



# The Life & Ministry of Jesus

Session 5: Jesus in the Old Testament  
'Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord'

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## THE WONDER OF KNOWING GOD as FATHER

Jesus said 'God is Father'. And He meant the Perfection of what 'Father' is and means. He taught this early in His ministry through His model prayer—"Our Father which are in heaven" (Matthew 6:9), talked about 'My Father' and '**your Father**' constantly, and capped it all late in His ministry when He said, "And do not call any one on earth 'father', for you have **one Father**, and He is in heaven." (**Matthew 23:9**).

Jesus taught that God is personal early on. Nothing gets more personal than 'father and mother'. God as Person and the Personality of God play heavily in our ability to know God. We'll be on that subject soon so you can see for yourself. Knowing God as Father may well be the closest we can get to knowing God now--in this life.

There is more: John talks about what he learned from Jesus, [*translated*] '*What else Jesus said about God*'. Jesus spoke about 'the love of God' but we don't have a gospel record of Him saying 'God is love' in the same way as 'God is Spirit' and 'God is Father'. Instead, His beloved disciple John tells us what he learned about 'love' from Jesus. "God is love..." (1 John 4:16).

**Jesus starts us off with a few profound truths about God and knowing Him. God is Spirit. God is Father. God is Love. Look at Me to see the Father.** All new and profound truths that took everyone who heard it then, and everyone who hears it now, to a different, higher place when it comes to knowing God. He opened up a whole new dimension of k-n-o-w-i-n-g and b-e-i-n-g to all who have ears to hear and eyes to see...to the Wonder of Knowing God.

**KNOWING GOD IS A DEEP, SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE, FOLLOWED BY A DEEP SPIRITUAL STATE, WHICH IS BEST DESCRIBED AS THE CONSCIOUS UNION WITH GOD, 'I AND THE FATHER ARE ONE'. HIS LIFE ACTUALLY BECOMES OUR LIFE AND WE FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD AS A SON OR DAUGHTER OF OUR BLESSED FATHER—THIS CAN BE CALLED THE 'JESUS-FATHER RELATIONSHIP'! What we call THE CHRIST LIFE!**

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## Questions & Reflections MEDITATION

In your quiet place where you can retreat to your Inner Sanctuary:

**SCRIPTURE:** **"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me"** (Galatians 2:20 NIV). \*

**MEDITATION:** "I in the midst of you feeds you, clothes and houses you. I in the midst of you has never been limited. I in the midst of you has provided you with everything necessary, for I is not dependent on 'man, whose breath is in his nostrils."

"I in the midst of you need not advertise Myself; I in the midst of you dwells secretly, sacredly, silently, abiding in God and you, and together we two, who are one, walk this earth. I am the invisible Presence within you. I am the invisible Presence which goes before you to make the way clear; I am the invisible Presence which walks beside you as protection and companionship. I am the invisible Presence which is with you as a rear guard all your life."

"You can close your eyes at any time of the day or night and turn to Me, to the I within you, and receive new light, new health, and new strength."

"Live in Me! Let Me live in you, and let Me be the invisible Presence that goes before you to prepare the way for you. Let Me go before you, silently, secretly, sacredly."

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\* This is the key verse for what some call the 'Exchanged Life'; we like to call this the '*Christ Life*'. We have died with Jesus and *no longer live as our old 'self'*. The 'I' in us is no longer 'us' but the life of the 'heaven enthroned' Christ Jesus living in us, as us. The 'I' of me is now the 'I' of the Christ! This is the life God has intended for us and which the Holy Spirit is moving us into. Scripture calls it a 'mystery' (Col. 1:25-27); it is the 'resurrection life', the power of an endless life (Heb. 7:15-17;8:1-2;5:4-10), just like Jesus lives now and forever beside the Father! It is the life we will live in heaven forever!

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## Questions & Reflections

### REFLECT

Have you ever tried to plan a big event? If so, you understand how complicated it can be. Every step needs to be completed in a precise way, by specific people, at the right time. Now consider the details and timing with which God brought His Son into the world. It boggles the mind, doesn't it? Yet God in His sovereignty and omniscience orchestrated His plan perfectly, without any confusion or worry.

Could you possibly doubt that God is doing the same in your life? As you look back, can you trace His hand guiding, protecting, and providing for you? Think about the events that led to your salvation. What situation did He use to open your eyes? Did the Lord place certain people in the right place at just the right time to help you understand how to be saved? Since God did so much to bring you to salvation, won't you trust Him to lead you the rest of the way?

If you are an adopted child of God, you are in an enviable position—even if your circumstances tempt you to believe otherwise. When life gets difficult and painful, remember that you aren't fully home yet. A glorious future awaits!

### PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Your Son to be my Savior and for adopting me as Your child. Teach me to live in a manner worthy of my new identity so that I may bring honor to Your name. Help me to fix my hope completely on the grace that is mine when Christ returns rather than on my own expectations for this life. Amen.

### MEDITATE

- Romans 5:6-10
- Romans 8:18-23
- 1 Corinthians 15:49-58
- 1 Peter 1:13-16
- 1 John 5:1-3

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## Questions & Reflections

### PRACTICE

Living in the reality of our adoption as God's children can be challenging because our focus and affections are easily drawn to earthly things. When that happens, we sometimes forget our Father's loving care for us and lose sight of His glorious promises.

### What can you do to begin living according to your identity as a child of God?

- Read Ephesians 1:1-14 and meditate on all that is yours as His adopted child.
- Evaluate whether your life is a reflection of your new identity as God's child. What do you need to change in order to live in a way that honors Him?
- Read God's Word, looking for details about your glorious heavenly future, and let it motivate you to live for eternity rather than for the things of this world.

-In Touch Ministries, Charles Stanley, *In the Fullness of Time: What Christmas Means to us Now and in the Age to Come*, October 25, 2019.

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1. Write down three or more main things you remember about God from the Old Testament, and then substitute "the Word" where you previously thought of "the Father."

2. Write down three or more main things you remember about Jesus Christ from the New Testament, and focus on how that same Jesus Christ was also the divine Being who spoke to and interacted with human beings throughout the Old Testament.

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## Questions & Reflections 7 REASONS TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT

October 12, 2015 J. Carl Laney

- 1. The Bible is incomplete without the Old Testament.**

Both the Old and New Testaments make up the Word of God. The New Testament was never given to replace the Old Testament but rather to complete its story. Genesis 3:14-19 records how a curse came upon humanity because of sin. Revelation 22:3 completes the story by recording how God, through the redemptive work of Jesus, has removed the curse. The theme of God's redemptive work would be incomplete without both Testaments revealing the beginning and end of the curse.
- 2. The Old Testament presents great truths about God and humanity.**

In the first five books of the Bible (the Torah), God reaches out to humanity and introduces Himself. God introduces Himself as the Creator (Gen. 1-2), the Savior of His people (Exod. 13-14), the Holy One (Lev. 19:2), the God of wrath and judgment on sin (Num. 14), and a God of love (Deut. 7). It is in the Hebrew Bible that God reveals to Moses His attributes (Exod. 34:6-7). We would not know God as well as we do apart from the revelation of the Old Testament.
- 3. The Old Testament provides the historical setting out of which Christianity and the New Testament emerged.**

Christianity didn't emerge from a vacuum. God was moving among the people of Israel to bring forth the Messiah who would provide redemption from the judgment that came on humanity because of sin. The early New Testament preachers like Stephen (Acts 7) and Paul (Acts 13:16-41) made frequent use of the Hebrew Bible to declare God's plan for salvation. The story line of God's work in salvation begins in the Hebrew Bible and then continues its flow through the New Testament.
- 1. The Old Testament instructs believers concerning the person and work of Jesus, the promised Messiah.**

His birth, His death, His resurrection, His return and His kingdom are all revealed in the Hebrew Bible (Luke 24:44-46). If you want to get to know <sup>5</sup> Jesus, the Lamb of God, you cannot neglect the prophecies found in the Old

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## Questions & Reflections 7 REASONS TO STUDY THE OLD TESTAMENT

(continued)

**4. The Old Testament instructs believers concerning the person and work of Jesus, the promised Messiah.**

His birth, His death, His resurrection, His return and His kingdom are all revealed in the Hebrew Bible (Luke 24:44-46). If you want to get to know Jesus, the Lamb of God, you cannot neglect the prophecies found in the Old Testament.

**5. The Old Testament presents spiritual truths and lessons that are applicable for Christians.**

Paul illustrates this in 1 Corinthians 10:6-10, where he recounts for the church at Corinth a number of incidents that took place during Israel's wilderness wanderings. Then he writes, "Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come." Paul clearly intended for the Corinthians to learn from the lessons taught in the Hebrew Bible (see also Rom. 15:4).

**6. The Old Testament lays the foundation for biblical prophecy.**

It is in the Hebrew Bible that we find the revelation about God's covenant promises. In the Abrahamic Covenant God promises a land, a nation, and blessing that will extend from Israel to all the nations of the earth (Gen. 12:2-3). In the Davidic Covenant God promises that David will have a descendant who will sit on his throne and rule and reign forever (2 Sam. 7:12-16). The prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel reveal how the blessing promised to Abraham and his descendants will be further developed and ultimately realized through the person and work of Jesus (Jer. 31:31-34, Ezek. 36:25-28).

**7. The Old Testament is "God-breathed and profitable."**

Paul declares that "all Scripture is "God-breathed and profitable for teaching, reproof, correction and training in righteousness" (2 Tim. 3:16). When he wrote these words he was referring to the Hebrew Bible. If Christians neglect the study of the Old Testament they won't be as proficient in the service of our Lord as they would otherwise be through a working knowledge and practical application of the Hebrew Bible.

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## Questions & Reflections



### Prophets Told About Jesus Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be right to left, up and down, or diagonally.

S O N Q O L O R E D E L I F U  
Z R I T E I F E U G A I T A U  
L C O U N S E L O R S I W T R  
I T N I A A B H E N B S O H D  
T I O N S I D E U G I A N E E  
L A I Q U A T N O N R E D R E  
D R E V E H E X E R T R E U R  
B E T H L E H E M R H I R E R  
S U P I N E P D R E T A F V E  
S U T R N E N E R E T A U V E  
L I M I I I M M A N U E L I D  
U N I A L N Q U A C U E R I T  
L O C E R S C C T E E D I T O  
N U A L A M C E N S E Q U I S  
N O H L Z Q U I E T E R N A L

BETHLEHEM  
BIRTH  
COUNSELOR  
IMMANUEL

ETERNAL  
FATHER  
ISAIAH  
MICAH

PEACE  
PRINCE  
SON  
WONDERFUL