

General Church Education



# Prophecies of the Messiah

Isaiah 7:13-16; 9:6-7; 11:1-5; 40:1-5

## Lesson 29

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 6: The Lord Is Our Prophet

For ages 11-12 years

## Prophecies of the Messiah

Isaiah 7:13-16; 9:6-7; 11:1-5; 40:1-5

### Teacher Background

The Lord's birth was essential for preserving human life on earth. The Word had been lost and the priests were misusing the temple. Besides, the Romans had brought their false religion to the area. During this time, the prophets linked people with the Lord. They taught people to worship and told people the Lord would come on earth. Most prophecies are in the Psalms and the prophets. They tell of the Lord's coming as a Star, and as a baby, Immanuel. He would be Wonderful, a Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father and Prince of Peace. He was to be born of the house of David, the mighty king who made Israel a powerful nation.

The prophecies of the Messiah relate to the incredible miracle of Christmas—the beginning of the Lord's life on earth. Many prophecies are about the things the Lord would accomplish during his ministry—in particular the salvation of the human race. Isaiah 11 describes what would happen on earth and in heaven as the Lord fought temptations, taught new truths, and restored people's ability to choose heaven.

### Focus Points

- Just before the Lord's birth on earth people had lost the true meaning of the Word.
- During this time the prophets provided a link between people and the Lord.
- The prophecies prepared the way for the Lord and were fulfilled by His life.

### Readings from the Writings

“The Lord Himself is called a ‘little one’ or ‘child’, because He is innocence itself and love itself, and in the same passage He is spoken of as ‘Wonderful, Counselor, God, Hero, Father of Eternity, Prince of Peace.’” *Arcana Coelestia* 430

“That David might represent the Lord in respect to Divine truth, the Lord was willing to be born of the house of David, and also to be called ‘the Son of David,’ ‘his Root and Offspring,’ also ‘the Root of Jesse.’ But when the Lord put off the human from the mother, and put on the Human from the Father, which is the Divine Human, He was no longer David's son.” *Apocalypse Explained* 205.6

“‘The wolf will dwell with the lamb ... and a little child will lead them.’ This refers to the Lord's kingdom and to the state of peace and of innocence there. ‘The wolf’ stands for those who are opposed to innocence, ‘the lamb’ for those in whom innocence is present. *Arcana Coelestia* 3994

## Teacher Activity Overview

The lesson offers the following activity choices:

### Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

### Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Prophecies of the Messiah Questions

Use your own words to answer questions about the prophecies of the Messiah.

Prophecies of the Lord’s Birth Mobile

Make a star mobile. Decorate each star with a quotation from the Word that is a prophecy about the Lord’s birth. You need the following supplies for this project:

- Stiff paper in a color and style of your choice
- Scissors
- Nice pens or magic markers
- A hole punch
- Glitter (optional)
- Two sticks to make a mobile
- String, ribbon or yarn to hang the stars

### Additional Project and Activity Choices for Parents and Teachers

Qualities of the Lord

Isaiah 9:6 is a prophecy that gives many names of the Lord. Choose several of these names and explain why you think the Lord is called by these names. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-qualities-of-the-lord-isaiah-9.pdf>

The Wolf Also Shall Dwell with the Lamb

The prophecy of the wolf dwelling with the lamb pictures our ability to live in safety when we are willing to be led by the Lord. Reflect on and write about what this means. Available at: <https://newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-the-wolf-also-shall-dwell-with-the-lamb-isaiah-11.pdf>

# Prophecies of the Messiah

Isaiah 7:13-16, 9:6-7, 11:1-5; 40:1-5

## Vocabulary

**decline**—gradual and continuous loss of strength or virtue

**scepter**—a staff carried as a symbol of power on ceremonial occasions

**genealogy**—a line of descent traced continuously from an ancestor

## The World Just Before the Lord's Birth

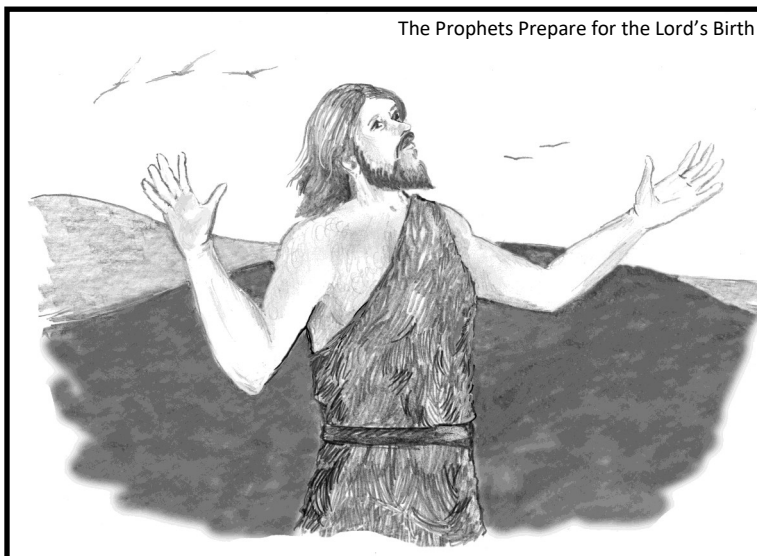
The Lord's birth on earth is one of the most important events in human history. This event was essential for preserving human life on earth. Ever since the people of the Most Ancient Church fell from obeying the Lord, the state of the human race had been declining. This is represented by the story of Adam and Eve. Eventually, the worship of idols and false gods replaced the worship of the Lord.

By the time the Lord was born, no one on the earth was able to choose goodness over evil. The truths of the Word had been twisted or lost. The priests, who were meant to represent the Lord, were using the temple as a place to trade and make money. People who wished to be good had no way to truly choose a heavenly life. On top of that, the Romans had taken over the land that was once Israel and had brought their own false religion to the area.

## Preparing for the Lord's Birth

The prophets played an important role. They provided a link between the people and the Lord. Essentially, the prophets taught people to worship and obey the Lord alone. They predicted that if that did not occur, evil things would happen to them and to the kingdom. At the same

time, the prophets gave people hope by telling them that the Lord would come on earth.



In the Word, the book of Psalms is right after the books of the Kings. Following this, there are books named for prophets that lived and prophesied during the lives of the kings of Israel and Judah and up until the Lord's birth. All of these books contain prophecies about the coming of the Lord and His life in life in the world.

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There were prophecies of the Lord's coming or "Advent" in previous books of the Word too, but most of them are in the Psalms and the books of the prophets.

### Early Prophecies

In Genesis, the first book of the Word, the Lord said that He would be born into the world.

"And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15)

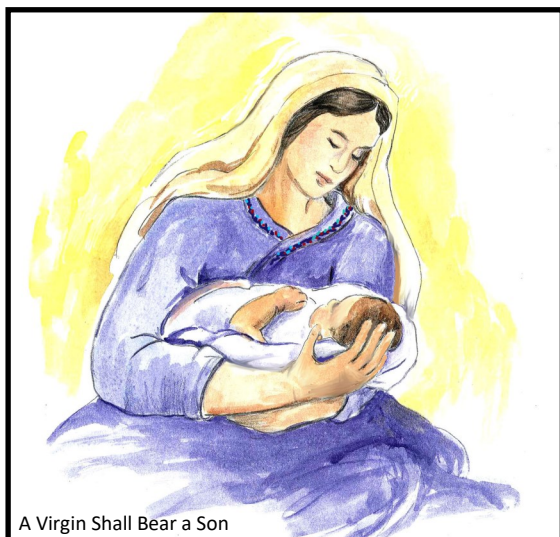
The Heavenly Doctrine tells us what this prophecy means. The Lord was talking to the serpent who tempted Eve. The serpent and his seed represent the powers of hell. The Seed of the woman means the Lord. Bruising the serpent's head means that the Lord would overcome the powers of hell. The serpent bruising the heel means that the forces of hell could only hurt the outermost parts of the Lord and the Word. (Feet are a very external part of the body.) The forces of hell could not hurt the Lord's soul or the good and truth deep within the Word.

The book of Numbers contains a beautiful prophecy of the Lord's coming. This book of the Word tells us about the life of the children of Israel after the Ten Commandments were given and before they entered the Land of Canaan.

"I see Him but not now; I behold Him but not near; a Star shall come out of Jacob; a Scepter shall rise out of Israel, and batter the brow of Moab, and destroy all the sons of tumult." (Numbers 24:17)

The Lord was telling people that He was coming, but not for a while. He was prophesying about the Star that the wise men would see at the time of the Lord's birth—not as an actual star in the sky, but as a promise that the Lord would bring new knowledges of good and truth for His Word. The Scepter stands for the Lord who was to be King and who would restore the true meaning of the Word to people.

### A Virgin Shall Bear a Son



A Virgin Shall Bear a Son

"Therefore, the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14)

The Lord's coming on earth was the greatest miracle He ever performed. He was born as a baby with a human mother and Himself as Father. Mary was not married before she conceived Jesus and was amazed that she was to have a baby. However, when the angel told her that she was to give birth to the "Son of God" she was a willing servant and accepted her part with humility and gratitude. Mary was to call the baby "Immanuel" which

means God with us. The prophecy in Isaiah told people that it was God Himself who was to be born.

### **For unto Us a Child Is Born**

You may be familiar with one of the most beautiful prophecies of the Lord's birth. We sing the words of this prophecy in many Christmas hymns.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)



The Lion Shall Dwell with the Lamb

Each name used in this prophecy tells us something about the Lord and His work on earth. He was to be born as a “Child” because He is innocence itself—the willingness to be led to the Lord. While He was on earth the Lord followed the Ten Commandments. The “Son” is not a being separate from the Lord, but the Lord Himself in respect to His Word—His truth. The word “Wonderful” holds many ideas, among them the concept of someone with the power to do miracles. He was to be called “Counselor” because He teaches people how to live a good life, and “Mighty God” (Hero) because He stands up for and protects everything good and true. The “Everlasting Father” is the Lord who has always existed, and the “Prince of Peace” is the Lord as the source of all peace and joy.

### **A Rod from the Stem of Jesse**

Jesus was to be born to the house of David, the son of Jesse. All kings stand for the Lord's Divine truth, but David did especially because he was a mighty king who made Israel a powerful nation. You can trace the genealogy of Jesus in the first chapter of Matthew and the third chapter in Luke.

“There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, and the spirit of Wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.” (Isaiah 11:1, 2)

If you continue reading this chapter of Isaiah you will find a wonderful description of the work the Lord would be doing during His life on earth. It describes what would happen both on earth and in heaven as the Lord fought temptations, taught new truths, and restored people's ability to choose heaven.

## Activity Overview

### Recitation

Learn the recitation by heart.

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

### Projects and Activities (for answers, see back of lesson)

Choose one or two.

#### Prophecies of the Messiah Questions

Use your own words to answer questions about the prophecies of the Messiah.

#### Prophecies of the Lord’s Birth Mobile

Make a star mobile. Decorate each star with a quotation from the Word that is a prophecy about the Lord’s birth. You need the following supplies for this project:

- Stiff paper in a color and style of your choice
- Scissors
- Nice pens or magic markers
- A hole punch
- Glitter (optional)
- Two sticks to make a mobile
- String, ribbon or yarn to hang the stars



## Prophecies of the Messiah Questions

Isaiah 7:13-16, 9:6-7, 11:1-5; 40:1-5

Use your own words to answer questions about the prophecies of the Messiah.

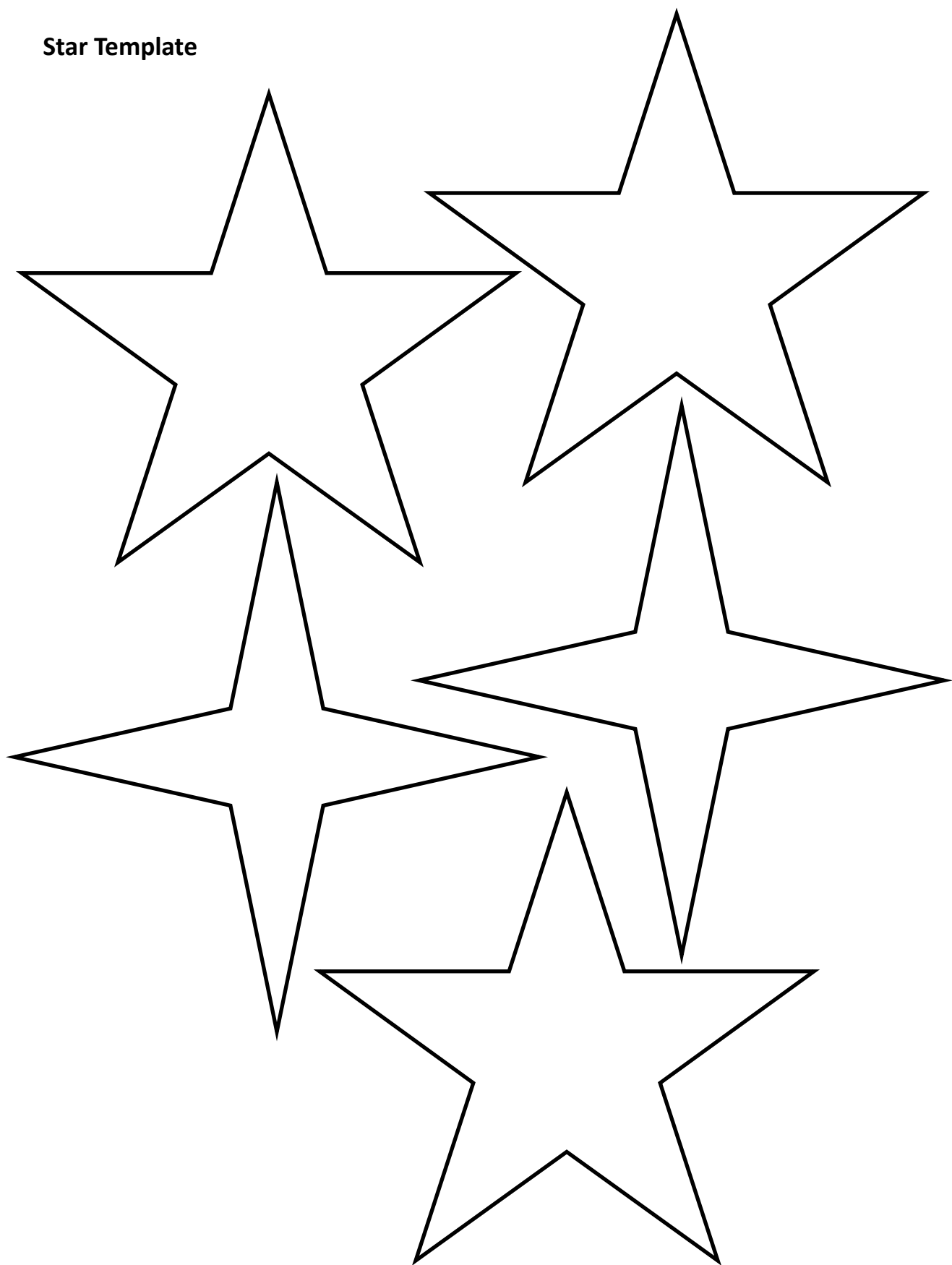
1. How did the prophets help to prepare the way for the Lord's coming?
2. Who else helped people prepare to receive the Lord? How?
3. Where in the Old Testament was the first prophecy concerning the Lord's coming given?
4. The prophecies concerning the Lord's life on earth told people what kind of "person" He would be. What were some of the words used to describe Him?
5. Some of the prophecies seemed to say that the Lord would come as a king. What sort of King were they referring to?
6. Some of the prophecies talk about Jesus' lineage—the people from whom He descended. Who were some of His ancestors according to the prophecies?
7. The purpose of the prophecies was to prepare people for the coming of the Lord on earth. Write about some ways that you can prepare for the Lord to come into your life.



## Prophecies of the Lord's Birth Mobile

1. Print a copy of the Star Template page on stiff paper of your choice, .
  2. Cut out at least five stars.
  3. Write one of the prophecies given below on each star. Write the chapters and verses on the back.
  4. Punch a hole in the top of each star. *Optional:* put glitter around the edges of the stars, if you wish.
  5. Tie two sticks together in the middle to form a cross. Tie a string to the center where they cross to hang the mobile up.
  6. Put strings in the holes in the stars and hang them on the sticks with the star quote somewhere prominent—maybe in the center on the string holding the mobile. Adjust the stars for balance.
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- A star shall come out of Jacob; a scepter shall rise out of Israel. (Numbers 24:17)
  - And His kingdom shall be exalted. (Numbers 24: 7)
  - God brings Him out of Egypt. (Numbers 24:8)
  - He bows down, he lies down as a lion. (Numbers 24:9)
  - I see Him, but not now, I behold Him but not near. (Numbers 24:7)
  - Prepare the way, take the stumbling block out of the way of my people. (Isaiah 57:14)
  - The voice of one crying in the wilderness, prepare ye the way of the Lord. (Isaiah 40:3)
  - Every valley shall be exalted and every highway shall be made low. (Isaiah 40:4)
  - The glory of the Lord shall be revealed. (Isaiah 40:5)
  - Behold the Lord God shall come with a strong hand. (Isaiah 40:10)
  - He will feed His flock like a shepherd. (Isaiah 40:11)
  - He will gather the lambs with His arm and carry them in His bosom. (Isaiah 40:11)
  - Lift your eyes on high, and see who has created these things. (Isaiah 40:26)
  - I will go before you and make crooked places straight. (Isaiah 45:2)
  - Let the earth open, let them bring forth salvation. (Isaiah 45:8)
  - They shall see the glory of the Lord. (Isaiah 35:2)
  - All the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. (Isaiah 52:10)
  - For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given. (Isaiah 9:6)
  - And the government will be upon His shoulder. (Isaiah 9:6)
  - There will be no end upon the throne of David and over His kingdom. (Isaiah 9:7)
  - But His hand is stretched out still. (Isaiah 9:12).

**Star Template**



# Answers

## Lesson 29

### Prophecies of the Messiah Questions

1. The prophets told people that the Lord would come, but not for a while.
2. John the Baptist prepared people by alerting them to the Lord.
3. The first prophecy concerning the Lord's coming is in Genesis.
4. Some of the words used to describe the Lord are Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
5. The Lord was to be a heavenly king.
6. The Lord's lineage was through Jesse and his son king David.