

# Old Testament Promises



## SABBATH—NOVEMBER 16

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** John 5:17, 20, 36–38; John 5:39, 40, 46, 47; Isaiah 40:3; Psalm 118:26; John 8:12–30.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “ ‘But I have a proof about myself that is greater [more powerful] than anything John said. The things I do are my proof. These [things] are what my Father gave me to do. They show that the Father sent me’ ” (John 5:36, ERV).

**AGAIN AND AGAIN,** John wrote about all the things that Jesus said and did to show He was the Savior. The Savior came to the people of Israel. He came as one of them, a Jew. Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The Bible promised He would be born there, hundreds of years before He came to this earth as a baby.

John tells us some surprising news about Jesus: “He, the Word [Jesus], was in the world [living among people on the earth]. Yes, he even [also] made the world [the skies and the earth]. And yet [but] the world [the people on the earth] did not know him” (John 1:10, WE).

How did the people on this earth not know Jesus? Many people didn't know Jesus. They should have known Jesus. They saw everything Jesus did and said. These people had no excuse because the Old Testament already taught them who Jesus was.

This week, we will look at more ways John showed that Jesus was the Savior. Also, we will look at why some people continued to reject Jesus. God gave these people many powerful reasons to believe in Jesus. But they refused.

What can we learn from their mistakes?



**Jesus was born in Bethlehem. The Bible promised He would be born there, hundreds of years before He came to this earth as a baby.**

**MIRACLES, WORKS, AND WONDERS  
(John 5:17, 20, 36–38)**

John wrote about the miracles that Jesus did.

Of course, we can't always trust miracles, powerful works, and wonders. Sometimes false prophets, or special messengers, also did miracles. But Jesus' miracles in the Book of John showed that Jesus was the Savior. Those miracles also showed that Jesus came from God the Father Himself.

**Read John 5:17, 20, 36–38. How do these verses explain the relationship between Jesus and God the Father? How do the miracles in these verses show us the relationship between Jesus and God the Father, too?**

Jesus used the signs to show that He and His Father worked closely together. The two were one. Jesus' miracles and works showed that " 'the Father is in me and I am in the Father' " (John 10:38, ERV; also read John 14:10, 11).

Jesus came to do His Father's work. Then people would understand who God was when they saw Jesus' miracles. These wonderful acts also showed people that Jesus was from the Father.

As we already learned, some people chose not to believe the powerful miracles and the wonderful stories that people told about Jesus.

The Jewish leaders asked Jesus, " 'How long will you make us wonder about you? If you are the Messiah [Savior], then tell us clearly [plainly].' Jesus answered, 'I told you already, but you did not believe. I do miracles in my Father's name. These miracles show who I am' " (John 10:24, 25, ERV).

If Jesus said He was the Savior, the Jewish leaders would attack Him. The leaders were looking for any excuse they could use to kill Jesus. Jesus knew what they were trying to do. So, He did not tell them He was the Savior. He talked about the miracles He already did. If Jesus said, "I am the Savior," the religious leaders could accuse Him of lying. But the leaders can't say that the miracles, works, and wonders are lies. These signs are powerful proof that show who Jesus was and where He came from.

**How can we protect ourselves from having hard hearts? How do we avoid doing what the Jewish leaders did?**



**Jesus came to do His Father's work.**

## WHAT DOES THE OLD TESTAMENT SAY ABOUT JESUS? (John 5:39, 40, 46, 47)

As we saw yesterday, John talked about the miracles that Jesus did and the stories that people told about Jesus. These things show that Jesus is the Savior. John also used verses from the Old Testament to show that Jesus was the Promised One from God. These Old Testament verses showed the future work that Jesus would do when He came to earth. The Old Testament is important to the Book of John and to the whole New Testament. The Old Testament shows who Jesus was, where He came from, what He did, and what He will do.

**Read the following verses: John 5:39, 40, 46, 47. What do these verses show us about how Jesus thought and felt about the Bible? What power did Jesus believe the Bible has in our lives?**

Again and again, Jesus shows that the Old Testament talks about Him. Jesus uses things that happened from the Old Testament to explain who He is and what He will do. Let's look at an example in John 3:14. In this verse, Jesus uses a quote from Numbers 21:5–9 to explain to Nicodemus that He came to die on the cross: " 'Moses lifted up the snake in the desert. It is the same with the Son of Man. He must be lifted up too' " (John 3:14, ERV). Jesus does three things with the quote from Numbers 21:5–9. First, Jesus talks about the story in a way that shows that He believes it is real. Second, Jesus uses the story to show who He is and what He must do. Third, Jesus gives us the meaning of the story in the Book of Numbers.

Jesus isn't the only one who uses the Old Testament to show us who He is. Other people in the New Testament use the Old Testament, too. Early on in the Book of John, we read the words of Philip, who says, " 'We have found the man that Moses wrote about in the law. The prophets [special messengers] wrote about him too' " (John 1:45, ERV).

**Read the following verses: John 13:18; John 17:12; John 19:24, 28, 36. What do these verses teach us about how Jesus and John thought about the Bible? What does this answer tell us about how important the Bible is for our faith, too?**



**The Old Testament shows who Jesus was, where He came from, what He did, and what He will do.**

**OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES ABOUT JESUS: PART 1  
(Isaiah 40:3)**

Jesus had a conversation with the Jewish spiritual leaders. In this conversation, Jesus told the Jewish leaders who He was. Jesus also showed them why the Bible was very important to their faith. We may not think Jesus needed to do that because the Jewish leaders already believed in the Bible. But Jesus also wanted to show them who He was. Yes, the hearts of the leaders were very hard. They fought to avoid believing Jesus in their hearts. But Jesus didn't stop trying to save them.

John uses many quotes and ideas from the Old Testament to show that Jesus is the Savior whom God promised to send.

**Read the pairs of Bible verses below. How does the New Testament use the Old Testament to show us who Jesus is?**

John 1:23; Isaiah 40:3 \_\_\_\_\_  
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John 2:16, 17; Psalm 69:9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 7:38; Jeremiah 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John 19:36; Numbers 9:12 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

John, Peter, Paul, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and all the New Testament writers show, again and again, how Jesus' life, death, waking up from the dead, and going back to heaven are promises that the Old Testament made about Jesus. Jesus did all these things, just as the Bible said He would do.

Jesus always told His followers to study the Bible. The Bible showed the work Jesus came to do. When did the followers finally understand that the Bible showed them Jesus? The followers finally understood after Jesus died, woke up from the dead, and appeared to them. "His disciples later remembered what he had said. That was after he had been raised [woke up] from the dead. Then they believed the Scripture [Bible]. They also believed the words that Jesus had spoken" (John 2:22, NIV; also read John 20:9).



**Jesus always told His followers to study the Bible. The Bible showed the work Jesus came to do.**

## OLD TESTAMENT PROMISES ABOUT JESUS: PART 2 (Psalm 118:26)



**These same promises help us believe in Jesus, too, and accept His offering for our sins.**

Jesus said to the Jewish leaders: “ ‘You carefully study the Scriptures [Old Testament writings] because you think that they give you eternal [everlasting] life. Those [writings] are the same Scriptures that tell about me!’ ” (John 5:39, ICB).

Some Bible thinkers counted the number of Old Testament promises that Jesus kept. While the thinkers may disagree on the exact number of promises there are, they agree that Jesus kept hundreds of Old Testament promises.

These Bible promises are powerful proof about who the Savior was. The Old Testament told when Jesus would arrive, live, and die. Again and again, John uses these Old Testament promises to help readers understand why they should believe in Jesus and accept His mercy and forgiveness. These same promises help us believe in Jesus, too, and accept His offering for our sins.

**What do each of the following verses from the Book of John show us about Jesus as the One who kept all the Old Testament promises God made about the Savior?**

John 12:13; Psalm 118:26 \_\_\_\_\_

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John 12:14, 15; Zechariah 9:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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John 13:18; Psalm 41:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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John 19:37; Zechariah 12:10; Zechariah 13:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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**Is your faith strong? If someone asked you why you believe that Jesus is the Savior, how would you answer? How would you explain your faith, and why would you use that as proof?**

## FROM BELOW (John 8:12–30)

In our study so far, we've seen that John shows how Jesus is the promised Savior. Jesus is the hope that the Jewish people waited so long for.

But many of the Jewish spiritual leaders were Jesus' biggest enemies.

Why did they hate Jesus so much?

**Read John 8:12–30. What is happening in these verses? Which verses in John 8:12–30 help best to explain why many of the Jewish leaders rejected Jesus?**

Jesus says that the Jewish leaders do not know Him or God the Father (John 8:19). The Jewish leaders should have known both the Father and Jesus. But the leaders believed lies. The leaders refused to give up their false beliefs and wrong ideas. Jesus stood right in front of them. Jesus said and did many powerful things to show the leaders who the Father was. But the leaders rejected Jesus anyway.

Jesus also says to the leaders, “ ‘You people are from here below’ ” (John 8:23, ICB). In other words, Jesus was saying that the leaders were not holy. They pretended to serve God. Paul's words about false Christians can be said about the Jewish religious leaders: “They will do things to make it look as if they are Christians. But they will not receive the power that is for a Christian’ ” (2 Timothy 3:5, NLV). The Jewish leaders looked religious on the outside. But they had no faith in their hearts.

This problem was not new. Isaiah wrote about the Jews in his time: “ ‘These people say they love me. They show honor to me with words. But their hearts are far from me. The honor they show me is nothing but human rules they have memorized [know in their hearts]’ ” (Isaiah 29:13, ICB). Hundreds of years later, Jesus says much the same thing about the Jewish leaders: “ ‘Their worship of Me is worth nothing. They teach what men say must be done’ ” (Mark 7:7, NLV). The teachings of the Jewish leaders were man-made (John 8:23). Jesus and His teachings came from heaven (John 8:23). Worse, the leaders led other people to accept their false teachings. The good news is that many Jews believed in Jesus because of the conversation between Jesus and the leaders in John 8:12–30. Yes, there was bad leadership. But some of the Jewish people saw Jesus for who He really was.



**The Jewish leaders looked religious on the outside.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Read Ellen G. White, “ ‘Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled,’ ” pages 662–680, in *The Desire of Ages*.

“God gave Bible truth to the Hebrew people. This Bible truth was the same as golden treasure. Jesus taught the Jews how He planned to save people from sin. Jesus used symbols to help the Jewish people understand these important truths. But when Jesus came to this earth, the Jews didn’t understand that Jesus was the Savior. The people had Bible truth. But man-made rules replaced Bible truth. Human ideas hid the truth about Jesus from them. People didn’t understand the meaning of the Bible truth God gave them. The Jews had wonderful knowledge that was the same as a room filled with treasure. The door to this treasure room was open. But the Jews didn’t know it was open.

“God doesn’t hide His truth from people. People hide Bible truth from their minds when they choose to do the wrong things. Jesus gave the Jewish people more than enough proof that He was the Savior. But His teachings asked them to change their lives. The Jews knew that if they accepted Jesus, they must give up their false ideas and selfish behavior. Then they could accept everlasting Bible truth. So, the Jews refused to accept the proof that God gave to show that Jesus was the Savior. The Jews pretended to believe the Old Testament. But they refused to accept what the Bible said about Jesus’ love and His holy life. The Jews were afraid of being convinced about the truth. Then they would need to change and give up their wrong ideas. Jesus was the same as a treasure among the Jews. He was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. But the Jews rejected the best gift Heaven gave this earth.”—Ellen G. White, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, page 105, adapted.



“The Jews had wonderful knowledge that was the same as a room filled with treasure.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① How do the Old Testament promises about Jesus’ life make our faith strong?
- ② What things stopped the Jewish spiritual leaders from believing in Jesus? How are these things a problem in our day, too?
- ③ Why must we reject anything that makes us doubt the Bible?

## GOD'S HELP IS ALWAYS ON TIME

Zurab was a Christian, but he was not very close to God in his heart. Zurab lived in the country of Georgia, which used to be part of the Soviet Union. Zurab had a Bible at home. But he only picked up the Bible to wipe off the dust from it.

Then Zurab started to wonder about being a Christian. He asked himself, "If I'm a Christian, why don't I read the Bible?" He wished to read the Bible very much.

Zurab picked up the Bible and read it from start to finish. Zurab learned for the first time about the seventh-day Sabbath. Surprised, he looked online for more information. Zurab watched about 100 YouTube sermons and liked a preacher who explained the Bible very clearly. The preacher said he was a Seventh-day Adventist. The church had millions of members who kept the seventh-day Sabbath.

But Zurab didn't want to join the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Many people in the country of Georgia believe that Adventists have strange religious beliefs. Zurab searched online for another church that worshiped on the seventh day and followed Bible truth. But Zurab didn't find another church that did these things.

So, on a Sabbath morning, Zurab went to an Adventist church in Georgia's capital, Tbilisi. Zurab stood outside. He wanted to go in, and at the same time, he felt afraid. Then the door opened, and someone invited him inside.

The church members gave Zurab a warm welcome. Someone asked him, "Is this your first visit to an Adventist church?"

Zurab said, "Yes, this is my first time."

Someone else said, "Wonderful! Come to our meetings, too."

The Bible meetings started that evening. Zurab went to church in the morning and to the Bible meetings in the evening. After that, he came every evening for the next two weeks. Then Zurab got baptized.

Today, a year later, 36-year-old Zurab has a new relationship with God. He reads the Bible daily and shares Bible truth with his family. His family also goes to church with him on Sabbaths. Zurab is amazed at how everything happened. First, he wished to read the Bible. Next, he learned about the Sabbath and found the online preacher. Then he went to the Adventist church on the same day as its first Bible meeting. Zurab didn't go to church because of a special invitation or because he saw an ad for the meetings. But church members made him feel welcome and at home the first time he visited. Part of a 13th Sabbath Offering this year went to a health center in Georgia. Pray that God will bring people to the center, as He brought Zurab to church. Watch a short video about Zurab at [bit.ly/Zurab-Georgia](http://bit.ly/Zurab-Georgia).

## INSIDE Story

by ANDREW MCCHESENEY



The church members gave Zurab a warm welcome.



Zurab