

The Promise of a Messiah

Lesson 7 Summary

Lesson Learning Objectives

- The participants will explore God's continued faithfulness to his people despite their history of unfaithfulness to the Covenant.
- The participants will understand how God's Covenant was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Content Summary

1. The *Protoevangelium*, the "first gospel," explains the consequences of Adam and Eve's disobedience and can be interpreted as God's first promise to send a Savior to free humanity from the effects of the Fall (see Genesis 3:15).
2. The covenants that God makes with Israel communicate the love God has for humanity and his desire to restore our communion with him, and they point us to the Paschal Mystery—the redemption of all humanity through Christ's Passion, death, Resurrection, and Ascension.
3. In the covenant with Noah, God promises to never again send a flood to kill all life on earth. The sign of this covenant is the rainbow (see Genesis 9:8–17).
4. In the covenant with Abraham, God promises (1) to make of him a great nation by promising Abraham many descendants, (2) to provide Abraham and his descendants a land of their own, and (3) that Abraham and his descendants will be a blessing for all the nations (see Genesis 12:1–3).
6. In the covenant with Moses, God gives Moses a set of laws, summarized in the Ten Commandments, which the Israelites must follow as an important sign of faithfulness to the covenant.
7. Through these laws, also called the Mosaic Law or the Old Law, God taught his Chosen People how to be in right relationship with him and with one another. The Old Law is a step in God's plan for restoring our original holiness and justice. It has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ, who brings God's blessings to all the nations.
8. God's promise to David (see 2 Samuel 7:16) can be fully understood through the Gospels only. Jesus Christ, a direct descendant of David (see Matthew 1:6, Luke 3:31), established the Kingdom of God, which will endure forever and over which he reigns for eternity.
9. Through the prophets, God revealed a vision of a New Covenant (see Jeremiah 31:31–34) and a new heavenly Kingdom (see Isaiah 9:1–6) that would be brought about through the work of a messiah, meaning "anointed one."

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