete #3.

Slide #13

Slide #14

Slide #15

Deuteronomy 4:13

Who will read Deuteronomy 4:13? Choose a reader.

What did God give the Israelites as part of his covenant (promise) with them? Ten Commandments.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. What were the Ten Commandments written on? Two tablets of stone.

These commandments tell how to worship God and how to treat each other in a way that pleases the Lord. However, because of sin, no one can keep all these commandments all the time. That's why they remind us of our need for a Savior.

Let's fill in #4 on the Class Notes. Who will read that? Choose a reader. Sin. Have students complete #4.

Slide #16

Slide #17

Slide #18

2 Samuel 7:16

Another Old Testament connection is found in a promise God gave to King David in 2 Samuel 7:16. Choose a reader.

God promised that David's throne and kingdom would last for how long? Forever.

The descendants of David reigned for hundreds of years, one after another, in the southern kingdom of Judah before they were taken into captivity by the Babylonians. But the kings of Judah did not reign forever, did they?

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. God was promising that the Messiah would come from David's descendants. Jesus would be the one who would rule forever as the King of kings, which the crown represents. Whose name will go in the blank for #5 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. David. Have students complete #5.

Slide #19

Slide #20

Slide #21

Isaiah 53:5

Many of the prophets in the Old Testament wrote about the coming King who would save sinners. Let's look at one of the prophecies about the Messiah. Who will read Isaiah 53:5? Choose a reader.

This prophecy tells that the coming Messiah would be pierced and crushed for our transgressions and our iniquities. What is another word for transgressions and iniquities? Sins.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. Remember that Jesus is perfect. He never sinned, yet he took the chastisement, or punishment, for our sins when he suffered and died on the cross. What did his suffering and wounds bring us? Peace, healing.

Who will read #6 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. Suffer. Have students complete #6.

Refer to OT paper chain. Each of these promises and prophecies were given by God to different people in the Old Testament. They're like links in a chain; they all connect by telling about the Savior, the Messiah, who would be coming.

The Messiah Has Come

If the message of the Old Testament is "the Messiah will come," then the message of the New Testament is "the Messiah has come."

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Which of the Seven C's tell about the Messiah in the New Testament? Christ and Cross. Choose readers for each statement.

But how do we know that Jesus was the Messiah promised in the Old Testament? The Bible tells us!

Slide #22

Matthew 1:1

Who will read Matthew 1:1? This is the first verse in the New Testament. Choose a reader.

The first Gospel begins with the genealogy of Jesus. A genealogy is a list of a person's ancestors—the family they came from.

What two men are listed as ancestors of Jesus in this verse? David and Abraham.

When Jesus was born, God kept his promises to Abraham and King David that the Messiah would come from their descendants. We just looked at those promises in the Old Testament.

But there is an important title given for Jesus in this verse. What comes after Jesus' name? Christ.

Slide #23

Christ comes from the Greek word *christos*, and it means "anointed one." Christ is used in the New Testament because it was written in Greek. The word *messiah* also means "anointed one." Messiah is used in the Old Testament because it was written in Hebrew.

So when you see the word Christ in the New Testament, it's actually a title that tells us Jesus is the one chosen and anointed by God to be the promised Savior!

Slide #24

Slide #25

Hebrews 1:3

The book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is more than a Savior; he's also the Creator. Listen as I read about him in Hebrews 1:3. Read the verse.

Jesus is the radiance, or light, of the glory of whom? God.
And he is the exact imprint of whose nature? God's.

Yes. He has the same character as God.

What does Jesus uphold by the word of his power? The universe.

Wow! This verse is saying that Jesus is God!

This verse also tells about something Jesus did for us. What did he make for our sins? Purification.

Purification: the act of removing something by cleansing
Purification is getting rid of something by cleansing. If you spill food on your shirt and stain it, you would use laundry soap to get the stain out, wouldn't you? That stain is sort of like sin in our lives. Sin makes our lives dirty.

But Jesus purifies us. What does that mean he did for us? What did he remove when he died on the cross? Our sins.

Right. Jesus purifies, or washes out, the stain of sin. Through his death on the cross, he forgives us and takes away our sin so that our lives can be clean again, kind of like your shirt is clean again after removing the stain.

But then Jesus rose again! So where is Jesus seated now? At the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Where do you think that is? Allow answers.

Slide #26

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. After Jesus rose from the dead, he sat down at the right hand of God the Father—the Majesty on high. That means Jesus is now with God the Father in heaven. The Father has given Jesus the place of power, authority, and honor as the King of kings. And his kingdom will last forever! Those who turn from sin and trust in Jesus to forgive their sins and save them from the punishment of hell will be given eternal life in heaven. Because of Christ's death and resurrection, we have the promise of the Consummation.

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Who will read about the Consummation, the seventh C? Choose a reader. God promises a new heaven and a new earth for all believers.

Slide #27

Let's finish the Class Notes. Will someone read #7? Choose a reader. Christ. Have students complete #7.

Refer to the paper chains hanging on the board. Because we have the whole Bible to read and study, we can see how the Old Testament promised that the Messiah would be coming. Then the New Testament announced that the Messiah, Jesus, has come!

Show the paper strip with "Jesus" written on it. So, who do you think is the link that connects the Old Testament and the New Testament? Jesus!

Curl the paper strip and use it to attach both chains together to make one long chain. In the New Testament, we can see how Jesus Christ fulfilled all the promises and prophecies given in the Old Testament about the Messiah. Jesus is the link that connects the Old and New Testaments together.

Application

Slide #28

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. The Old Testament tells about the promised Messiah and how he would bring hope to the world. Jesus is the connection between the Old and New Testaments. When we look at the whole Bible, we see that Jesus is the promised Messiah.

Many people don't realize that the Old Testament helps us understand what God tells us in the New Testament. People often don't want to read the Old Testament. They think that it's boring and doesn't have anything to do with their life today.

How could you use the Seven C's of History to explain the importance of the Old Testament? Allow discussion. The first four C's are found in the Old Testament and show why we need Christ and the cross to be saved and to give us hope of a glorious future.

The Old Testament is part of God's true Word. Without it, we could not completely understand what we read in the New Testament. God gave us the whole Bible to show us who he is and what he has done for us through his Son Jesus.

Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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