

Lesson 103

God Promises the Messiah

God's plan of redemption was in place before time.

Studying God's Word

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

Introduction

Before class, print and cut out Weather Cards and place them in an envelope or container for students to draw from. Choose how you'd like the students to find the Bible passages in today's lesson, either pass out index cards with the references, use a sword drill race for each one, or find them together. Adapt the instructions to read each passage based on the method you choose.

Have Weather Cards ready.

We're going to start today with an activity about weather. Raise your hand if you've heard the term "weather forecast." Show of hands.

Slide #3

A forecast is a prediction of future events, usually based on study of data.

Forecast: prediction of future events, usually based on study of data Meteorologist: a weather forecaster

People who study the atmosphere and weather patterns and give weather forecasts are called meteorologists. They use computer models, observations, radar and satellite data, past weather, and personal experience to come up with forecasts.

Now that we know these terms, I'll choose some volunteers to come up and draw one of these weather cards. You'll read the card, which gives a weather situation, and the question about what you would do. If you're the card reader, you answer the question. The rest of the class will give a thumbs up if they agree with your answer or a thumbs down if they disagree and think they would do something different. I'll keep track on the board of what the majority of the class decides. Let's get started! Choose volunteers, one at a time, to come up front and read a card. After they answer, ask the class if they agree/disagree then mark a point on the board under the heading "Agree" or "Disagree" based on how the majority of students answer. Give a point under each category if it's tied.

Weather predictions are important because we use them to make decisions almost every day. But did all of you trust the forecast the same and agree with the answer given? No.

In different situations, like when we have something special or important planned, we

might ignore the weather forecast and hope it's wrong.

Which forecasts of the ones we read would you say were more serious weather events that would make you change your plans? Allow answers.

For some of you, the more serious events like a tropical storm or freezing temperatures made you change your mind about the planned activity or how you would prepare.

Why did some of you not trust the forecast? Allow answers. Because the weather forecasters aren't always right!

Weather prediction has improved in the past years, especially in areas like forecasting the average temperature. But the forecasters can get things wrong, and they often do. That's because predicting weather events with 100% accuracy is impossible for humans because weather is unpredictable! So, even though we rely on weather forecasts, we know that they won't always be right.

How is prediction, like the meteorologists do, different from prophecy, the things in the Bible that God told the prophets would happen in the future? Allow discussion.

Many people are confused about the difference between these two words and

may even call the prophecies in the Bible “predictions of the future.” But the prophecies in the Bible aren’t based on human observation, experience, or scientific data. They are given by an all-knowing, all-powerful God, so we can trust them 100%.

In today’s lesson, we’ll look at some Old Testament prophecies about the Messiah and how they were fulfilled in the New Testament. But first, let’s review the past few lessons. We’ve been learning about some of the kings and prophets in the southern kingdom of Judah.

Slide #4

Slide #5

Refer to Lesson 101 Theme Poster. We saw an example of a king who started out well, obeying God, but then turned to idolatry later in life. That king was Joash, and he was the eighth king of Judah.

Refer to Lesson 102 Theme Poster. Then we read about godly King Hezekiah, the thirteenth king of Judah.

What scary situation did Hezekiah have to deal with during his reign? Who came to attack Judah? The Assyrians.

The Assyrians threatened Hezekiah and his people by saying they shouldn’t trust in God to deliver them. After all, the Assyrian Empire was enormous, and they had taken over many nations and defeated many

kings. Hezekiah knew he couldn't handle this invasion on his own, so he went straight to the Lord! He asked God to save them so that other nations would know he was the true God.

God answered Hezekiah's prayer by sending his prophet Isaiah with a message. God promised to defend Jerusalem and remove the king of Assyria. And he did! The angel of the Lord destroyed 185,000 Assyrian soldiers during the night, and King Sennacherib was forced to return to his country in shame.

Last lesson we were also introduced to Isaiah. He prophesied to the southern kingdom of Judah and gave messages to four different kings throughout his life, including Hezekiah. Another prophet, named Micah, spoke for God at the same time as Isaiah. Micah traveled to both Israel and Judah.

These two prophets, Micah and Isaiah, warned the people of judgment if they would not repent, but they also gave a message of hope from God about the coming Savior, the Messiah. The prophecies that they recorded were from God, so we know they are true!

Micah's Message

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to start with Micah 5. Micah is one of the minor prophets, so his book is shorter than Isaiah's, who is one of the major prophets.

Slide #6

Micah 5:2

Who will read Micah 5:2? Assign a reader. Who is Micah referring to when he said, "The one who is to be ruler in Israel"? Who is that? The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The ruler is the Messiah, the Savior God promised to send. Because we have the New Testament, we know the Messiah is Jesus, the Son of God.

What city does this verse say the ruler, or Messiah, will come from? Bethlehem.

Bethlehem was the birthplace and home of David before he became king. Would this be the town where the Messiah is born?

Slide #7

Slide #8

Matthew 2:1

Now we'll go to the New Testament book of Matthew so we can hear how this prophecy was fulfilled in chapter 2 verse 1. Assign a reader.

Where was Jesus born? Bethlehem of Judea.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. This picture shows the wise men traveling toward Bethlehem. Micah lived and prophesied nearly 700 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem during the days of King Herod, yet he wrote that Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the coming ruler. This wasn't an accident or a lucky guess. God is omniscient, which means he knows everything—past, present, and future. God revealed to Micah where the Messiah would be born hundreds of years before Jesus came.

We're impressed if our meteorologists are correct in their weather predictions about the next week. But can they predict the weather 700 years in advance? No!

Predicting events so far ahead of their fulfillment is something only God can do!

Slide #9 Micah 5:2

Now, turn back to Micah 5:2 and look at the last phrase. What do you think it means when it says the ruler's "coming forth is from of old, from ancient days"? Allow discussion.

It means that the ruler, Jesus, will be eternal—with no beginning and no end. He is from of old—from ancient days. Jesus always was and always will be. That's the

definition of “eternal” from the Attributes of God Poster.

Slide #10

Slide #11

John 1:1–2

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's go now to John 1 in the New Testament. John is the fourth Gospel after Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Who will read John 1:1–2? Assign a reader.

Who was in the beginning with God? The Word.

Who is the Word? “Word” has a capital letter because it's the name of someone. Jesus.

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus is the Word, so Jesus was present in the beginning, before creation. That's what is shown in this picture of the planets and stars being formed. Jesus was with God, and he was God. We know that God has always been; he's always existed! Jesus is God, so he is eternal, too. That's what Micah meant when he wrote that Jesus' coming is from of old, from ancient days. Micah said that the Messiah would be eternal, and he said it more than 700 years before Jesus was even born!

Slide #12

Micah 7:18–19

So Micah prophesied about where the Messiah would be born and that he would be eternal. But what did God have planned for the Messiah to do? Micah told the people something else that must have given them great hope.

Turn to Micah 7:18. Who will read verses 18–19? Assign a reader.

These verses give a beautiful description of God. What three things are listed about God in verse 18? He pardons iniquity and passes over transgression; he does not retain his anger; he delights in steadfast love.

The words “iniquity” and “transgression” are words for what? Sin.

In verse 19, what will God do? Have compassion on us; he will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Micah knew that one day God would provide a way to forgive our sins. God delights in showing love and compassion (mercy) on us. He would provide a way through Jesus for our sins to be cast away, forgiven forever!

Slide #13

Slide #14

1 Peter 2:24

Let’s read from God’s Word how he did that for us in 1 Peter 2:24. Assign a reader.

This verse is about Jesus. What does it say Jesus did? Bore our sins in his body.

Where did this happen? On a tree.
A tree is referring to how Jesus died. He was crucified on a what? A cross.

A cross is made of wooden beams from a tree.

What does it mean that Jesus bore our sins in his body on a cross? Allow discussion.

Refer to the cross on the Lesson Theme Poster. It means that Jesus could take the punishment for sinners once for all because he was perfect. He took our sins on himself, on his own body, when he died on the cross so that all who believe (trust) in him would be forgiven.

This is what Micah wrote about: the love, compassion, and forgiveness of a heavenly Father who would save sinners forever by the suffering of his Son, Jesus.

Pass out the Class Notes.

Let's start the Class Notes. You will fill in the blanks. Who will read #1 about Micah's prophecy? Choose a reader. Bethlehem. Have students complete #1.

Slide #15

Who will read #2 about Jesus? Choose a reader. Eternal. Complete #2.

And #3, who will read about God's plan from the beginning? Choose a reader.

Forgiven. Complete #3.

Isaiah's Message

Now let's look at what the prophet Isaiah said about the coming Messiah.

Slide #16

Isaiah 7:14

Turn to Isaiah 7:14. Who will read that?

Assign a reader.

What did the Lord say he would give the people? A sign.

The Lord would one day send the signs that Isaiah was talking about. These signs would show the people that the long-awaited Messiah was finally here.

Someone would be born. Would the baby be a boy or a girl? A boy.

How do you know? The verse says a son will be born.

Slide #17

Refer to Mary on the Lesson Theme Poster. The birth of this son would be special—a miracle—because his mother would be a virgin. A virgin never lived with a man like she was married to him, so only God could cause her to have a baby.

What would the boy be called? Immanuel.

Let's find out what the name Immanuel means. Turn to Matthew 1:21.

Slide #18

Matthew 1:21–23

In this passage, an angel of the Lord is speaking to Joseph about 700 years after Isaiah wrote about Immanuel. Who will read verses 21–23? Choose a reader. The angel told Joseph that Mary would bear a son. What was Joseph supposed to call him? Jesus. What would this son do? Save his people from their sins.

Did the last verse sound familiar? It's a quote from Isaiah, saying that the son would be born of a virgin and called Immanuel.

What does Immanuel mean? Reread Matthew 1:23, if necessary. God with us.

Isaiah could write these prophecies about Jesus being God with us and saving us from our sins because God told him what to write.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. What attribute means that God knows everything, even the future? Omniscient.

We can explain Isaiah's perfect accuracy because he was speaking for the omniscient God. Plus, God is sovereign. He was involved in all that was unfolding, causing events to happen just as he planned them.

That is why all the prophecies in the Bible are 100% reliable, unlike the predictions that people make. Jesus was born of the virgin Mary just as Isaiah wrote and the angel told Joseph.

Slide #19

Slide #20

Isaiah 53:5–7

God told us through Isaiah how Jesus would be born, and he also told how Jesus would live and die. Turn to Isaiah 53.

Who will read verses 5–7? Choose a reader. This passage describes the suffering the Messiah would go through. Why would he be pierced? For our transgressions.

It was for our sins that Jesus endured the terrible punishment of death on a cross. But he did it to bring us peace and to heal us.

Verse 6 describes us, all people, as what kind of animal that goes its own way?

Sheep.

And what did the Lord lay on the Messiah? Look at the end of verse 6. The iniquity of us all.

Jesus bore our sins on the cross. He was sinless and perfect, which is why he was the only one who could die in our place.

Jesus is God, so he could have stopped his own suffering and death. But what does verse 7 say about how he would die? He would willingly go without opening his mouth to stop it.

Slide #21

Refer to the lamb on the Lesson Theme Poster. Like an innocent lamb would be led to slaughter for a sacrifice, Jesus let himself be led to his death without fighting or objecting. He endured all the suffering of the Father's judgment against sin and a cruel, painful death on a cross for us.

We know from the Gospel accounts that this prophecy came true. Jesus didn't defend himself when the Jewish leaders were falsely accusing him before the high priest or before Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor. He knew his purpose from God was to die on the cross so we could be saved. What a loving Savior!

Slide #22

Slide #23

Let's complete the Class Notes. Who will read #4 about Isaiah's prophecy? Choose a reader. Birth. Complete #4.

Who will read #5? Choose a reader.

Immanuel. Complete #5.

And #6, who will read about what the Messiah would do for us? Choose a reader. Suffer. Complete #6.

Who will read #7 about how Jesus would go to the cross? Choose a reader. Willingly. Complete #7.

And the last one, #8. What do we know about the prophecies from God? Choose a reader. True. Complete #8.

Application

Slide #24

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God's prophecies are true. We know they will happen because God is omniscient, sovereign, and omnipotent. Micah and Isaiah recorded God's messages about a coming ruler, one who would be born in Bethlehem and be called Immanuel, God with us. The Messiah's birth would be miraculous, and his purpose on earth would be to save mankind from their sins. God knew from the beginning that he would send a Savior, Jesus.

The prophecies in the Old Testament gave people hope to know the Messiah was coming. Because we have the complete Bible, we can see how many prophecies were fulfilled in the New Testament when Jesus came.

Sadly, there are people who doubt the truth of the Bible and say it isn't God's Word but just the writings of men. One thing we can tell these people about is the prophecies made hundreds of years before the events happened. This is

another proof that God is the ultimate author of the Bible. No human could write details like we read today and have them come true hundreds of years later. As we saw at the beginning of class, man's predictions are often wrong. They can't be 100% accurate. But God's Word is 100% true!

Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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