

Send questions to: pastornick@htchurch.com

1. Introduction: Welcome to Encountering Jesus!

Harvest Time University is:

- Lifelong learning for people who love God’s Word.
- Being challenged to become more faithful in your obedience to Christ.
- Learning to follow the living Voice of the Spirit, so you can extend God’s love and power into the world.
- In “Encountering Jesus” we’re going to take a prophetic journey through the Word of God, see Jesus there, and understand who He is.

One of the claims of the Christian faith is that our God is the only true God, and that He’s the only God who knows the future:

Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, “My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure...” (Isaiah 46:9-10)

2. Our need for a Savior:

Our first parents sinned against God, and that sin had a terrible effect: *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, “Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” (Genesis 2:16-17)*

- When Adam and Eve sinned, they did die – spiritually.
- When Man fell, God began to make beautiful promises as to how He would save us. He began to sketch out the outline of a wonderful, Second Adam!

Jesus himself, after His resurrection, appeared to some discouraged followers of his and explained that all those prophecies were about Him:

Then He said to them, “O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?” And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27)

This course has three main purposes:

1. Get a better understanding and a better appreciation for the Word of God.
2. Enable you to use Messianic Prophecy to defend and share your faith. Prophecy that relates to Jesus, prophecy that relates to His career and His ministry is what we call messianic prophecy.
3. Most important is to know Jesus better and appreciate Him more. *“You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.” (John 5:39-40)*

A quick word about tools:

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| 1. A willing heart. | 4. Have a heart to dig and ask questions. |
| 2. A good Bible. | 5. Use the Realm tools. |
| 3. Bible study tools. | |

3. What does the word Messiah mean?

- Messiah is a Hebrew word meaning anointed one, or *moshiach* in Hebrew.
- Leaders were anointed with oil as a sign of the Spirit coming upon them.
- As far back as the time of David, the special king or special representative of God was known to be the anointed one, or Messiah.
- The Jewish people remain confused, by the fact that there are two different portraits of the Messiah in the Scriptures. The Jews resolved the problem by saying that there are actually two Messiahs: Messiah son of Joseph, and Messiah son of David. One would suffer and one would conquer.
- The Greek equivalent of *moshiach* is *christos*. This gives us the word Christ, which is not a name, but a title.

4. The Fall of Man and the entering in of sin.

Then the LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Gen. 2:16-17)

- This was the condition God placed upon Adam.

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" (Gen. 3:1)

- Notice that this is the Devil's typical tactic: "Did God really say that?"

And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (vv. 2-3)

See how Eve mishandled the Word of the Lord:

- First, she added to God's words.
- Second, she altered God's words, because God didn't say lest you die.
- Finally, she subtracted from God's Word.

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (vv. 4-6)

- These were the very temptations referred to by the Apostle John when he spoke of the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (v. 7)

- They made coverings for themselves; prior to this it has been speculated that their covering was the glory of God.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Then the LORD God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that

you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the LORD God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life." (vv. 8-14)

- Here we see the first mention of the curse coming into the natural realm.

"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." (v. 15)

- Here is the first prophecy of Messiah.

To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (v. 16)

- These were the effects of the curse upon women.

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (vv. 17-19)

- These were the effects of the curse upon men, and upon the entire planet.

And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. Also for Adam and his wife the LORD God made tunics of skin, and clothed them.

Then the LORD God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the LORD God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (vv. 20-24)

- Man was now barred from the Presence of God and from the Garden.

5. The effects of the Fall: *...by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned...* (Romans 5:12)

- Adam was the head of the race. Whatever Adam did, we are subject to.
- Sin produced death in the natural realm and the spiritual realm. (Romans 8)

6. The Protoevangelium ("First Gospel"): *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."* (v. 15)

- The Church has always seen this as the first announcement of a Redeemer.
- When Christ returns, He will be the Serpent-Crusher!

"I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one was with Me. For I have trodden them in My anger, and trampled them in My fury; their blood is sprinkled upon My garments, and I have stained all My robes. for the day of vengeance is in My heart, and the year of My redeemed has come." (Isa. 63:3-4)

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