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Messianic Prophecies

Key Theme

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

Key Passages

- Isaiah 7:14, 53:3–7; Matthew 1:21–23

Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Identify the length of time between Isaiah's prophecies and Christ's life.
- Describe two prophecies specifically fulfilled by Jesus.



Lesson Overview



Come On In

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Students will practice the memory verse by completing the Memory Verse Review Sheet using the letter clues. If time allows, they will recite the verse to a partner or to the teacher using only the letter clues.



Activity 1: Messianic Prophecies Class Notes

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Students will fill out the Messianic Prophecies Class Notes as you study the lesson. Pass out the class notes before you begin to teach.



Studying God's Word

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Isaiah foretold details of the Messiah's birth that only God could have revealed to His prophet. Their fulfillment, about 700 years later, reminds us that God's plan to send a Redeemer was in place before the beginning of time.



Activity 2: Isaiah Interview

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Students will act out a skit that involves Isaiah, two reporters, and class participation as a fun way to review the lesson.

Lesson Preparation

WHAT YOU WILL DO

WHAT YOU WILL NEED



COME ON IN

- Print the Memory Verse Review Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.

- Memory Verse Poster
- Memory Verse Review Sheet for each student



MESSIANIC PROPHECIES CLASS NOTES

- Print one Messianic Prophecies Class Notes from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student. Keep the answer key for your use.

- Messianic Prophecies Class Notes for each student
- Messianic Prophecies Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils



STUDYING GOD'S WORD

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



ISAIAH INTERVIEW

- Print one Isaiah Interview Skit from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student and one for yourself.

- Isaiah Interview Skits
- Optional: Microphone, costume for Isaiah



Memory Verse

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

► **Pace your lesson!** Use the clocks to mark the time you want to finish each section. This will help you stay on track and finish on time. You may need to shorten or drop sections as necessary.





Prepare to Share

SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the lesson key passages along with this background.

Have you ever tried to predict the future? How did that turn out for you? Sometimes, our guesses about what will happen in the future are based on sound reasoning and information, but even then, our predictions are not guaranteed to actually come to pass.

But this is not the case for our Creator—He knows all things past, present, and future. He alone is omniscient. God used prophets to speak for Him. And when He did, those things occurred. A true prophet was identified by the accuracy of his prophecy. If what he proclaimed did not come to pass, he was considered a false prophet (Deuteronomy 18:17–22).

Today, we'll see how God used His faithful prophet Isaiah. Isaiah spoke the words of God boldly and truthfully. Like the prophet Micah, Isaiah spoke about the coming Messiah in specific detail—700 years before He was born. We'll explore two of Isaiah's messianic prophecies, foretelling Christ's virgin birth and His death for our sin upon the Cross.

Isaiah 7:14 speaks of a virgin conceiving and bearing a Son whose name would be Immanuel. We later see a clear connection between Isaiah's words and the angel's message to Joseph in Matthew 1:20–25, where Isaiah's prophecy is repeated and the name of Immanuel is translated as "God with us." The virgin, Mary, would bring forth a Son by the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus would be fully God and fully man (John 1:14). The prophecy of Isaiah 7:14, proclaimed almost 700 years before Jesus was born, was fulfilled and recorded in the New Testament.

The second prophecy from Isaiah that pointed forward to the Messiah came much later in his ministry. In Isaiah 52:13–53:12, Isaiah spoke of the suffering Servant who would be beaten, despised, mocked, and rejected. This Man would be wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. He would become the offering for sin and die in the place of sinners.

Only the hardhearted can read this passage and not recognize the suffering and death of Jesus during the final days of His life on earth. In fact, anecdotes tell of Christians asking Jews to listen to this passage and to identify who is being described. As they acknowledge it describes Jesus's death, they are then shocked to learn that these words were spoken by the Jewish prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament—700 years before Jesus's birth.

For Christians, these words from Isaiah should shock us as well, but in a different way. We should be shocked to realize how much Jesus had to suffer for our sins. Go back and read Isaiah 52:13–53:12 again. Think about your role in why Jesus was tortured and crucified. Remember that the Father had to crush His Son so that you would not face His wrath in hell. As you were a sheep wandering after your own desires, Jesus was led as a lamb to be slaughtered on your behalf. Now take a moment to read 1 Peter 2:21–25 and notice the language that Peter is borrowing from Isaiah.

Isaiah's Prophecy

Connections in 1 Peter 2

53:5—He was wounded for our transgressions	2:21—Christ suffered for believers
53:9—He did no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth	2:22—Christ committed no sin or deceit
53:7—He opened not His mouth	2:23—Christ did not return the reviling He received
53:4–5—He bore our grief and was wounded for our transgressions	2:24—Christ bore our sins on the Cross that we might be healed
53:6—We all like sheep have gone astray	2:25—We have all gone our own way, like sheep

Jesus has fulfilled the messianic prophecies delivered by Isaiah. What an amazing Savior we serve! He alone is worthy of our worship and praise. He is the only one who can save us from our sin. As you teach this lesson, pray that your students will fully understand their sinfulness and their need for this Savior—the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

Isaiah was a prophet during the reigns of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah in the Southern Kingdom of Judah. His ministry lasted from about 760 to 700 BC and was primarily focused on Judah. His prophecies not only included calls to repentance from sin but also presented the hope of a future deliverer—the Savior and Messiah who would one day come.

We've said that Isaiah's prophecy of the virgin birth was 700 years before Jesus's birth. We know this

time frame to be true because the Bible says Isaiah spoke his words to King Ahaz (7:1, 7:3, 7:10), who ruled in Judah from 742–726 BC. Isaiah’s ministry continued into the reign of King Hezekiah who ruled from 726–698 BC. We read in Lesson 7 that Judah was attacked by the Assyrians in 712 BC during the fourteenth year of Hezekiah’s reign (Isaiah 36:1). The prophecies of Isaiah recorded in chapter 39 and following were delivered after Samaria fell to the Assyrians and when the Babylonian empire was on the rise. The prophecies from this later section of the book of Isaiah were most likely delivered around the same time since there are no clear time markers in the text. This places Isaiah’s description of the Messiah’s suffering and death more than 700 years before it happened.

One of the most powerful confirmations of the truthfulness of Scripture comes in the fulfillment of specific prophecies made well in advance of the actual events. The foreshadowing of Jesus’s death in Isaiah 53 was a demonstration of God’s sovereignty and omniscience as we recognize the precise fulfillment in the crucifixion recorded in the New Testament. God is the only one who knows the future with absolute certainty.

Although we can make plans, we can’t know what will happen tomorrow. In fact, to presume to know our future is to set ourselves in a place that only God should sit (James 4:13–16). God alone is omniscient. He alone knows the future. And He alone directs our

steps (Proverbs 16:9). His counsel will stand in spite of the plans we make (Proverbs 19:21). Confidence in His sovereignty and His omniscience will lead to confidence in His Word. That confidence can lead us to humbly submit to His Word and the truths it reveals—leading to an assurance of eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



BEFORE THE THRONE

Savior and Lord, my heart is filled to overflowing with gratitude as I recognize your great love and the sacrifice you made for me on the Cross. Yet, my heart breaks because so many in my community don’t know you. Only your sweet Spirit, reminding me of your love and sovereignty, keeps me from despair. Draw the hearts of my loved ones to you. And please move in the lives of my precious students, too. As I name them one by one, I ask that you make them aware of their own sinfulness so they will experience the godly sorrow that leads to true repentance. Use me, as you will, to minister your Word to them this week.



COME ON IN

As students arrive . . .

- They will complete the Memory Verse Review Sheet. If time allows, have the students recite the verse together, to each other, or to you.

This time at the beginning of class should be used to review the memory verse. We have provided an activity sheet on the Resource DVD-ROM for you to use. You may have other ideas and ways to encourage your students to memorize the verse.



After all the students arrive, pray with them before beginning the lesson.



REVIEW

Using the Lesson Theme Posters provided with each lesson, quickly review the previous lesson(s) with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Theme Posters. Reflect briefly on the passages you read, bringing the objectives and themes back into focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



Messianic Prophecies Class Notes

MATERIALS

- Messianic Prophecies Class Notes
- Messianic Prophecies Class Notes Answer Key
- Pencils

INSTRUCTIONS

Print the class notes for each student. Pass them out at the beginning of class. Have students fill in the blanks as you study the lesson.

We will be completing these class notes as we study the Bible passages. Do not work ahead. I'll let you know when to fill something in.

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

As we complete the class notes today, we will see that the prophecies Isaiah told about Jesus came true in His life, death, and Resurrection.



Studying God's Word

READ THE WORD

Refer to the History of Israel Poster. This week, our lesson is about another prophet who spoke the words of God boldly and truthfully. His name is Isaiah. We talked about him a little in Lesson 7. He ministered to and advised the good King Hezekiah in Judah. This week we are going to see that Isaiah, like the prophet Micah who we read about last week, had the privilege, as God's messenger, of announcing the Messiah—Jesus Christ. In fact, Micah and Isaiah were both prophesying for God at the same time. It was about

- Use the History of Israel Poster included with your teacher kit to show your class where the biblical accounts you study chronologically fit into this timeline.

700 years before Jesus was born. In today's lesson, we see another glimpse of the Scarlet Thread that runs throughout the entire Bible—the thread that is always reminding us that Jesus is the Savior and promised Messiah. Refer to the Scarlet Thread Poster.

The prophecies of Isaiah were very specific. Let's see what they were—700 years before they happened! Turn to Isaiah 7:14 in your Bibles. *Have a student read the verse.*

Isaiah 7:14

➤ The virgin birth may be a sensitive topic. If so, talk about the "special" birth of Jesus through the Holy Spirit and that His name was Immanuel, God with us.

➤ After completing each point on the class notes, have the students re-read the statement together or call on individual students to read it.

EXAMINE THE WORD

There are several things for us to look at in this single verse! I'm sure if we answer some questions about it, we'll be able to figure out what they are.

Observe the Text

? There would be a sign for the people. Who was the sign from? *The Lord.*

Right. The Lord would one day send these signs that Isaiah was talking about. And these signs would show the people that Jesus, the long awaited Messiah, was finally here.

? This verse is talking about someone being born. Is this baby going to be a boy or girl? *It will be a boy.*

? How do you know? *The Bible says a Son will be born.*

? Will someone read #1 and #2 on your class notes and tell me how you'll complete them? *Assign readers. Lord, A boy.*

That's right. Now there are some words in this verse you may not know. It says "the virgin will conceive and bear a Son." This was going to be a very special birth—unlike any other. Mary, His mother was a virgin. This means she had never lived with a man like she was married to him. She and Joseph were not married yet. But God was going to bless her in a very special way and she would have a very special Son.

? What did Isaiah say the name of the baby boy would be? In the same verse. *Immanuel.*

? Will someone read #3 on your class notes and give the answer? *Assign a reader. Immanuel.*

His name would be Immanuel. Hmmm. Do you know anyone named Immanuel? I wonder what that means. Well, we're going to find out by turning to Matthew 1. We're going to read Matthew 1:21–23. *Choose students to read aloud.*

? This verse talks again about a baby being born. Is this baby a boy or a girl? How do you know? *Matthew 1:21. A boy. It says a Son was born.*

? And what is this Son's name? *Matthew 1:21. Jesus.*

? What will this Son do? *Matthew 1:21. Save His people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21–23

This is going to be a very special baby boy. And do you see that Isaiah said the same things about Him? He would be a boy and He would have a very special birth.

Now look at Matthew 1:23. Someone read it again. *Choose a reader.*

- ? Where did we read that same thing before? Can you remember? *Isaiah 7:14.*
- ? The woman would have a baby boy. What would they call Him? *Matthew 1:23. Immanuel.*
- ? And what does Immanuel mean? *Matthew 1:23. God with us.*
- ? His name was Jesus and Immanuel, which means “God with us.” Look at #4 on your class notes. Will someone read that for us? How will you complete it? *Jesus.*
- ? And can someone read #5? How will you finish that? *Assign a reader. God.*
- ? Isaiah could write these prophecies because the Lord was telling him what to write. But how did God know what was going to happen when Jesus came? Which attributes of God explain that God knows the future? *Refer to the Attributes of God Poster and allow discussion.*

We can explain Isaiah’s perfect accuracy because he was speaking for God. And God knows everything—even the future. He’s omniscient. Plus, God is sovereign. He was involved in all that was unfolding, causing the events to happen just as He planned them. That is why all the prophecies in the Bible are 100% reliable!

- ? Someone read #6 on your class notes. How will you complete this statement? *Assign a reader. Omniscient, sovereign.*

Discover the Truth

Isaiah spoke for God and told the people that there would be a boy, a Son, born in a special way to a young woman. And His name would be Immanuel. The people waited a long time for that Son to be born. But then, 700 years later, God’s words came true. Jesus was born. Another name for Him is Immanuel—which means “God with us.” God came to earth as a baby named Jesus. Jesus would save His people from their sins. And Jesus still offers forgiveness of sins to all who turn from their sins, ask forgiveness, and trust in Him. Isaiah told the people to look for the signs of this special child. Isaiah’s words were passed down for 700 years—and finally the signs and the prophecies came true. Jesus was born.



READ THE WORD

God told us through Isaiah how Jesus would be born. And He also told how He would live and die. Let’s go back to the book of Isaiah and read

➤ This would be a good opportunity to explain the footnotes in the Bible. Show the students how the footnote to Matthew 1:23 refers to Isaiah 7:14 which you just read.

OMNISCIENT
SOVEREIGN

(Refer to Attributes Poster)

Isaiah 53:3–7. This passage is referring to Jesus—Immanuel—God with us.
Choose students to read the verses aloud.

EXAMINE THE WORD

Those verses had a lot of big words. But don't worry. We'll break them down by answering a few questions and learning a couple of definitions. Then we'll know a lot better what they mean.

Observe the Text

? Isaiah is talking about Jesus. Does this describe someone who is happy?

Isaiah 53:3. No.

? No, I'd say He was far from happy. How would men treat this one who was to come? *Isaiah 53:7. Despise Him. Reject Him. Hide from Him.*

Jesus would one day come to earth to redeem His people from their sins. And He would be rejected, despised, sorrowful, and filled with grief.

? Someone read #7 on your class notes. How will you complete it? *Reject.*

? So, men would not treat this Messiah very well. They despised Him, rejected Him, and hid from Him. But, what would He do for men who rejected Him? *Isaiah 53:4. He bore our grief and carried our sorrows.*

? Someone read #8 on your class notes. How will you complete it? *Sorrows.*

? Jesus died on the Cross, right? Why did He do that? Why did He have to die? Look in Isaiah 53:5. *He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.*

? What are our transgressions and iniquities? What do those words refer to? *Allow discussion. Our sins.*

? Transgressions and iniquities are sins—disobedience to God. Will someone read Isaiah 53:6 and replace the word iniquity with sin? This is our memory verse. Anyone know it by heart yet? *Assign a reader. Read Isaiah 53:7, replacing "iniquity" with "sin."*

? Who will read #9 on your class notes? How will you answer it? *Assign a reader. Sins.*

God punished Jesus for our sins. And He bore the punishment for them. He was wounded and bruised for our sin. And remember, in Isaiah 53:3 it tells us that even though He did all that, men would despise and reject Him.

? Jesus was killed—the Bible says slaughtered—for our sins. How was He led to His death, to His slaughter? *Isaiah 53:7. Like a lamb or sheep. He was silent.*

Wow! When Jesus was slaughtered and OUR sins laid on Him, He did not cry out. He was silent. He was led quietly and peacefully like a lamb to be killed.

? Who can read #10 for me? How will you complete that? *Lamb.*

Discover the Truth

Isaiah spoke of Jesus 700 years before Jesus was born. And when Jesus came, the things Isaiah said about His birth, life, and death proved to be true. Jesus was despised by men—they hated Him so much they killed Him. He came to die and take the punishment for sinners like you and me. And He didn't open His mouth. He didn't complain or fight back. He was led like a lamb to the slaughter. Now, could Jesus have fought back? Of course He could have. He is God—God with us. But, He knew that would not complete the plan. He knew why He had come—like Isaiah said 700 years earlier—to carry our sorrows and die on the Cross so sinners could be forgiven and acceptable to God in heaven for all eternity.



Isaiah Interview

MATERIALS

- Isaiah Interview Scripts
- Optional props: Microphone, costume for Isaiah—head covering and/or wide belt

INSTRUCTIONS

Assign students for the four roles. Pass out scripts to every student, and ask them to be ready to say their part by following along with the script. Show the four characters where they should perform the skit and have all the other students turn their chairs, so they can see.

We have a skit about Isaiah to perform for the class. Everyone has a part to play. Follow along on your script and be ready to say your part when it's your turn. This will be

a fun way to review the lesson and get to know Isaiah a little better. *Perform the skit.*

CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

Isaiah was a prophet of God. He delivered the messages that the Lord gave him. But he was just a man. He trusted and obeyed God. He had faith that the Lord would accomplish His perfect will and fulfill the prophecies just the way He planned to. Some of Isaiah's prophecies came true in his lifetime, some happened nearly 700 years later, and some of his prophecies have not happened yet—we are still waiting.



Applying God's Word

WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

These prophecies and their answers remind us just how great God is! And we can rejoice because His Word is great! God knew from the very beginning that Jesus would come to save sinners. God used Isaiah to tell the people all about it 700 years before it happened! And Isaiah's words

about a Son who would be born of a virgin finally came true when Jesus was born. Not only that, God moved Isaiah to write about Jesus's death. And that, too, occurred just like Isaiah said it would.

GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Isaiah said Jesus would come, and Jesus did come. He came because we are all sinners. And God hates sin. Because of our sin, we are separated from God. We don't have a chance to get to God or to heaven on our own. God can't look at sin—He can't be in the presence of sin. Our sin keeps us out of heaven and apart from God. This would be really sad, terrible news for us except for what we read about today. Something God told us many, many years ago—through Isaiah—that a man would come and suffer for our sins. And His suffering and death would bring forgiveness to His people.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the students to practice the memory verse this week.

But the only way sins could be forgiven in the eyes of our holy God would be by another man's death. This man would have to be perfect because God demands a perfect sacrifice. No human being, descendant of Adam and Eve has ever been perfect or sinless. The only thing God could do was to become a man. Jesus was God and man. Jesus came to save sinners. And Jesus promises that everyone who believes in Him, who trusts Him and calls on His name, all who turn away from their sin, will be saved. We can find forgiveness because Jesus was willing to die as a man on the Cross, because Jesus loved us enough to take the punishment on Himself for our sins.



MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 53:6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.



GROUP PRAYER TIME

- Praise God for His perfect omniscience and sovereignty. He knows and controls all things.
- Thank God for His plan of salvation that was in place before the beginning.
- Ask God to help us have faith to believe His Word and to obey it.