



# 9

# Messianic Prophecies

## Key Theme

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

## Key Passages

- Isaiah 1:1, 7:10, 7:14, 52:13–53:12; Matthew 1:20–25;  
1 Peter 2:21–25

## 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

Write on the board, "Why is the name Immanuel important?"

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.



### Studying God's Word

Isaiah foretold details of the Messiah's birth and death 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.

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.
- Read through the lesson Key Passages.



### Activity: The Old Testament Cross

Students will compare the description of Jesus in Isaiah 52–53 with the events of His Crucifixion.

- Student Guides
- Pencils



# 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 borrowed 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.

➤ **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.





## COME ON IN

- Write on the board, “Why is the name Immanuel important?”
- 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.



## Review

Last week we saw some amazing prophecies delivered from God through Micah.

? Who can recall how long before their fulfillment these prophecies were made?

*About 700 years. 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.*

In those prophecies we saw four very specific predictions about Jesus, including His birthplace—Bethlehem. Micah was not throwing out some educated guesses; He was proclaiming the words of God and speaking of things that would surely come to pass.

Today we are going to continue looking at prophecies of Christ, but from another

prophet. Isaiah, who we met back in lesson 7, was also a prophet in Judah at the same time as Micah. Look at Isaiah 1:1 with me.

*Read the verse aloud.*

*Refer to the History of Israel poster.*

This places Isaiah in the context of these kings of Judah who reigned from 810–698 BC. So we know that these words were delivered to the Jewish people at least 700 years before the birth of Christ. We are only going to look at two of the prophecies today, but there are over 20 Messianic prophecies (prophecies of the coming Messiah) in Isaiah fulfilled at the first coming of Jesus.



► Write on the board, “Why is the name Immanuel important?”



## Studying God's Word

### READ THE WORD

Let's read Isaiah 7:10–17 together and look at our first prophecy. Isaiah is speaking to King Ahaz of Judah at a time when Jerusalem is being attacked by Syria and Israel. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

### EXAMINE THE WORD

#### Observe the Text

*Refer to the Bible Study poster to remind your students how to dig deeper into God's Word by asking the right questions.*

Isaiah 7:10–17

- ? **Who is the prophecy addressed to?** *The house of David is the intended audience.*
- ? **Who is in the house of David?** *The kings of Judah are the house of David.*
- ? **What covenant is in mind here?** *The Davidic Covenant; to maintain the throne of David forever.*
- ? **What sign of the surety of the message was given to Ahaz, a member of the House of David?** *A son called Immanuel would be born to a virgin.*
- ? **When would this son be born?** *The markers are pointing to a time in the near future since the child would not be old enough to know right from wrong when Assyria and Israel are overthrown.*
- ? **Did this come to pass before Israel was overthrown (in 721 BC)?** *Isaiah had a son born to him in verse 8:3 who fulfilled part of the prophecy. His name was different, so he did not completely fulfill the prophecy. The prophecy is basically fulfilled in four aspects: a virgin birth, a son, the timing, and the name.*
- ? **What event in the life of Jesus is present in this prophecy?** *The Virgin Birth is clearly in view in the proclamation. Jesus fulfilled the virgin birth and the name aspects of the Isaiah prophecy.*
- ? **How can we be sure that this prophecy was fulfilled in Jesus?** *The New Testament refers to the fulfillment of this prophecy from Isaiah in several places, connecting it directly to the birth of Christ.*
- ? **Will someone please read Matthew 1:18–25?** *Assign a reader.*
- ? **How is the Isaiah prophecy fulfilled in Jesus's birth?** *He was born to Mary, a virgin (also see Luke 1:26–38), and Matthew clearly connects this birth to the passage from Isaiah that predicted it.*
- ? **What name is used to refer to Jesus in this passage?** *Immanuel, just as predicted in Isaiah.*

Matthew 1:18–25

## Discover the Truth

Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, the miraculous nature of His birth was foretold by God through the prophet Isaiah. Jesus, meaning Savior, came to the earth as God cloaked in human flesh just as had been planned before the worlds were even framed. He came to be Immanuel—God with us. In this union of Creator and creature, the plan of redemption unfolded one step further.

Jesus dwelt with us, living a life of perfect obedience to the Father.

According to plan, He willingly gave up His life for His sheep. We might not think of this as an Old Testament idea, but the suffering and death of the Messiah for the forgiveness of sins is clearly presented there.





# The Old Testament Cross

## MATERIALS

- Student Guides
- Pencils

## INSTRUCTIONS

*This activity will take a large chunk of class time, so plan accordingly.*

- ? If you wanted to learn about what happened at the Crucifixion, where would you turn? Most will likely suggest that the accounts in the Gospels would be the best place to turn.

It surprises many people to find out that there is a lot of detail about the Crucifixion in the Old Testament. Your job today is to read through Isaiah 52:13–53:12 and connect this passage with the events of Christ’s life and crucifixion. We know without a doubt that this section of Scripture is referring to Jesus since it is referenced in several places in the New Testament (Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24). *Have the students work in groups or pairs. Consider pairing new believers with more mature believers.*

In your Student Guides you will find the activity The Old Testament Cross. Use your Bible and the information there to identify the various aspects of the life and

death of Jesus the Messiah. We will discuss what you found in a few minutes. *Allow time to complete activity, helping groups as needed.*

## CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

- ? What are some of the specific details you found in the text that connect to the Crucifixion of Jesus? *Discuss various answers including the brutal beating and marred visage, being despised by men, bearing sin, being pierced, etc.*
- ? What language is used to describe the atonement for sin? *He will sprinkle many nations (52:15); He has borne our griefs and sorrows, and the sin of others was upon Him (53:4–6); He was stricken for the transgressions of others (53:8); His soul was made an offering for sin (53:10); The Father is satisfied in the works of the Son and many are justified (53:11); He bore the sins of many and made intercession for the transgressors (53:12). Isaiah 42:1–9, 49:1–13, and 50:4–11 also talk about the Suffering Servant.*

There are three other passages in Isaiah that also shed light on the coming Messiah—the Servant who would take on sin on behalf of so many people. All of these give details about the life and death of Jesus 700 years before His birth. We can’t help but marvel at a God who could reveal and then bring to pass these remarkable events.



## READ THE WORD

1 Peter 2:21–25

We read 1 Peter 2:21–25 last week, but I want to read it again in light of what we just learned from Isaiah. *Have someone read the passage aloud.*

## EXAMINE THE WORD

### Observe the Text

- ? Who are the author and audience? *The Apostle Peter is writing to first-century Christians.*

- ? **When was this written?** *This was written in the first century AD, after the death and Resurrection of Jesus—about 700 years after Isaiah.*
- ? **What language do you recognize from Isaiah 52–53?** *Christ suffered; Verse 22 is quoted from Isaiah 53:9; did not return the reviling; bore the sins of others in His body; verse 24 quotes Isaiah 53:5; verse 25 talks about the sheep going astray.*
- ? **How are the readers of this letter supposed to respond?** *They are called to follow the example of Christ in their suffering and persecution.*

## Discover the Truth

As Peter sought to encourage the early Christians, he didn't just tell them to keep a stiff upper lip. Rather, "Look to Christ's example" was his charge. Peter shored up their faith by reminding them that their sins were forgiven because of what Christ suffered on their behalf—things prophesied by Isaiah. This advice still holds true for us today, and we can look to the gospel for hope to endure.

Are you looking to Christ and resting in what He has done as the Christ, the Messiah, and Immanuel who took on flesh so that He could bear the punishment for your sins?



## Applying God's Word

### WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

As we think about the amazing details we have seen in the Messianic prophecies delivered by Micah and Isaiah, we can only be moved to worship God for His goodness to us and to those who heard the message of hope hundreds of years before Jesus was to walk the earth. Remember that the scarlet thread of the atoning, propitiating (wrath absorbing) work of Jesus was foreshadowed in the opening pages of Scripture. Isaiah offered a glimpse forward to the birth, life, and death of the one who would come to crush the head of Satan and wipe out the effects of the Fall of mankind. We are truly blessed to be able to see more of the unfolding of God's plan to redeem us—those who rebelled against Him—by the death of His Son.

### GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

- ? **How does God's omniscience help us understand the topic we have been discussing today?** *Because God knows all things past, present, and future, He can boldly proclaim what will happen in the future and bring it to pass.*
- ? **Do the fulfilled prophecies in Isaiah prove that the Bible is true?** *The Bible is true apart from the fulfillment of these prophecies, so the fulfilled prophecies don't prove the Bible*

is true. Because we know the Bible is true, these fulfilled prophecies are great confirmations of the truth of the Bible and the character of God. We can use these prophecies to share truth with others, but they do not make the Bible true—they are true because they are contained in the Bible. The Bible must be the ultimate authority, not any outside evidences.

- ? **Isaiah 52–53 is written in both future and past tense language when it describes Jesus (53:3 contains “is” and “was”). Why could Isaiah speak in this way in this section of Scripture?** *The events were still to come, but Isaiah recorded them in the past tense. This is a literary device that indicates that these things were certainly going to happen.*
- ? **What have you learned or been reminded of in today’s lesson that helps you to trust God more?** *Discuss various answers.*
- ? **How can you see yourself using this information in evangelistic ways?** *Especially with people who have a Jewish background, Isaiah 52–53 could be used to show how well the life and death of Jesus matches the prophecies made by Isaiah. You could ask them to listen to the passage and then ask them who it describes. They will likely recognize Jesus—a natural opportunity to call them to receive the Savior who bore sins on the Cross. Discuss other ways it could be used, especially by showing others the fulfillment of prophecy 700 years after its proclamation as a confirmation of the truthfulness of the Bible.*



### MEMORY VERSE

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



### GROUP PRAYER TIME

Be sure to pray with your class before you dismiss them.

- Thank God for His kindness and mercy to rebels.
- Praise God for sending Immanuel to bear our sins.
- Ask God to help us boldly communicate His plan of redemption.