

Week 35: The Promised Messiah - Old Testament Prophecies

A Sabbath Family Bible Study

Introduction

From the moment sin entered the world, God promised us redemption. The Messiah was not an afterthought or some New Testament invention. It was the central hope woven throughout the Law, the Prophets, and the Psalms. Israel waited for Him through centuries of exile, judgment, warning, and finally restoration.

This week traces key Old Testament prophecies that revealed who the Messiah would be, how He would come, and what He would accomplish. These promises anchored God's peoples faith through darkness and pointed them forward to a coming King, Savior, and Redeemer. Families are reminded that God keeps His word - always, fully, but in His timing.

Scripture Reading (KJV)

(Deuteronomy 18:15–19, Isaiah 7:14, Isaiah 9:6–7, Micah 5:2–5, Psalms 22:16–18, Isaiah 53:3–6, Psalm 130:5–8)

Deuteronomy 18:15–19 - The Promised Prophet Like Moses

15 The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;

16 According to all that thou desiredst of the LORD thy God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, neither let me see this great fire any more, that I die not.

17 And the LORD said unto me, They have well spoken that which they have spoken.

18 I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him.

19 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him.

Commentary

God promised that He would raise up a Prophet like Moses - one who would speak God's words with divine authority and demand obedience. This was not some vague reference but a direct promise given to Israel before they entered the land. The Messiah would not only rule as King; He would teach, reveal God's will, and stand as the ultimate mediator between God and man. This prophecy prepared Israel to recognize Christ not by miracles, but by obedience to the Word He spoke. Refusing to listen would carry consequences, because rejecting the Messiah is rejecting God Himself.

Isaiah 7:14 - God With Us

14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

Commentary

God promised a sign not a metaphor. The virgin birth was given as undeniable proof that salvation would come by divine intervention. This prophecy assured Israel that God had not abandoned His people, even in times of fear and political threat. "Immanuel," meaning *God with us*, declares that the Messiah would not only represent God, but embody His presence among men. Through this promise, God revealed that redemption would come not through power or alliance, but through God entering humanity to save His people from within.

Isaiah 9:6-7 - The Coming King

6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

7 Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.

Commentary

This prophecy reveals the Messiah as both *child* and *King*. He would be born in humility, yet entrusted with absolute authority. The government resting upon His shoulder declares that true order, justice, and peace flow from His rule. Isaiah names Him not only as a human ruler, but as The Mighty God, affirming the divine nature of the Messiah. His kingdom would not rise and fall like earthly empires, it would be established forevermore by God Himself. Families are reminded in this that Christ's authority is absolute and everlasting. He is not only the Savior to be received, but the King to be obeyed - over nations, over history, and over the daily life and order of the household.

Micah 5:2–5 - The Promised Birthplace

2 But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

3 Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel.

4 And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

5 And this man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men.

Commentary

God did not just promise that the Messiah would come, He named the exact place. Bethlehem was small, unimpressive, and easily overlooked, yet God chose it to demonstrate that salvation comes by His power, not human prestige. This ruler would be born in humility, yet His origins were “from everlasting,” revealing that the Messiah is eternal. Micah shows that Christ would shepherd His people, ruling with strength, provision, and divine authority. The peace He brings is not temporary or political, but everlasting, securely rooted in God's presence and rule. Families should be reminded that God often works through what seems small and ordinary to accomplish eternal purposes, and that true peace is found only under the reign of the promised King.

Psalm 22:16–18 - The Suffering Messiah

16 For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.

17 I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me.

18 They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture.

Commentary

Written long before crucifixion was practiced, this psalm foretells the suffering of the Messiah in vivid detail. God revealed that salvation would come through suffering. Families are reminded that God's greatest victory came through sacrifice, obedience, and endurance.

Isaiah 53:3–6 - The Sin-Bearer

3 He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.

5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.

6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.

Commentary

Isaiah reveals that the Messiah would be rejected, misunderstood, and even despised. Not because He was guilty of anything, but because humanity failed to recognize Him as God. His suffering was not symbolic; it was substitutionary. He carried griefs that were not His own and bore punishment meant for others. Verse 6 tells us every person is guilty, and God transferred that guilt to the Messiah. Our salvation is not achieved through moral effort, lineage, or obedience to law, but through the willing sacrifice of the Sin-Bearer. Families must be reminded that redemption required great humility, and obedience unto suffering, and that forgiveness flows only from the work God accomplished through His promised Servant.

Discussion Questions for All Ages

Young Children

- Who did God promise would come?
- Why did God send a Savior?
- Where was the Messiah promised to be born?

Older Children & Teens

- Why did God give promises long before Jesus was born?
- What do these prophecies teach us about God's faithfulness?
- Why did the Messiah have to suffer?

Adults

- How does fulfilled prophecy strengthen faith?
 - Why is it important to teach children the promises before the fulfillment?
 - How should Christ's kingship shape family leadership and priorities?
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Psalm Reading

Psalm 130:5–8 (KJV)

5 I wait for the LORD, my soul doth wait, and in his word do I hope.

6 My soul waiteth for the Lord more than they that watch for the morning: I say, more than they that watch for the morning.

7 Let Israel hope in the LORD: for with the LORD there is mercy, and with him is plenteous redemption.

8 And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Commentary

This psalm captures the posture of God's people before the Messiah came: waiting, watching, and hoping in God's Word. The repetition of waiting emphasizes endurance and the faith that holds fast through long nights of silence. Israel's hope was not rooted in circumstances, kings, or strength, but in the Lord's mercy and promised redemption. Verse 8 brings the promise to its fulfillment: God Himself would redeem His people from sin, not just from enemies or hardship. Families are reminded that faithful waiting is an act of trust, and that God's promises are worth enduring for, because redemption always comes from His hand.

Hymn: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

By Charles Wesley (1744)

1.

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.

2.

Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

3.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

4.

By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.



Family Application Points

1. **Trust God's Promises**

God always keeps His word perfectly and completely. Families can anchor their faith in His unchanging truth with absolute confidence.

2. **Teach the Long View**

God works across generations. Children must learn that faithfulness is often rewarded beyond a single lifetime and our actions have lasting consequences across many generations to come.

3. **Submit to Christ's Kingship**

Jesus is not only our Savior but our Lord. His authority must shape the order, priorities, and discipline of our homes and lives.

4. **Embrace Sacrificial Obedience**

The Messiah saved us through His suffering. Families grow through obedience, endurance, and trust - not through comfort or acceptance.

5. **Live in Hope**

Just as Israel waited for Christ's first coming, we now live in expectation of His return.



A Sabbath Feast Prayer

Faithful God, who keeps every promise You have spoken, we thank You for the Messiah You foretold and fulfilled. As we sit at this table, bless this food before us and bless the loving hands that prepared it. Teach our family to trust Your timing, submit to Christ's kingship, and live in hopeful obedience. Let our home rest in the assurance that Your Word never fails. In Jesus' name, Amen.



Closing Prayer

Lord, You are the God who promises and fulfills. Strengthen our faith as we remember the words spoken long before Christ came and the salvation He accomplished for us. Teach our family to trust You across generations, to wait patiently, and to live faithfully under the reign of our promised King. May our home be shaped by hope, obedience, and gratitude for Your redeeming love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

