

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

Today's lesson begins a transition from our study of the Old Testament to the New Testament. We have covered the first 4,000 years of history in the Old Testament.

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. We have used the Seven C's of History as a big-picture framework to talk about that history.

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

After those four events, we've covered a lot of history. Between Genesis 11 and the end of the Old Testament, we've seen the Israelites chosen as God's people, delivered from slavery in Egypt, given the promised land, ruled by judges and kings, led into idolatry and rebellion, conquered and scattered, and restored to their land. And through it all, God taught the people about their sin problem and promised to provide a solution.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Malachi is the last book in the Old Testament. We learned about Malachi's message of hope from God for the people. He spoke about a messenger who would come one day.

Who was that messenger? John the Baptist.
Who did John come to prepare the way for? To prepare the way of the Lord.

The people waited a long time for the Messiah—the Lord. God had given them hope through Malachi that the Messiah would come.

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.

Four hundred years is a long time to wait! But actually, they had waited a lot longer than that. It was about 4,000 years earlier, in the garden of Eden, when God first mentioned the Savior. God is always faithful to keep his promises even when it seems like it takes a long time.

Pass out the Scripture Sheets and Class Notes to the students. Today we will be looking at the key messages of the Old and New Testaments using the passages on the Scripture Sheets and the statements in the Class Notes. 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 Is Coming

The Old Testament provides the background we need to understand the gospel message in 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

Who will read Genesis 3:15? That's the first passage on the Scripture Sheet. Choose a reader.

This passage is right after the second C, Corruption. God made everything perfect when he created, but Adam and Eve chose to eat the fruit of the one tree God had forbidden them to eat from. Their sin brought corruption 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 hostility, unfriendliness, or hatred
Enmity is a feeling of hostility, 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.

Whose heel would Satan bruise? Who is this talking about? Jesus.

Slide #5

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. This is a shadowy picture of Jesus—the Messiah, the Son of God—who would come to save sinners. The serpent—Satan—would bruise Jesus' heel. That means Jesus would be hurt by the serpent.

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

Jesus died on the cross to save sinners. And when he died, Satan thought he had won! He thought that Jesus was gone forever.

But is that true? Had Satan really won when Jesus died on the cross? What happened to Jesus on the third day after he died? He rose from the dead!

That is something to celebrate! You see, this was God's plan all along—to send a Savior so sinners could be forgiven and spend eternity with him.

Jesus conquered death when he rose from the dead. He defeated Satan and "bruised" him—just like God said he would in the book of Genesis.

Slide #6

Let's start the Class Notes. Today you'll be filling in a blank and choosing a picture to copy in the box. Who will read #1 about God's promise in Genesis 3:15? Choose a reader. Satan.

Write "Satan" in the blank for #1. What picture goes with #1? Serpent. Have students complete #1.

This passage in Genesis points to a day about 4,000 years later when Jesus would come. God's plan to save sinners from eternal punishment through Jesus Christ is seen throughout the whole Bible starting in Genesis, the very first book!

Throughout the Old Testament, the message is the same: "The Messiah is coming." God gave many pictures and promises about the coming Messiah, the one who would save sinners. Let's look at some examples.

Slide #7

Slide #8

Slide #9

Genesis 22:17–18

Who will read what the Lord said to Abraham in Genesis 22:17–18? Choose a reader.

God promised to bless Abraham and multiply his offspring. Abraham's descendants would be as numerous as what? Stars in heaven and sand on the seashore.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. This is Abraham looking up at the stars.

How would God bless all the nations of the earth through Abraham? What was he promising in verse 18? A descendant from Abraham's family would be the Messiah. Jesus would come from Abraham's offspring and bless all nations by dying for their sins.

Whose name will go in the blank for #2 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. Abraham's.

To remind us of how many descendants Abraham would be given, what will you draw for #2? Stars. Have students complete #2.

Slide #10

Slide #11

Slide #12

Exodus 12:21–23

Let's read Exodus 12:21–23. Choose readers.

This passage is part of God's command through Moses to the Israelites before the tenth and final plague against Egypt. What was the tenth plague God sent so Pharaoh would let the Israelites go? The angel of the Lord passed through the land killing the firstborn sons.

How did God tell his people to protect themselves from this plague? What did they have to do? They had to select a spotless lamb, kill it, and spread

the blood on the doorposts of their homes.

Slide #13

Slide #14

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. God sent the angel to strike down the firstborn of Egypt, but he would pass over the houses protected by the blood of the lambs. This was a picture of Jesus as a perfect lamb who would shed his blood for our sins so we can have eternal life with God. Who will read #3 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. Lamb.

Go ahead and draw the lamb in the box for #3. Have students complete #3.

Slide #15

Slide #16

Slide #17

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.

The first four commandments are about our relationship with God, how to worship him alone. The next six commandments are about how we treat others, such as honoring our parents, telling the truth, and keeping ourselves from jealousy (coveting).

Can anyone keep these commandments all the time? No.

No one can keep the commandments all the time, which is why they remind us of our sin and our need for a Savior.

Let's fill in #4 on the Class Notes. Who will read that? Choose a reader. Sin. What should we draw to remind us of the Ten Commandments? Two stone tablets. Have students complete #4.

Slide #18

Slide #19

Slide #20

2 Samuel 7:16

Let's read 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 over the southern kingdom of Judah for hundreds of years before they were taken into captivity. Their reigns did not last forever, so what descendant of David would establish an eternal kingdom? The Messiah, Jesus.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. The crown reminds us that God was promising that the Messiah, Jesus, would come from David's descendants.

Jesus would be the eternal ruler, the King of kings, whose kingdom never ends.

Whose name will go in the blank for #5 on the Class Notes? Choose a reader. David.

What will you draw for #5 to remind us of the coming King of kings, Jesus? Crown. Have students complete #5.

Slide #21

Slide #22

Slide #23

Isaiah 53:5

Now we'll look at one of the prophecies about the Messiah. Who will read Isaiah 53:5? Choose a reader.

This prophecy describes what the coming Messiah would do. He would be pierced and crushed for what? What is another word for transgressions and iniquities? Sins.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus took the chastisement, or punishment, for our sins when he suffered and died on the cross.

Remember that Jesus was perfect. He never sinned—ever. What did his suffering bring us? Peace, healing.

It is only because of the death and resurrection of Jesus that we can have peace with God and healing, or forgiveness, of our sins.

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

What should we draw to remind us of Jesus' death? Cross. Have students complete #6.

We just looked at a few examples of the promises God gave different people in the Old Testament about the Savior. He also gave prophecies and pictures of Jesus to share the message that the Messiah is coming!

As we move into our study of the New Testament, it is important that we do not treat it as a separate work. The New Testament is built upon everything that came before it. If we skip or ignore the Old Testament, it is like skipping the first chapters of a book. We need those first chapters, or the rest won't make sense!

The Messiah Has Come

If the message of the Old Testament is "the Messiah is coming," what would you say is the message of the New Testament? The Messiah has come. Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Which two C's on the poster 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 #24

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. What is a genealogy? Allow answers.

A genealogy is the record of a person's ancestors.

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

The birth of Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promises to King David and Abraham that the Savior would come from their descendants.

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

Christ comes from the Greek word *christos*, meaning "anointed one." Can you guess what Hebrew title for Jesus also means "anointed one"? Messiah.

Some people think Christ is another name for Jesus or his last name, but it is actually a title that announces his position as the anointed one of God, the promised Messiah! The Bible tells us in the beginning verse of the New Testament that Jesus is the Messiah who has come to earth. But Jesus wasn't just our Savior, he was also the Son of God, the Creator!

Slide #25

Slide #26

Slide #27

Hebrews 1:1–3

Let's read Hebrews 1:1–3. Choose readers.

Who did God use to speak to people in times past? The prophets.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. This is referring to the prophets God used to deliver messages to his people in the Old Testament. Many of these messages are recorded in the major and minor prophets' books of the Bible. If time, ask students to name some of the prophets.

But God is saying that he is speaking through someone else now. Who is that in verse 2? His Son.

Jesus is the Son of God. But Jesus is not like the prophets of the Old Testament—Jesus is God! Jesus is described as the Creator who upholds the universe by the word of his power. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature.

Hebrews 1:3 tells us that Jesus did something for us. What did he make for our sins? Purification.

Purification: the act of removing by cleansing

Purification is the act of removing something by cleansing it. What does that mean Jesus did for us? What did he remove? Allow discussion. He cleansed our sins by dying on the cross.

Slide #28

When Jesus died for sinners, he made a way for believers to be cleansed, or forgiven, of their sins.

And where is Jesus seated now? At the right hand of the Majesty on high.

Show the Lesson Theme Poster. This means that Jesus is now with God the Father in heaven. The Father has given Jesus the place of power, authority, and honor. Jesus is the King of kings. He rose from the dead and sat down at the right hand of God the Father—the Majesty on high. His kingdom is an eternal one! Those who turn from their sins 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 and his death on the cross, we have the promise of the Consummation.

Refer to the Seven C's of History Poster. Who will read about the Consummation? Choose a reader.

Because we have the whole Bible to read and study, we can see how the Old Testament promised that the Messiah is coming. Then the New Testament continued the account by announcing that the Messiah has come—his name is Jesus! Jesus Christ fulfilled all the promises and prophecies given in the Old Testament.

Slide #29

Let's finish the Class Notes. Who will read #7? Choose a reader. Christ.

Draw a cloud to remember that Jesus returned to heaven and sat at the Father's right hand. Have students complete #7.

Application

Slide #30

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. From the beginning, it was God's plan to send a Savior. He promised that the Savior would come from the families of Abraham and David. The Old Testament gives details about his coming then the New Testament confirmed that Jesus was the Messiah, the Christ. Many people today don't want to read the Old Testament. They think that it 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.

What many people don't realize is that the Old Testament helps us understand what God tells us in the New Testament. Because of the Old Testament, we understand better why Jesus had to come—to redeem sinners; why he had to die—to take the punishment for the sin of all those who would believe; and why his resurrection is so important—he is alive and has conquered death and Satan.

Lesson Review

We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

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