

Living Connections Bible Study



The Backstory

Prayer

Icebreaker: How many of you have ever been on a treasure hunt?
How did you find the treasure?

In this study we are going on a treasure hunt to find the greatest treasure of all. God has provided us with a road map. We are going to follow the clues God put in the Bible that will lead us to a stable in Bethlehem where we will discover the one and only Savior of the world - the greatest treasure of all.

By following God's directions it becomes clear that all other professing messiahs, saviors, and religious founders are imposters. Only one person ever fulfilled the promises God made concerning the one who would become our perfect sacrifice and Savior.

1. What was it that made it necessary for God to send us a Savior? Romans 5:12

2. What did God mean when he said to Satan in Genesis 3:15 that the promised seed of the woman (Christ), would bruise his head but Satan, that old serpent, would bruise His heel?

3. What was God's plan from the very beginning? Revelation 13:8

74 generations would pass before our Redeemer could come. (See Luke 3:23-38) To get to Bethlehem we must follow a path marked by the descendants of Adam through Seth to Noah. By the time Noah came along, Satan almost succeeded in cutting off the messianic line leading to Christ. Only Noah and his family remained faithful to God. To get to Bethlehem we must follow the road going through Noah to Abraham. It is here that we come to another road sign.

4. What did God promise Abraham in Genesis 12:3, and how would this be fulfilled?

5. Abraham had two sons, Ishmael and Isaac. Which one will lead us to the promised Messiah? Genesis 21:12

6. Isaac had two sons. Which one carried on the Messianic line? Genesis 25:23

7. What great promise did God make to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14

8. Jacob had twelve sons. Which one would be in the kingly line leading to Christ? Genesis 49:8-9

This is how Jesus received the title, *The Lion of the tribe of Judah*, in Revelation 5:5.

9. What is the significance of the scepter given to Judah in Genesis 49:10?

Shiloh means *a tranquil valley - a place of rest*. We find peace and rest in knowing Jesus Christ.

10. What great King of Judah do we find in the genealogy of Christ in Ruth 4:17-22?

11. How did Samuel know which of Jesse's sons was destined to be king over Israel.
1 Samuel 16:12

12. What great promise did God make to David in 2 Samuel 7:16

For over a thousand years the prophets repeated the promise that Christ was coming from David's line, and would one day rule the earth from David's throne.

13. David had 19 sons. Solomon carried on the kingly line of David leading to Joseph the husband of Mary (Matthew 1:1-16). Which son of David actually carried the bloodline of David to Jesus mother, Mary? Luke 3:31

Though Judah rebelled against God and was conquered by four world empires, God preserved the messianic line leading from David to Christ. God's prophets put up road signs along the way to remind Israel that He had not broken His covenant with Adam and Eve, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Judah, and David. Christ was coming, and though Israel had lost its way, God's plan was still on track.

14. What does Isaiah write about the coming Messiah

Isaiah 11:1 _____

Isaiah 9:6-7 _____

Isaiah 53:2 _____

Isaiah 7:14 _____

15. Where did the prophet Micah say the Messiah would be born? Micah 5:2

16. Malachi put up the last Old Testament road sign pointing to Christ in Malachi 3:1, 430 years before Christ came. Who was the messenger that introduced the world to the Messiah? Matthew 11:10-11

17. The next clue pointing to Bethlehem was given to Mary herself. What did the angel Gabriel say to Mary in Luke 1:26-33?

Does this Jewish maiden meet the qualifications of all the instructions that have pointed us to Bethlehem?

- Was she a virgin?
- Was she a descendant of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?
- Was she of the tribe of Judah?
- Could her genealogy be traced back to David? You bet. The angel said her Son would sit on the throne of His father David. But how can we be sure? Where is her family tree?

Luke 3:23-38 traces her father, Heli's, family tree all the way back to Adam.

18. Read Luke 2:1-6 to find out how Joseph and Mary got to Bethlehem from their home in Nazareth.

We are at Bethlehem now, but how do we find the treasure we have been looking for? There were thousands of people whose genealogy could be traced to Bethlehem. The little town was bursting with activity. Every place of lodging was rented for the night.

19. Look up Luke 2:10-12 to discover where some shepherds found the greatest treasure of all the first Christmas night.

Do you see the little baby there in the manger? A stable is not befitting Him. That little baby holds the title to the universe! He is the Creator, Lord God Almighty, God in human flesh. Those little baby hands will hold the holy scepter of God's sovereign authority, as Lord over all.

Think about this week:

In Christ's first advent He came in weakness, but at His second advent He is coming in power and authority to reign over all the earth. Have you bowed before Him to confess Him as your Lord and Savior?