

## Finding Jesus in the Old Testament

### Scripture

Gen 1:1-2

In the beginning... (hebrew translation - In the first, which could mean Jesus, the first born/link to John 1:1, In the beginning was the word). Then in verse 2 we see that the Spirit of God (known later as the Holy Spirit) was hovering over the waters... So the trinity, was there in the beginning.

Gen 3:15

**15**

And I will put enmity  
between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring<sup>[a]</sup> and hers;  
he will crush<sup>[b]</sup> your head,  
and you will strike his heel.”

Micah 5:2

**2**

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
though you are small among the clans<sup>[a]</sup> of Judah,  
out of you will come for me  
one who will be ruler over Israel,  
whose origins are from of old,  
from ancient times.”

Isaiah 7:14

**14** Therefore the Lord himself will give you<sup>[a]</sup> a sign: The virgin<sup>[b]</sup> will conceive and give birth to a son, and<sup>[c]</sup> will call him Immanuel.<sup>[d]</sup>

Malachi 3:1

**3** “I will send my messenger, who will prepare the way before me. Then suddenly the Lord you are seeking will come to his temple; the messenger of the covenant, whom you desire, will come,” says the Lord Almighty.

Ezekiel 37:24-25

**24** “My servant David will be king over them, and they will all have one shepherd. They will follow my laws and be careful to keep my decrees. **25** They will live in the land I gave to my servant Jacob, the land where your ancestors lived. They and their children and their children’s children will live there forever, and David my servant will be their prince forever.

Isaiah 11:1-2

**11**

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

2

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—  
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and of might,  
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—

Isaiah 61:1-2

**61**

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me,  
because the Lord has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted,  
to proclaim freedom for the captives  
and release from darkness for the prisoners,<sup>[a]</sup>

2

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor  
and the day of vengeance of our God,  
to comfort all who mourn,

Isaiah 9:6-7

**6**

For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given,  
and the government will be on his shoulders.  
And he will be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7

Of the greatness of his government and peace  
there will be no end.  
He will reign on David's throne  
and over his kingdom,  
establishing and upholding it  
with justice and righteousness  
from that time on and forever.  
The zeal of the Lord Almighty  
will accomplish this.

Isaiah 53:2-3

2

He grew up before him like a tender shoot,  
and like a root out of dry ground.  
He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,  
nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

3

He was despised and rejected by mankind,  
a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.  
Like one from whom people hide their faces  
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

Isaiah 53:4-6

4

Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.

5

But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

6

We all, like sheep, have gone astray,  
each of us has turned to our own way;  
and the Lord has laid on him  
the iniquity of us all.

Daniel 7:13

13 “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man,<sup>[a]</sup> coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.

## INTRO

It's getting VERY close to Christmas now, and now we have had thanksgiving, we can start to get the Christmas decorations out. I know I have been getting very excited for Christmas this year, and preparing today's discussion topic has helped with that in a very good way, and I hope I can lead us all in this this morning. Next Sunday is the 1st of Advent, and we take a break from our normal series to focus more on advent and Christmas and the birth of Jesus, the one who gives us so much hope.

However, today leads perfectly into advent, as we look at Jesus in the OT, and where we can find him there. Now a couple of you might be thinking... Wasn't he born at the start of the NT? How can he then be in the OT? Others of you will be thinking... well He's everywhere, how are we going to fit all of that into and 15 minute intro?

Well if you are thinking the first question... you be thinking exactly what I was thinking for the first year I was a Christian. I just focussed on the NT, thinking the OT was old and irrelevant, and thought it didn't really mean anything for now. This term I think we can agree that the OT has every bit as much to say to us in 2014 as the NT.

### **Creation**

**So where is Jesus in the OT?** and where do we first see Him? how far back to do we have to go? Exodus? Genesis? The fall? No even further. It was the 6th day, when God had created the earth, and all the animals. All the way back here is where many people have agreed is the first sign of Jesus. Genesis 1.26 says that .

Then God said ' Let **us** make mankind in **our** own image, in **our** likeness...

There was a plural, more than one in that creation. And we are made in their likeness if we want to carry this plural theme on. Now I am not saying that Jesus was actually there with Adam and Eve in the garden as an onlooker, but we can see that he was pre-existent as part of the Holy Trinity. So that is the start, and if we are going get through all the other parts we'll have to move on...

### **The Fall**

But we don't have to go far, only a couple of chapters, because in Chapter 3, we have the fall, and Adam and Eve have eaten the fruit, and God is dealing out his punishments, and the clue is in what he says to the snake.

And I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and hers;  
he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.

So here we see Eve's offspring, mankind, crushing the serpent representing satan, and saying that the day will come when he will be defeated. He will be trodden down like the enemy he is. 'Your head and his heel will meet, and it won't turn out good for you.'

### **Noah**

Then we have whispers of Jesus' story echoing through the stories of Noah and the Ark, Noah being the only one to have relationship with God when the rest of mankind's hearts have turned evil beyond help, and Noah being the one to restore peace, as Jesus was the one to restore peace between God and man when he took His place on the cross.

### **Abraham**

We have Abraham and Isaac, with the only son being made available for sacrifice, and God back in Genesis 22 saying that He will provide the lamb for the offering. Here we also have the fact that Isaac carried his own wood up for the offering as Jesus carried His own cross, and that this possibly according to some historians was the same mountain that Jesus ended up being crucified on. it was a Mountain just outside Jerusalem.

### **Moses**

We have Moses and God at the burning bush, when God identifies himself as I Am! and Jesus identifying himself as I Am in John 8: 58, which we can take as a reminder that He will always be with us. The same God (I Am) that went with Moses to save Israel came to earth as Jesus (I Am) to save the world. One of Jesus' names is Emmanuel, which translates to God with Us.

## David

We have more. David, Kind David, writer of Psalms, and one of the great Kings of Israel was born in Bethlehem, where Jesus was also born. David used an unconventional weapon to win a great victory for God, the sling with which he killed Goliath. Jesus also won the victory, over an even greater enemy, using weapons not of this world in dying on the cross. Paul talks of this in 2 Corinthians 10:4.

'The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary they have divine power to demolish strongholds.'

*(We have to remember there is a different battle that we are fighting that isn't of this world. We need to use unconventional weapons, just like David and Jesus did. This weapon is prayer, and this weapons power comes from our secret weapon; Jesus. ????)*

In Psalm 22, we have Messianic psalm, a psalm written by David, that Jesus even calls out on the cross, 'My God, my God why have you forsaken me?' (Matt 27:46), then in verses 6-8 we see a true reflection of the man the world saw Jesus as.

But I am a worm, not a man,  
scorned by everyone, despised by the people.  
All who see me mock me;  
they hurl insults, shaking their heads.  
'He trusts in the Lord' they say,  
'Let the Lord rescue him.  
Let him deliver him,  
since he delights in him.

vs18

They divide my clothes among them and cast lots for my garment. (clear parallel to Matt 27:35)

and then Jesus also cries out the final words of Psalm 22, 'It is Finished'! John 19:30.

And if you read on in Psalm 22, you can see even more parallels to Jesus life and to who he was. maybe that was a sign post that Jesus was giving us all incase by the time He had gotten to the cross we still needed a little more convincing.

## Prophecies

In interest of time we will move on to the prophecies, and the discussion questions will have a lot more focus on this area of the OT....

One thing I would like to say about the Messianic prophecies, or the scriptures telling of the Messiah's coming is just how accurate they are. One of the things I will never forget about these prophecies that I learnt in the early years of my Christian life is that on the final day of Jesus' life alone, 36 prophecies of his life were fulfilled, 29 of them He had no control over at all. Like the example of casting lots for his clothes in Psalm 22 we have just read.

So as you split into your discussion groups, we are going to have a small study of these verses, and I have put on to each table copies of some of the Messianic prophecies and for the first question, I want you to look over them and look for all the images and names Jesus is portrayed as and think about the character of the Messiah they were expecting, and see how much Jesus really fits that.