

## 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 apart the two Prophecy and Fulfillment headings. Attach them on the board/wall side by side to create two columns. Have the posters cut apart, ready to pass out to students.

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

To forecast, or predict, something is to tell what to expect sometime in the future. When people forecast the weather, they use their studies of weather patterns and other information they have collected. Then they try to tell others what the weather will be like tomorrow, next week, or even further in the future.

Forecast: to tell what to expect sometime in the future

Why is it good to know the weather forecast? How can it help us?

Allow discussion.

Have weather-related items ready. If we know what kind of weather to expect, we'll know how to plan better or what to wear, right? Let's play a quick game to see how the weather forecast can help us. I'll say a weather forecast then everyone will help decide what someone would need to put on for that kind of weather. Spread out the weather items at the front of the room. Play the game with one or two volunteers, allowing the class to help decide which items are needed. Help the volunteer put on those items. For example, if you say it will be rainy, the volunteer might put on a rain hat and rubber boots and hold an umbrella. Be sure to emphasize changes in the weather. You might say, "But wait—the sun came out! Now what does he need?" Add sunglasses, change to a sun hat, etc. Weather forecasts are important because we use them to make decisions almost every day. But can we always trust the weather forecast? Is it always right? No.

The weather forecast can be helpful when making our plans. But the forecasters can get things wrong, and we can't trust them completely. It's impossible for us to forecast, or predict, weather 100% correctly! So, even though we listen to the weather on the news, we know the forecasters won't always be right.

However, there were some people we've learned about in the Bible who also told what to expect in the future—and they were always right. Who were they, and what were they called? Prophets.

A prophet's message is called a prophecy. How is prophecy in the Bible different from predicting the weather? Where did the prophets get their information? From God.

Right. The prophecies in the Bible aren't based on human knowledge. God told the prophets what to write, so we can trust these prophecies completely. God knew exactly what would happen because he is omniscient.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. Omniscient means all-knowing. God knows everything, even the future. God is also sovereign; he is in control. We can trust that God will bring about all his plans. That is why we can count on all the prophecies in the Bible to be 100% true, unlike the predictions that people make.

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 idol worship later in life. That king was Joash, 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 event happened during Hezekiah's reign? Who came to attack Judah? The Assyrians.

The powerful Assyrians told Hezekiah and his people that they couldn't trust God to save them. But Hezekiah knew differently. He went straight to the Lord! He asked God to save them so that other nations would know he was the one true God. God answered Hezekiah's prayer by destroying many Assyrian soldiers, and the Assyrian king went back home.

Do you remember which prophet told Hezekiah not to be afraid and that God would save them? Isaiah.

Yes. Isaiah prophesied to Judah during the reign of four kings, including Hezekiah. Another prophet, named Micah, spoke for God at the same time as Isaiah.

These two prophets, Micah and Isaiah, warned the people to turn back to God, but

they also gave messages of hope about the coming Savior, the Messiah. These prophecies were from God, so we know they are true!

Have Prophecy/Fulfillment Posters and tape or poster putty ready.

We will see how their prophecies were fulfilled—how they came true—in the New Testament. Refer to the two headings—Prophecy and Fulfillment—that you posted. I'll be reading verses from several different books of the Bible today, and we'll create a Prophecy/Fulfillment Chart on the wall. You will be responsible for reading and then attaching these posters underneath the correct headings. Pass out one or two posters per student or one per pair of students, depending on your class size.

## **Micah's Message**

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to start with Micah. Remember that Micah is one of the minor prophets, while Isaiah is one of the major prophets.

Does this mean Isaiah is more important than Micah? No.

It simply means that the book of Micah is shorter than Isaiah.

## **Slide #6**

## Micah 5:2

The prophets told the people specific things that would be true about the coming Messiah.

Messiah means “anointed one”—the one chosen by God to be the Savior. Micah wrote about the Savior’s birthplace.

Listen as I read Micah 5:2. Read the verse.

Who has poster #1? Have the student read and tape his poster to the wall under the Prophecy heading.

Who is Micah talking about? Who is the one “to be ruler in Israel”? The Messiah, Jesus Christ.

The ruler is the Messiah, not an earthly ruler but the one God chose to save us from our sins. 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.

### Slide #7

#### Matthew 2:1

Let’s see how this prophecy was fulfilled in the New Testament in Matthew 2:1. Read the verse.

Who has poster #2? Have the student read and attach his poster underneath the Fulfillment heading, next to poster #1.

Continue to have students read and attach their posters under appropriate headings.

Where was Jesus born? Bethlehem of Judea.

### Slide #8

Refer to Bethlehem on the Lesson Theme Poster. Micah lived and prophesied nearly 700 years before Jesus was born.

How could Micah know Bethlehem would be the birthplace of the coming ruler? Was it an accident or a lucky guess? No. God told Micah. God is omniscient. He knows everything.

### Slide #9

Micah 5:2

Micah told us something else very important about the coming Savior. Listen carefully to the last phrase of Micah 5:2. Read the verse again, emphasizing the last phrase.

Who has poster #3? Let student read and attach poster in the Prophecy column.

What do you think it means when it says the ruler's "coming forth is from of old, from ancient days"? Allow discussion.

Refer to the Attributes of God Poster. It means that the ruler, Jesus, had no beginning, and he has no end. What



attribute means always was and always will be? Eternal.

Slide #10

Slide #11

John 1:1-2

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's go now to John in the New Testament. John is the fourth Gospel after Matthew, Mark, and Luke. I'll be reading John 1:1-2. Read the verses.

Who has poster #4? Allow the student to read and attach poster in the Fulfillment column.

Who was in the beginning with God? The Word.

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

Refer to the planets on the Lesson Theme Poster. Jesus is the Word, so Jesus was present in the beginning, before creation, like in this picture of planets and stars. 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; the Messiah would be eternal.

Slide #12

Micah 7:19

Micah not only prophesied about where the Messiah would be born and that he would be eternal, he also wrote about God's plan for the Messiah.

Listen as I read Micah 7:19. Read the verse.

Who has poster #5? Have the student read and attach poster in the Prophecy column. The word "iniquities" means sins. This verse tells us that God will show us compassion, or mercy, by doing what with our iniquities, or sins? He will tread them underfoot. He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

If you tread, or walk, all over something, or if you throw it into the sea, are you keeping it around to remember it? Or are you getting rid of it? Getting rid of it.

Stand up and show me these two actions. Have students pretend to stomp on their sins and throw them far out into the sea.

That's what God promised to do with our sins. Micah knew that one day God would provide a way to forgive our sins. He would provide a way through Jesus for our sins to be cast away, forgiven forever!

Slide #13

Slide #14

1 Peter 2:24

Peter wrote about the fulfillment of Micah's prophecy. Listen to 1 Peter 2:24. Read the verse.

Who has poster #6? Have the student attach and read poster.

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

Where did this happen? (Have the student read the first part of the verse again if necessary.) On a tree.

We know that Jesus was crucified on a what? A cross.

A cross is made of wooden beams from a tree. So "a tree" means a cross.

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

Refer to the crosses on the Lesson Theme Poster. It means that Jesus took our sins on himself, on his own body, when he died on the cross. We are healed, or saved from our sins, by Jesus' wounds—his suffering. He took the punishment that we deserve for our sins. Because he died on the cross, we can be forgiven when we trust in him.

## **Isaiah's Message**

Now let's hear the words of Isaiah, who told us how the Messiah would be born.

Slide #15

Isaiah 7:14

Listen to Isaiah 7:14. Read the verse.

Who has poster #7? Have the student attach and read poster.

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

When the people saw this sign, they would know that the long-awaited Messiah was finally here.

The sign was the birth of a special person. Would the baby be a boy or a girl? A boy; a son.

### Slide #16

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

What would the son be called? Immanuel.

Let's find out what the name Immanuel means.

### Slide #17

Matthew 1:21–23

In Matthew 1:21–23, an angel of the Lord is speaking to Joseph about 700 years after Isaiah wrote about Immanuel. Read the verses.

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.

Matthew is reminding us that Jesus' birth is a fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

Who has poster #8? Have the student read and attach the poster.

Slide #18

Slide #19

Isaiah 53:7

God also told us through Isaiah how Jesus would die. Listen to Isaiah 53:7. Read the verse.

We're ready for poster #9. Let the student attach and read poster.

Isaiah tells us that the Messiah would suffer. It was for our sins that Jesus endured the terrible punishment of death on a cross.

Jesus is God, so he could have stopped his own suffering and death. But what does verse 7 say about how he would die? Would Jesus call out for his death to be stopped? Would he fight for his life? No. He would willingly go without opening his mouth to stop it.

Refer to the lamb on the Lesson Theme Poster. Like a harmless lamb is led to be killed for a sacrifice, Jesus let himself be led to his death without fighting or arguing. Even though he was sinless and perfect, he took all the punishment for our sin.

Let's look at the last poster, #10. Have the student read and attach his poster.

How do we know that this prophecy about the Savior's death came true? Allow answers.

We can read about Jesus' death in all four Gospels. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all wrote about Jesus' willingness to suffer for us and to forgive our sins. He knew his purpose from God was to die on the cross so that we could be saved. What a loving Savior!

Pass out the Class Notes.

We can read many other prophecies about Jesus in the Old Testament. The chart we completed today shows just a few of them.

Briefly review the completed chart on the wall and then remove the posters.

Slide #20

Slide #21

Slide #22

Slide #23

Slide #24

For today's Class Notes, see how much you can remember from our Prophecy/Fulfillment Chart. Read the instructions aloud and complete the Class Notes together as a group or allow students to work on their own or in pairs.

## Application

Slide #25

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. God's prophecies are true. When God says something is going to happen, we can believe him because he is all-knowing (omniscient) and in complete control (sovereign). God knew from the beginning that he would send his Son, Jesus, as our Savior. The prophecies in Micah and Isaiah gave people hope that a special ruler would be born in Bethlehem. God promised that this ruler, the Messiah, would save them from their sins. Hundreds of years later, these prophecies happened when Jesus came to earth, born as a baby. And today, when we read about Jesus in the New Testament, we can see how God kept all his promises.

Did you know that some people don't think the Bible is true? We can help them understand that the Bible is God's Word when we tell them about the prophecies of Jesus. No human could write about what to expect so far in the future. Today's forecasters aren't even 100% correct about the weather! So, we know it was God who told Micah, Isaiah, and other men what to write. God is the real author of the Bible. It is his Word, and we can trust it completely.

## Lesson Review

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



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