



BIBLE DISCOVERY

LESSON 3

LOOKING FOR MESSIAH: The First Coming

DAY ONE

The very first prophecy in the Bible foretold the coming of a Savior (Genesis 3:15). The Old Testament records hundreds of prophecies of Jesus' birth, all recorded 400 years before He appeared! God—through Jesus—filled every one of the prophetic requirements for the first coming of Christ. He did not want us to miss the right Messiah! As you compare these prophecies to their New Testament fulfillment you will see that Jesus is the only One who could meet God's requirement for the Savior of the world. He is worthy of our trust, worship, and obedience. We begin today by looking at details of Jesus' genealogy—his family tree.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

Each of the following scriptures are prophecies concerning the coming of Jesus—the Messiah



Genesis 12:3 *[God is speaking to Abraham]* I will bless those who bless you (Abraham), and I will curse him who curses you (Abraham); and in you (Abraham) all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Numbers 24:17 I see Him, but not now; I behold Him, but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult.

Isaiah 9:7 Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Matthew 1:1-2 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham: 2 Abraham begot Isaac, Isaac begot Jacob, and Jacob begot Judah and his brothers.

Luke 1:32 *[An angel of the Lord is speaking to Mary—mother of Jesus]* "He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David."

Luke 3:33-34 the son of Amminadab, the son of Ram, the son of Hezron, the son of Perez, the son of Judah, 34 the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham, the son of Terah, the son of Nahor,

Word Meanings:

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| 1. curse: cause bad things to happen; the opposite of "blessing" | 4. batter: beat |
| 2. scepter: rod-like instrument held by a king to signify his authority | 5. brow: the area above the eye |
| 3. Shiloh: "one who brings peace"; refers to Messiah or Savior | 6. zeal: enthusiastic effort |
| | 7. hosts: multitude, many |
| | 8. genealogy: record of family history |
| | 9. begot: fathered |

Questions:

1. Through whose family would all the families of the earth be blessed (through the promised Savior)? _____
2. What two symbols are used to represent Messiah? _____

3. Which king would be part of Messiah's family? _____

4. From Matthew 1:1-2 list some of the ancestors of Jesus:

- a) _____ b) _____ c) _____
 d) _____ e) _____

5. What Old Testament prophecy in today's lesson did the angel again promise to Mary?

DAY TWO

Today's Scriptures examine prophecies concerning the geography of Jesus' birth. God involved the entire Roman-controlled world to get His Son born in the right place! Many seemingly insignificant, small details worked together in order for every Old Testament prophecy to be fulfilled in events of the New Testament.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

Micah 5:2 "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of you shall come forth to Me the One to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth are from of old, from everlasting."

Hosea 11:1 "When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called My son."

Isaiah 9:1-2 Nevertheless the gloom will not be upon her who is distressed, as when at first He lightly esteemed the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward more heavily oppressed her, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles. **2** The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in the land of the shadow of death, upon them a light has shined.

Luke 2:4-7 Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, **5** to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. **6** So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. **7** And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Matthew 2:14-15, 23 When he arose, he took the young Child and His mother by night and departed for Egypt, **15** and was there until the death of Herod, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt I called My Son." **23** And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

Matthew 4:13-16 And leaving Nazareth, He came and dwelt in Capernaum, which is by the sea, in the regions of Zebulun and Naphtali, **14** that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: **15** "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, by the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles: **16** The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and upon those who sat in the region and shadow of death Light has dawned."

Word Meanings:

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| 1. gloom: darkness | 4. dwelt: lived |
| 2. esteemed: regarded | 5. lineage: family lines |
| 3. oppressed: burdened; mistreated | 6. betrothed: promised in marriage; engaged |

Phrase Meanings:

1. **Zebulum and Naphtali:** two of the twelve sons of Jacob and thus two tribes of Israel
2. **swaddling clothes:** loose cloths

Questions:

According to Old Testament prophecy ...

1. In what little town would Messiah be born? _____
2. To what foreign country would Messiah have to go for a while? _____
3. In what area beyond the Jordan would Messiah speak and teach? _____

According to New Testament scripture ...

4. Where was Jesus born? _____
5. To what foreign country did Joseph take his family? _____

6. In what area near the sea, beyond the Jordan River, did Jesus teach? _____

DAY THREE

Many details of Jesus' life recorded in the New Testament were prophesied hundreds of years earlier in the Old Testament. In today's lesson you will read some of these Old Testament details—all provided by a loving God to show us Messiah, His provision for our salvation.

Deuteronomy 18:15 "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me (Moses) from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear,

Psalms 22:7-8, 17-18 All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, **8** "He trusted in the LORD, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!" **17** I can count all My bones. They look and stare at Me. **18** They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.

Psalms 34:20 He guards all his bones; not one of them is broken.

Psalms 41:9 Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me.

Isaiah 50:6 I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.

Isaiah 53:3, 7, 9, 12 He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. **7** He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. **9** And they made His grave with the wicked; but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth. **12** Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.



Zechariah 9:9 "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey."

Zechariah 11:12 Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.

Malachi 4:5-6 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. **6** And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.

Word Meanings:

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| 1. midst: middle, from among your people | 6. portion: part |
| 2. brethren: brothers | 7. transgressors: the guilty |
| 3. ridicule: make fun of | 8. bore: carried |
| 4. garments: clothes | 9. intercession: took up for, pleaded the cause |
| 5. familiar: well-known | |

Phrase Meanings:

1. **cast lots:** roll dice
2. **lifted up his heel:** turned against, betrayed

Questions:

1. From where would Messiah, or the Prophet come? _____

2. How would Messiah be received and treated? _____

3. What interesting fact is recorded about Messiah's bones? _____

4. What prophecy is given about a close friend of Messiah? _____

5. How would Messiah respond to those who treated Him badly? _____

6. What words describe what men thought of Messiah? _____

7. To what animal is Messiah compared? _____
8. How could Messiah be recognized as He entered Jerusalem? _____

9. What amount of money does Zechariah's prophecy associate with Messiah? _____

10. What was the prophet Elijah to do before the coming of Messiah? _____

FOR YOUR INFORMATION:

Are you surprised by the number of details prophesied about Messiah? Did you know that they were recorded four hundred years before His birth? One author counted sixty major prophecies and 270 related prophecies in the Old Testament! How likely do you think it would be that one man could meet every requirement? Who is the only one who could make it happen? Watch closely in tomorrow's lesson to see how each of the prophecies in today's lesson is fulfilled!

DAY FOUR

Today we will see how Jesus' life fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies we read in yesterday's lesson.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

Matthew 11:7, 10, 13 As they departed, Jesus began to say to the multitudes concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? **10** For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, who will prepare Your way before You.' **13** For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."

Luke 1:17 *[an angel is speaking to Zacharias about his son John]* "He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children,' and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

Mark 11:7-10 Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. **8** And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. **9** Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD!' **10** Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"

John 6:14 Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world."

John 1:11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

Matthew 26:14-15 Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests **15** and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.

Luke 22:47 And while He was still speaking, behold, a multitude; and he who was called Judas, one of the twelve, went before them and drew near to Jesus to kiss Him.

Mark 15:4-5 Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" **5** But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.

Matthew 26:67-68 Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands **68** saying, "Prophecy to us, Christ! Who is the one who struck You?"

Matthew 27:35 Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots."

Luke 23:34 Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." And they divided His garments and cast lots.

John 19:32-34 Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. **33** But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. **34** But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.

Mark 15:27-28 With Him they also crucified two robbers, one on His right and the other on His left. **28** So the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "And He was numbered with the transgressors."

Word Meanings:

1. **deliver:** turn over, bring to
2. **hewn:** carved

3. **testify:** speak under oath
4. **sign:** miracle

Questions:

1. Which prophet, in the spirit of Elijah, prepared the way for Jesus' coming? _____

2. How had Jesus arrived in Jerusalem? _____

3. When they saw the miracles Jesus performed, who did some of the people say He was? _____

4. How did His own people, the Jews, respond to Jesus? _____

5. Which close friend betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver? _____
6. How did Jesus respond to Pilate's questions? _____

7. In what ways was Jesus physically mistreated? _____

8. What became of Jesus' clothes? _____

9. What interesting fact is given about Jesus' bones? _____

10. **Challenge Question:** How many of the prophecies from yesterday's lesson can you match with facts about Jesus in today's lesson? _____

DAY FIVE

Through His genealogy, His geography, and His biography (His life), Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies of Messiah. Most importantly God claimed Jesus as His Son, and Jesus Himself said that He was God. Other people, too—even former enemies—declared Him to be equal to God. Today's lesson examines Scriptures concerning the divinity of Jesus.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READING:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Luke 1:26-31 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, **27** to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" **29** But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. **30** Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. **31** And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS."

Isaiah 35:4-6 Say to those who are fearful-hearted, "Be strong, do not fear! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God; He will come and save you." **5** Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. **6** Then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the dumb sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert.

Matthew 15:30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them.

Psalms 2:7 "I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, today I have begotten You.'"

Matthew 3:17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Psalms 16:10 For You will not leave my soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

Psalms 49:15 But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave, for He shall receive me.

Mark 16:6 But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed. You seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid Him."

Psalms 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, even from the rebellious, that the LORD God might dwell there.

Acts 1:9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

Word Meanings:

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| 1. declare: state plainly | 6. ascended: gone up |
| 2. decree: statement by someone of authority that applies to all under his rule | 7. conceive: become pregnant |
| 3. Sheol: the place of death | 8. Immanuel: "God with us" |
| 4. corruption: uncleanness | 9. vengeance: revenge |
| 5. redeem: to buy back | |

Questions:

1. a) Old Testament prophecies: What would be unique about the birth of Messiah?

b) New Testament fulfillment: What was unique about the birth of Jesus? _____

2. a) Old Testament prophecies: What miracles would Messiah perform? _____

- b) New Testament fulfillment: What miracles did Jesus perform? _____

3. a) Old Testament prophecies: What public acknowledgment of Messiah would be given by God Himself? _____

- b) New Testament fulfillment: What did God say about Jesus? _____

4. a) Old Testament prophecies: What would happen after Messiah's death? _____

- b) New Testament fulfillment: What happened after Jesus' death? _____

5. a) Old Testament prophecies: What would be Messiah's final act on earth? _____

- b) New Testament fulfillment: What was Jesus' last act on earth? _____

THINK ABOUT IT:

Do you think it would have been easy to identify the one true Messiah? Can you think of any reasons that some people might not have recognized Him? _____

REVIEW

From this week's lesson, tell two or three facts that you remember about prophecy concerning

1. the genealogy (record of family history) of Messiah _____

2. where the Messiah was born and lived _____

3. the life of Messiah _____

4. the divinity of Messiah _____

5. In your own words explain how Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of Messiah. _____

