

The need for a messiah

The Cause – Sin

Man broke the perfect relationship with God that God had established.

Genesis 3

Because of this break, sin and death entered the world

The evidence of sin in the world and our lives. (Evil things men and women do, pain, suffering, tears, worry, fear)

Genesis 3

Sinful Men and Women could not have a personal relationship with God.

From that time until today, men and women have carried the sin nature that Adam and Eve brought into the world.

Genesis 5

How would you describe sin?

Commission, Omission, those are individual sins, but they are also the evidence of our sinful nature

God is righteous, without sin, and the WoG tells us that he cannot be in the presence of sin. God has a rule, it says that if you sin you will die.

Lest we think that because Adam brought this sin into the world it is not our fault we sin, nor is it something we can do nothing about lets look at what the prophets said about sin in our lives:

Prophet Moses Deut 24:16 Each is to die for his own sin.

Prophet Jeremiah (perhaps) 1 Kings 8:46 There is no one who does not sin.

So, what the prophets tell us is that:

Sin has separated us from God

Sin has brought suffering and death into this world

We are all sinners

Each of us will die for our sins.

To continue in sin or be set free from it?

God could have just gone on his way and left Adam and Eve to die in their sins, but he did not.

In the same verses in Genesis we have been reading is evidence that God does not want us to remain in sin forever.

God kept them from reaching the tree of life.

Genesis 3.

The WoG tells us that God loves us and is a forgiving God.

Exodus 34:6-7a

So if God wants a relationship with us, there must a way for him to forgive our sin, otherwise we would not be able to have a relationship with him because of his righteousness and our sinfulness.

One possible plan

Repair the relationship by offsetting our sins with good deeds.

If this was the way God planned to forgive us and allow us into his presence then the plan would be for us to do as many good deeds as possible to offset the bad deeds or sins we do. Let's see how that might work out.

Can murder be offset by new birth?

Can harsh words to another person be totally offset by kind words? Lingering problems

Let's say we could offset. 10 sins a day.

And worst of all, unless we were perfect accountants how would we ever know whether we had truly balanced the scale with God? We could never know for certain whether we had done enough to have a relationship with God and whether God would take us to heaven with him when we die on this earth.

The Gospel writer John in writing about the plan God has to forgive sin said these words "I write to you so you may know you have eternal life." So the plan God has must be different than the uncertainty of deeds.

The Plan Revealed

What was the plan? We started this in Genesis 3 and we can go back there to find the plan. God spoke to the serpent (Satan) and told him the plan.

Satan, evil, the cause of sin would be dealt a death blow by some one God would send. (v15)

It is this person who we call the Messiah. The anointed one. The one who would break the hold of sin and return men and women to personal relationship with God. The WoG does not say them or they, it says He. Just one.

The requirements for the Messiah to break the hold of sin

There is a picture in the words in Genesis 3 that I want you to see. 3:7 made coverings of leaves, but their deeds were not adequate for God. Look what God did for them, 3:21. Would the leaf coverings have lasted very long? But God could have sent them on their way just like that, but he didn't. Instead God's love for them was so great and by his grace he covered over their sin with the skins of animals. The blood of innocent animals was shed to cover over the sin of the man and woman.

Requirement number 1 – The messiah would make a blood sacrifice

The picture is that their deeds, or our deeds, are not adequate in God's eyes. It shows that because of God's rule – if you sin you die – that something died to cover over the sin of the man and woman. A blood sacrifice was made in order to cover their sins.

It is the blood that makes atonement for ones life. Prophet Moses wrote this in Leviticus 17:11

Requirement number 2 – God would provide the sacrifice

Also the picture shows that God provided the sacrifice that was needed. He didn't ask the man and woman to get the animals. He provided what was needed to cover over their sins.

God's provision of a sacrifice. This picture of God providing the sacrifice is clearly seen in another very familiar story. The prophet Moses wrote in Genesis 22 that Abraham was tested by God and told that he would have to sacrifice his son to show his faith. Do you know what happened?

Requirement number 3 – the sacrifice would be innocent (sinless)

Did you notice that in the two situations, neither the animals nor the lamb was part of the sin. The animals did not disobey God and eat from the tree. The lamb was not the one whose faith was being tested. Not they were innocent.

Summary – to defeat sin;

1. The messiah would have to make a blood sacrifice
2. God would provide the sacrifice
3. The sacrifice would be innocent of any guilt

The Prophets tell us how to identify the messiah

The prophets carefully wrote down, as directed by God, how we would know the messiah when he came. Without these writings, Eve might have even thought her son Cain could have been the messiah. Of course when he did not fulfill the requirements of the messiah then she would have known.

The prophets did not write about many messiahs, just one. I would like to show you from these prophecies why I believe without a doubt that Jesus is that messiah. Look at some prophecies and then look at the record of Jesus life as recorded by the gospel writers, and let's see if we can see Jesus clearly in the prophecies.

THE PLACE OF THE MESSIAHS' BIRTH WAS FORETOLD

Micah spoke these words more than 700 years before Jesus was born. It is impossible that a man could have such knowledge unless the Spirit of God taught him.

Read Micah 5:2. Where did Micah say the location of the savior's birth would be?

Now turn in your Bible and read Matthew 2:1-6. Where was Jesus born?

THE MESSIAH WOULD BE BORN OF A VIRGIN

We know that a virgin could never give birth to a child unless the power of God caused it to happen.

Read Isaiah 7:14. Despite how impossible it seems, what did the prophet Isaiah foretell would be remarkable about the birth of the Messiah?

Now turn in your Bible and read Luke 1:26-35. What does the writer of Luke record about the birth of Jesus and His parentage?

IT WAS FORETOLD THAT THE MESSIAH WOULD HAVE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

In the Old Testament, it is recorded that God's Spirit came upon men and women from time to time. It did not stay permanently, but when it was "on them" they often did remarkable things. In the Old Testament, it is recorded that these "Spirit-filled" individuals spoke God's Word, lead armies, ruled countries, raised people from the dead, performed miracles, and much more. From the time of the last book written in the Old Testament (Micah), the Jewish people felt that the Spirit of God was no longer in their land. It had left and not returned.

Read Isaiah 42:1. Write down what Isaiah said would be an indication that a certain person was the Messiah.

Now read John 1:32-34 and John 3:34,35. What does the writer tell us that was actually seen regarding Jesus? For whom does the writer tell us that the one who is sent will be speaking for?

THE PEOPLE'S REFUSAL OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD

For many years the people of Israel had been looking for a Savior because of the words of the prophets. Living in military oppression they longed for a King that would be a leader who would set them free from bondage from foreign powers. However, they did not understand the kind of Savior that God was going to send them. They wanted a Savior who could save them from their earthly enemies and give them great wealth and power. God was sending a Savior who would save them from their sins and allow them to return to a personal relationship with God. The Messiah would be different than the military leader the people desired.

Read Isaiah 53:3. What did Isaiah write that would be the reaction of the people to the Messiah?

Now read Matthew 27:22-23. What happened?

THE ENTRY OF THE MESSIAH INTO JERUSALEM WAS FORETOLD

One prophet foretold the events surrounding the Messiah as He would enter the city of Jerusalem. Jerusalem was the religious capital of the Jews.

Read Zechariah 9:9. What does the prophet tell us that will be the method of entry into the city that the Messiah will use?

Now read Matthew 21:1-9. What did you discover about the way Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem?

THE BETRAYAL OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD

The prophets foretold that the Messiah would be betrayed and turned over to His enemies.

Read Psalms 41:9. Who would this betrayer be?

Now read John 13:2; 21-27 and Matthew 26:14-16. What did you find out happened to Jesus? Who was His betrayer? What did His betrayer get for His deeds?

DETAILS OF THE DEATH OF THE MESSIAH WERE FORETOLD

There are so many prophecies in the Old Testament telling of the Messiahs' death that we cannot study them all in this chapter. The following table first shows an Old Testament prophecy relating to the death of the Messiah. These verses

from the Book of Psalms and Isaiah were written down between 700 and 1,000 years before Jesus lived. The second column shows a New Testament verse that identifies a record of Jesus' ministry.

Prophecy	Old Testament Scripture	New Testament Scripture	Does Jesus Fulfill the Prophecy?
His cry to God	Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46	Yes? Or No?
People making fun of Him and hating Him	Psalms 22:6-8	Matthew 27:39-43	Yes? Or No?
Nails driven into His hands and feet	Psalms 22:16	John 20:25	Yes? Or No?
Gambling for His clothes	Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35	Yes? Or No?
His death on the cross was because of our sins	Isaiah 53:6	2 Corinthians 5:21	Yes? Or No?
He kept quiet at his trial	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:12	Yes? Or No?
He was regarded as a criminal	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-29	Yes? Or No?

THE RESURRECTION OF THE MESSIAH WAS FORETOLD

Read Psalms 16:10. What does the passage from Psalms tell you about what would occur after the death of the Messiah?

Now read John 19:40-42; John 20:6-17. What happened?

Does Jesus meet the test of prophecy?

Yes, there can be no doubt.

Does Jesus meet the requirements for the messiah?

Remember, our summary – to defeat sin;

- The messiah would have to make a blood sacrifice
- God would provide the sacrifice
- The sacrifice would be innocent of any guilt

- Did Jesus make a blood sacrifice? What more than his own life?
- Was the sacrifice (Jesus) innocent of any guilt? Look at what those who knew Jesus Wrote about that. Hebrews 4:15; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:22; James 4:17
- Did God provide the sacrifice? Read John 1:1-2. Jesus is called the Word. Also Read John 16:29-30

Is Jesus God?

In 1 Corinthians 1:21 we find these words; "...the world did not know God through wisdom." How Jesus can be fully God and fully man is a mystery that God has not chosen to reveal to us. However, it is not our purpose here to debate or consider the unknown. It is our purpose in this lesson to learn what God teaches us in the Bible concerning Jesus. The Bible teaches very clearly that Jesus is God.

Then am I saying that God himself stepped out of heaven to live among men, lived a sinless life, died on the cross, and rose from the dead? Yes that is exactly what the Wog teaches.

Ability to forgive sin shows he is God. Mark 2:1-12

Jesus made himself equal to God. John 5:17-23

Jesus told his disciples he was God. John 14:5-6

Does this seem strange to you that God would take on the form of man and walk among us?

The Lord appeared to Abraham as a man in Genesis 18

Jacob wrestled with a man who turned out to be God in Genesis 32:22

Exodus 3. Moses with Jethro and God appears as a burning bush

If this is all true then what does it mean?

- ❑ First, Isaiah 53:4-6. He was the sacrifice God required for all our sins. Jesus died so that each of us may be free from the bondage of sin and be able to restore a relationship with the one true God.
- ❑ Second, Romans 6:23. It means that each of us is offered a free gift by God. Remember what Jesus told his disciples that he was going to prepare a place for them? The promise is that even though we die on this earth, that we will live forever with God in heaven.
- ❑ Third, Isaiah 26:3-4. We can have peace in our lives because we are trusting in the one true God and know that God is in control of all things.

How can you claim this free gift and accept the sacrifice that God made for you?

1. Transfer your trust from what ever you are relying on today to Jesus.
2. Confess to God your sin and promise to turn from it.
3. If you know in your heart that Jesus is the messiah and paid the price of sin on your behalf, then accept him into your heart as your savior. Romans 10:9; and Romans 10:13
4. Follow Jesus as the lord of your life. Studying his word and worshiping him for what he has done for you.

Does this make sense to you?