



Who Is Jesus in the Old Testament?

Adult Bible Study — First Missionary Baptist Church

Led by **Sis. Min. Bridgitt Bradley-Brown**, Facilitator

Rev. Dr. Carlos Williams, Senior Pastor

HOW TO RECOGNIZE HIM CLEARLY — JESUS WAS ALWAYS THERE

I. Introduction: Jesus Was Always There

His Presence Throughout Scripture

From **Genesis to Malachi**, the Old Testament points toward Christ — not by name, but through prophecies, symbols, foreshadowing, divine encounters, and covenants. The Old Testament is more than ancient history; it is the foundation for understanding the Gospel.

Jesus Confirmed It Himself

"And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself."

— **Luke 24:27**

Jesus taught His disciples that **Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms** all spoke about Him. Studying the Old Testament helps us recognize the person and work of Christ.

 **Discussion Question:** Why is it important for Christians to understand Jesus through both the Old Testament and the New Testament?

II. Why Look for Jesus in the Old Testament?

Jesus Did Not Begin in Bethlehem

Bethlehem was the place of His earthly birth — but **God's plan concerning the Messiah** was woven into Scripture long before that night. We recognize Jesus through five key threads:

01

Prophecy

02

Foreshadowing Events

03

Symbolic Figures

04

Divine Encounters

05

Covenant Promises

 **Key Thought:** A Christ-centered reading of Scripture trains our eyes to see God's redemptive plan unfolding from the very first page.

III. Genesis 3:15 — The First Prophecy

The Promise After the Fall

Immediately after Adam and Eve's sin, God spoke a word of hope. The **offspring of the woman** would be opposed by the serpent, have His heel struck — yet **ultimately crush the serpent's head**.

The serpent represents Satan. The **crucifixion** represents the striking of His heel. The **resurrection** demonstrates Christ's ultimate, undefeatable victory.

The Strike

His heel wounded at Calvary
— the cross is the cost of our redemption.

The Crush

Death defeated at the resurrection — sin and Satan lose their power.

📖 **Key Lesson:** God's plan of redemption appears *immediately* after humanity's fall. Grace was never an afterthought.

IV. Isaiah 7:14 — The Virgin Birth

The Prophecy

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel."

— **Isaiah 7:14**

Written **700 years before Christ**, Isaiah declared that a virgin would bear a son. Matthew 1:23 directly connects this prophecy to the birth of Jesus — God's deliberate, miraculous movement toward humanity.

Immanuel

"God with us" — not distant, not absent, but present among His people in human flesh.

Fulfillment

Matthew 1:23 anchors Isaiah's word directly to the birth of Jesus Christ.

 **Discussion Question:** What does "God with us" mean for us as believers today?

V. Micah 5:2 — The Messiah's Birthplace

"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel." — Micah 5:2 (See also Matthew 2:1)

The Small Town

Bethlehem was insignificant by the world's standards — a modest, overlooked village among the towns of Judah.

The Great King

Yet God chose it as the birthplace of the eternal Ruler over Israel — Jesus Christ, born in a manger.

The Lesson

God uses what appears small or insignificant to accomplish His greatest purposes. Our limitations are never His limitations.



VI. Isaiah 53 — The Suffering Servant

The Prophet's Vision

Isaiah 53 paints a striking portrait: a servant who would be **rejected, wounded, and led like a lamb to slaughter** — bearing the sins of others on their behalf.

"But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities." — Isaiah 53:5

The Gospel Connection

Every detail of Isaiah's Suffering Servant finds its fulfillment in the life, crucifixion, and atoning death of Jesus Christ. His suffering was not accidental — it was **the appointed means of our salvation**.

📖 **Key Question:** Why was the suffering of Jesus necessary for God's plan of salvation?



VII. Psalm 22 — The Crucifixion Prophecy



"My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?"

Written by David centuries before crucifixion was invented, **Psalm 22** describes in vivid detail the suffering of the Messiah: pierced hands and feet, mocking onlookers, and soldiers casting lots for clothing.

Jesus spoke these opening words from the cross (Matthew 27:46), fulfilling the Psalm not incidentally — but as **the central act of God's redemptive plan**.

Pierced Hands & Feet

Psalm 22:16 → John 19:37

Lots Cast for Clothing

Psalm 22:18 → John 19:24

📌 **Key Lesson:** The cross was not outside God's plan — it was *central* to God's redemptive work from the beginning.

VIII. Jesus in the Old Testament Covenants

Beyond prophecy and foreshadowing, the **covenants of the Old Testament** form a connected chain of divine promise — each one advancing God's redemptive purpose and pointing toward its ultimate fulfillment in Jesus Christ.

- Adamic Covenant**
The Promise of a Redeemer
Genesis 3:15
- Abrahamic Covenant**
A Blessing for All Nations
Genesis 12:3
- Mosaic Covenant**
The Law Reveals Our Need
Exodus / Matthew 5:17
- Davidic Covenant**
The Promise of an Eternal King
2 Samuel 7:12–16



IX. The Adamic Covenant

The Promise of a Redeemer — Genesis 3:15



Grace in the Moment of Failure

Humanity's very first act of disobedience did not catch God off guard. In the same breath that judgment was pronounced, **God spoke a promise of redemption** — the offspring of the woman would one day defeat the serpent.

This is the *protoevangelium* — the "first gospel." Before exile from Eden, God already had a plan to bring His people home.

Jesus is the promised Redeemer who defeats sin and death.

X. The Abrahamic Covenant

A Blessing for All Nations — Genesis 12:3 | Galatians 3:16

God's Promise to Abraham

"All peoples on earth will be blessed through you." — **Genesis 12:3**

This promise stretched far beyond one man, one family, or one nation. God was announcing a **worldwide redemptive plan** — salvation that would one day reach every corner of the earth.

Fulfilled in Christ

The Apostle Paul confirms in **Galatians 3:16** that the "offspring" of Abraham's promise is singular — and that offspring is **Jesus Christ**. In Him, all nations find blessing, access, and reconciliation to God.

📌 **Key Lesson:** God's redemptive plan was always intended to reach the nations — no one was excluded from His grace.

XI. The Mosaic Covenant

The Law Reveals Our Need for a Savior — Matthew 5:17

The Standard

The Law established God's perfect standard of holiness — and revealed humanity's **inability to meet it** on our own strength.

The Sacrifice

The sacrificial system provided a **temporary covering** for sin — foreshadowing something far greater and more permanent to come.

The Fulfillment

Jesus declared, *"I have not come to abolish the Law, but to fulfill it."* He became the **ultimate, once-for-all sacrifice** for sin.



Key Lesson: The Law reveals our need; Christ provides the ultimate answer.



XII. The Davidic Covenant

The Promise of an Eternal King — 2 Samuel 7:12-16 | Luke 1:32-33



God's Promise to David

God promised David that his throne would be **established forever**. Though David's immediate descendants eventually failed, the promise pointed far beyond any earthly dynasty.

Jesus, Son of David — Eternal King

The angel Gabriel declared to Mary: *"He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High... and his kingdom will never end."* — **Luke 1:32-33**

Earthly kings were temporary. Jesus is the **eternal King** — His throne shall never be shaken.

XIII. How Jesus Fulfills the Covenants

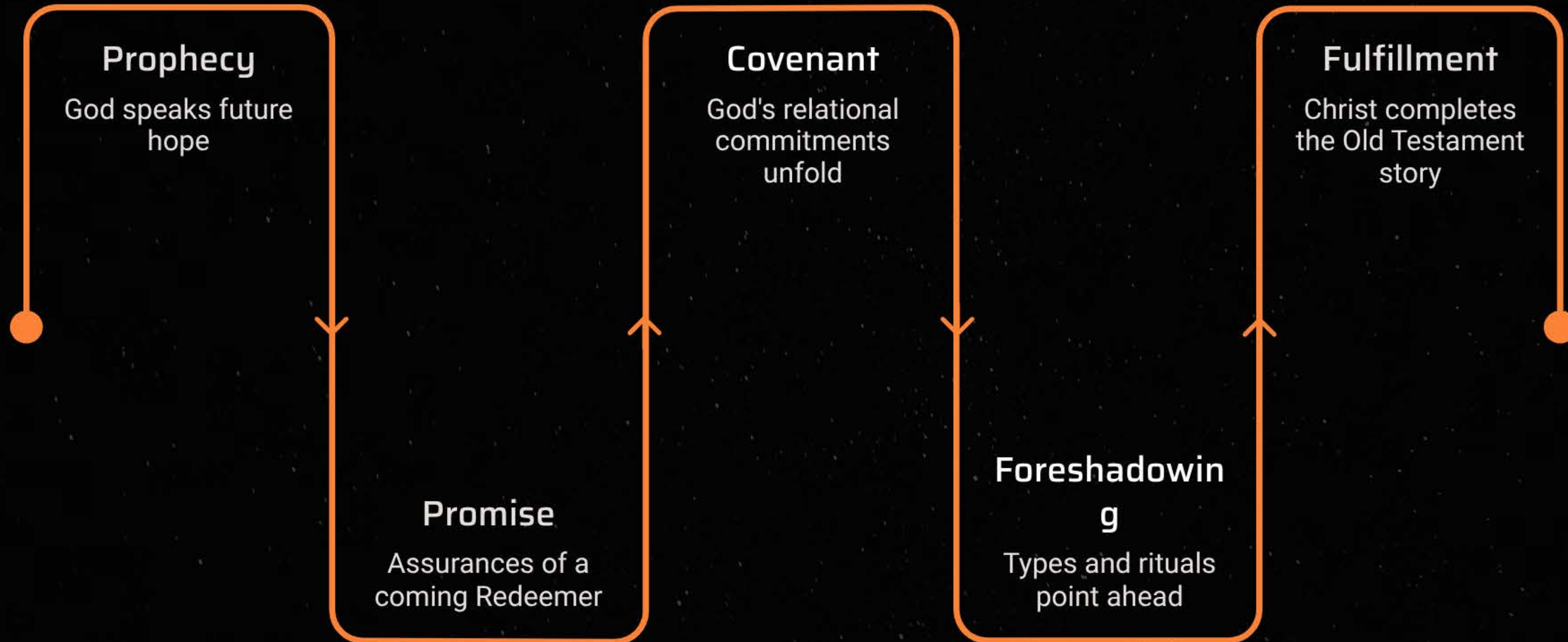
Every covenant God made in the Old Testament finds its complete answer in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

Covenant	Old Testament Promise	Fulfillment in Christ
Adamic	A Redeemer will crush the serpent	Jesus defeats sin and death
Abrahamic	Blessing to all nations	Salvation extended to the whole world
Mosaic	The Law reveals God's holiness	Jesus fulfills the Law and becomes the ultimate sacrifice
Davidic	An eternal throne and kingdom	Jesus reigns as the eternal King

📖 Jesus is the promised **Redeemer, blessing to all nations, fulfillment of the Law, and eternal King** — all in one person.

XIV. Lesson Summary

Who Is Jesus in the Old Testament?



The Old Testament points **forward** to Christ. The New Testament reveals the **fulfillment** of those promises. Together, they tell one unified story of God's redemptive love — and Jesus is its centerpiece from Genesis to Revelation.

XV. Application: Look for Christ

As Students of God's Word, We Should:

1 Search the Scriptures

Approach both Testaments with expectation — Christ is present throughout.

2 Understand the Redemptive Arc

Read the Old Testament in connection to God's unfolding plan of salvation.

3 Recognize Messianic Promises

Train your eyes to see prophecy, covenant, and foreshadowing pointing to Jesus.

4 Connect Old to New

Bridge Old Testament promise with New Testament fulfillment in your study.

5 Let Understanding Deepen Faith

A richer knowledge of Christ grows our love, trust, and walk with Him.

 **Reflection:** Where do you see God's plan of redemption unfolding in the Old Testament, and how does that deepen your understanding of Jesus Christ?

XVI. Closing Thought

"Jesus Was Always There"

The **promises** point to Him. *Genesis 3:15*

The **prophecies** point to Him. *Isaiah 53 | Psalm 22*

The **covenants** point to Him. *Adamic, Abrahamic, Mosaic, Davidic*

The **sacrifices** point to Him. *The Lamb of God*

The **kingdom** points to Him. *The eternal King*

Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan — from Genesis to Malachi, He was always there.

For additional study, see [BibleStudyTools — Christ in the Old Testament](#)