



Make Plain, Jesus Ministries

Make Plain, Jesus Ministries'
CHRISTIAN STRENGTHENING CLASSES
The 200 Level

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Welcome to “Examining Your Christian Faith at A Deeper Level”. This course is designed for those who want to begin their journey into drawing closer to the Lord by strengthening their understanding of the Word. Although this course consists of six sessions, it is intended to be the first in a series of courses that will take you a bit deeper in your understanding of the truths contained in the Bible. In fact, there are countless truths contained in the Bible that God wants us to understand but without digging deeper into studying the Bible, a person cannot grasp it.

Our goal in this six session series is to begin addressing the following:

Session 1: **How To Study The Bible**

Session 2: **What Does The Bible Say About God?**

Sessions 3 and 4: **Was Jesus A Good Man, A Prophet or More?**

Session 5: **Who Is The Devil?**

Session 6: **What Is The Truth About Heaven and Hell?**

This course is open to anyone who is interested in participating. It will be held **via conference call** so anyone interested in signing up should go to the calendar of events on our church website (<http://www.makeplainjesus.org/calendar-events>). From there, you can sign up for the Christian Strengthening Class which begins on September 22, 2016. All those participating should sign-up by September 19, 2016. If you have further questions, please call our office at 410-846-0126.

Was Jesus a Good Man, a Prophet or More? – Part 2

In the last class, we focused heavily on who people think Jesus is and whether He is divine or merely human. Additionally, our class engaged in “deep” conversations regarding truths about Jesus in an attempt to gain a better understanding of what the Bible says about Him. We understand that many of these terms are difficult to grasp in one class but we want you to continue to seek to understand. The Lord will make clear the topics that are confusing at the moment.

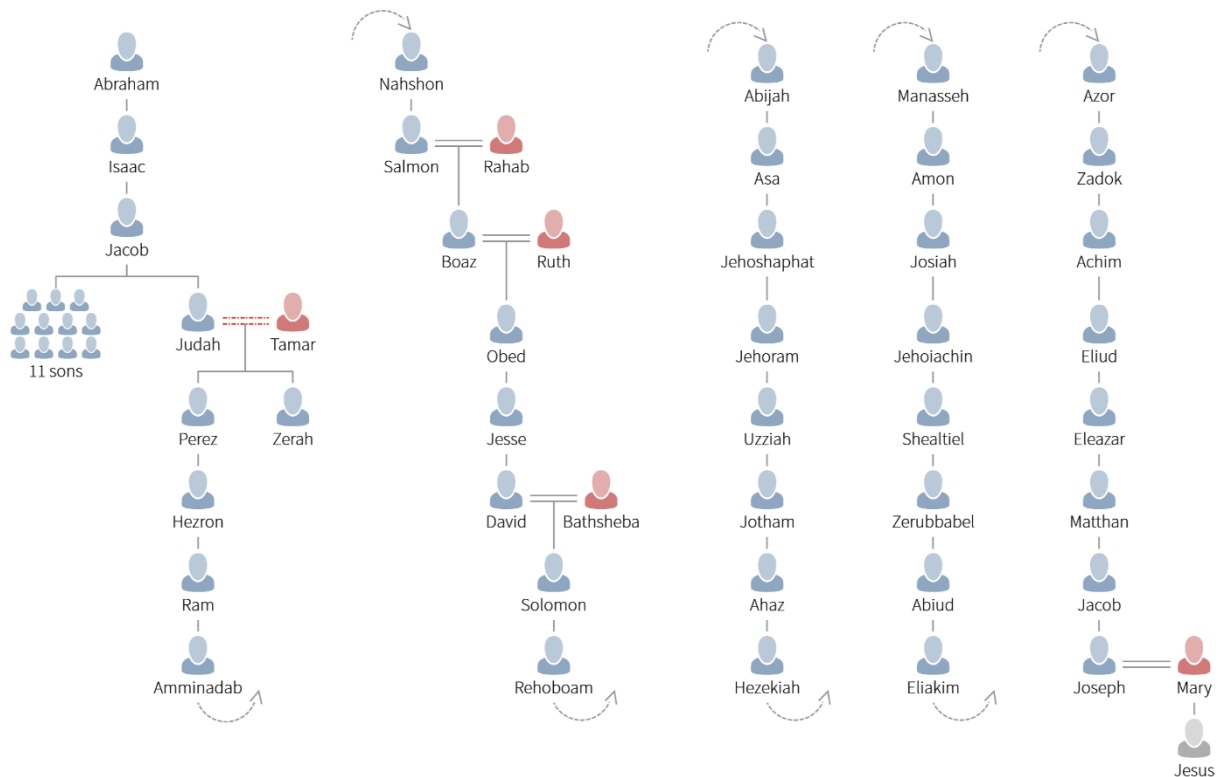
Questions:

1. What was the easiest concept to understand from the first session of “Was Jesus a Good Man, a Prophet or More?”
2. What was the most difficult topic to understand from the first session of “Was Jesus a Good Man, a Prophet or More?”
3. Are you willing to do what Jesus said in Matthew 11:29, *“**29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls**”*?

In continuing with the direction from the last class, we want to examine another name attributed to Him and also focus on the prophecies concerning Him, which prove He is more than a good man and a prophet.

The Son of Man – prior to this section, our focus has been on Jesus’ divinity. Now we discover His title as Son of Man. It may seem like a contraction but it is not. Remember, in order for Jesus to fulfill His purpose as the Lamb of God, He had to exist on the Earth. In order for that to happen, He had to be born into this world. Therefore, He is called the Son of Man because He was born through mankind. The Bible clearly

expresses Jesus' genealogy in Matthew so that His lineage could be traced through King David and all the way back to Abraham. Jesus' life on Earth was a true fulfillment and manifestation of promises made hundreds of years prior.



The title, "Son of Man" also expresses His Messianic mission and His humanity. This title for Jesus happens to be one of His favorite titles for Himself. The Bible shows Jesus using this term in [Matthew 24:44](#); [Matthew 19:28](#); [John 5:27](#) and numerous other places.

Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

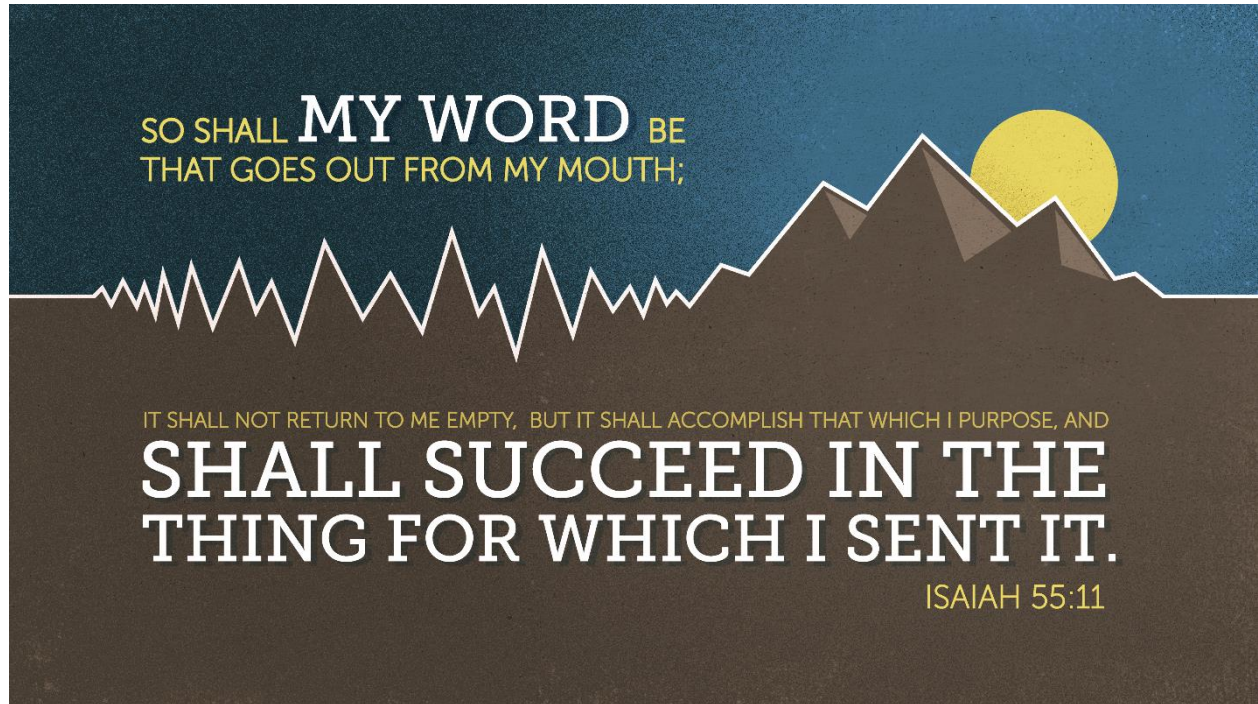
- Matthew 24:44

Additionally, the title references not only His humanity, but His *perfect* humanity. It is important to remember that even though He is the Son of God, He lived life in human form so that we would know it is possible to live and not sin. The intent is for us to examine His life and follow His example.

For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

- Mark 8:38

Prophecies Concerning Jesus



God always makes sure that His word accomplishes everything it is sent to do. Because of this, we can always depend on Him. When looking through our lives and through the Bible, we see a long track record of God declaring the end from the beginning. Specifically, He announced the coming of the Messiah from the beginning and throughout the Old Testament. Prophecies concerning God's plan through Jesus are numerous but it took time for the average person's understanding to catch the revelation. In fact, even in today's world filled with technology, many people still have not grasped the saving purpose of Jesus.

Questions:

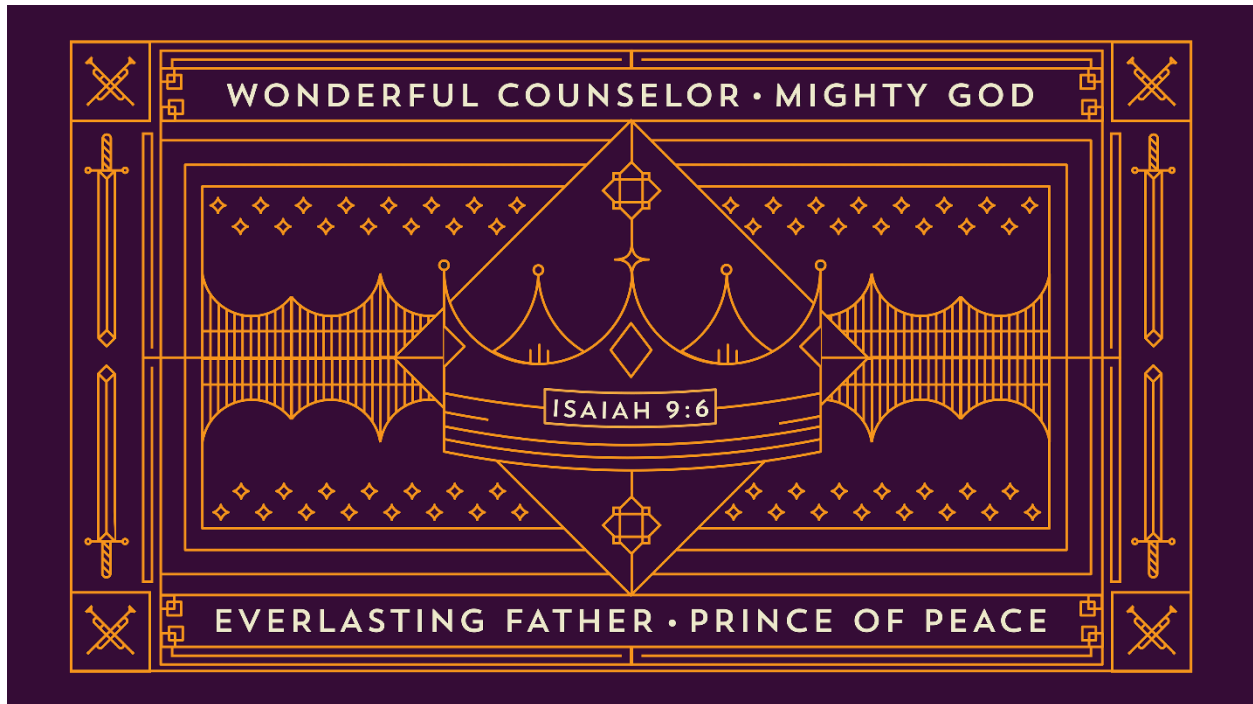
1. Did you know that Jesus' coming to Earth was prophesied in the Old Testament?
2. Did you know that everything He did in His Earthly ministry was a fulfillment of prophecy?

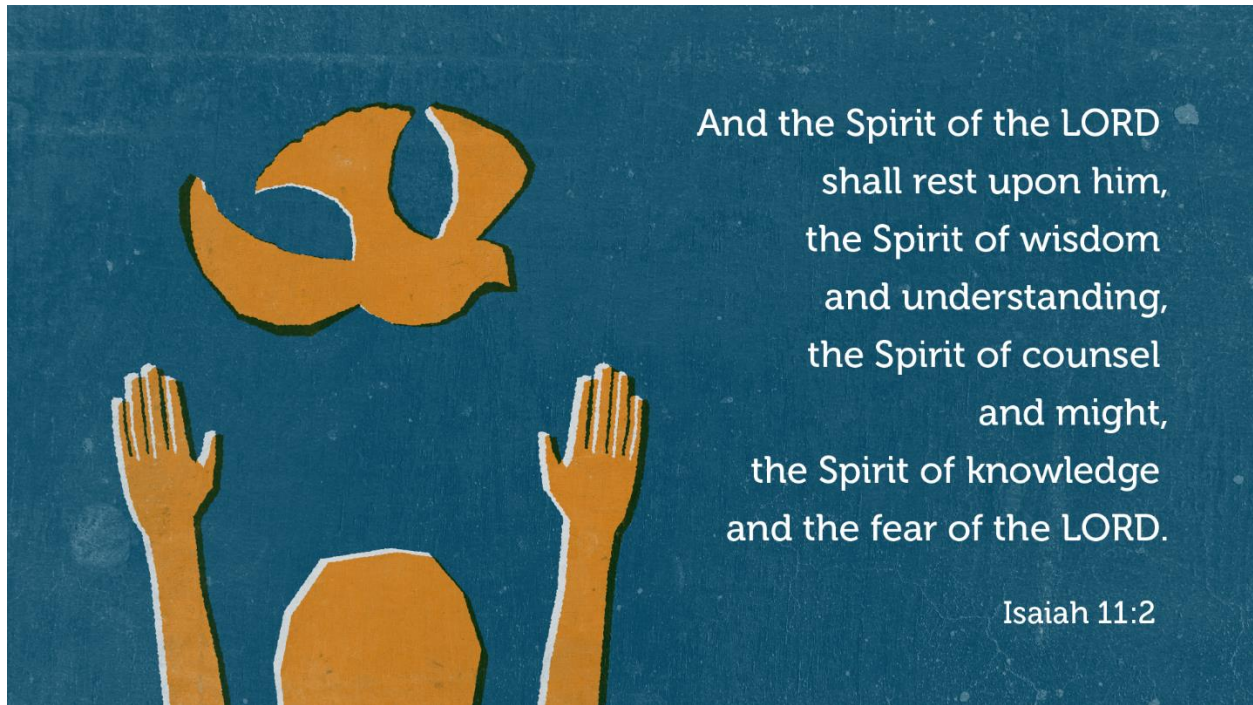
At our church, we frequently mention that God is always speaking but we have to stop and hear what He is saying. The same is true when looking through the Old Testament for prophecies concerning Jesus. Although most people during that time missed it, God laid out His plan for salvation long before it manifested in Jesus. A description of Him and His titles were given far in advance and most of the world still missed Him! Let's look at a few examples for our discussion purposes.

"I will declare the decree:
The LORD has said to Me,
'You are My Son,
Today I have begotten You.

- Psalm 2:7

The prophecy of the coming Ruler –





Prophecy of His birthplace –

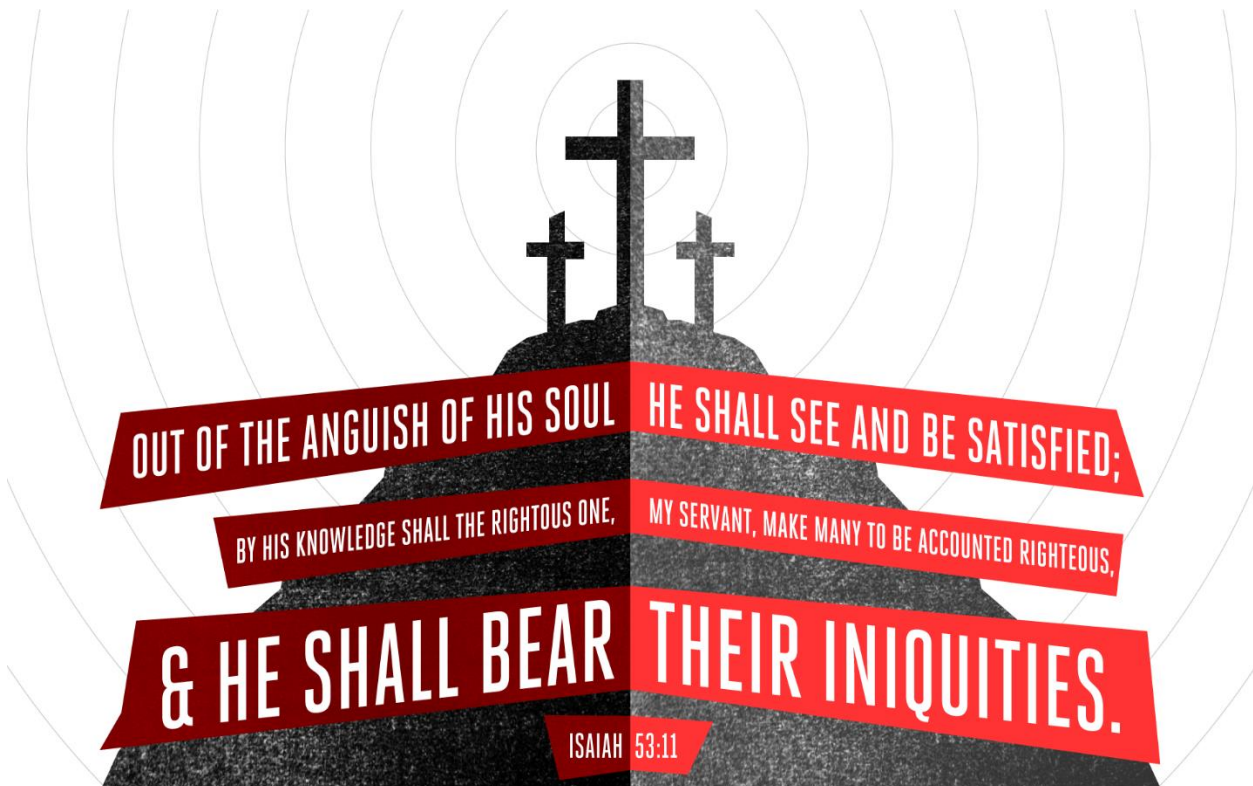
"But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
Though you are little among the
thousands of Judah,
Yet out of you shall come forth to Me
The One to be Ruler in Israel,
Whose goings forth are from of old,
From everlasting."

- Micah 5:2

Entry into Jerusalem –



Jesus' death foretold –

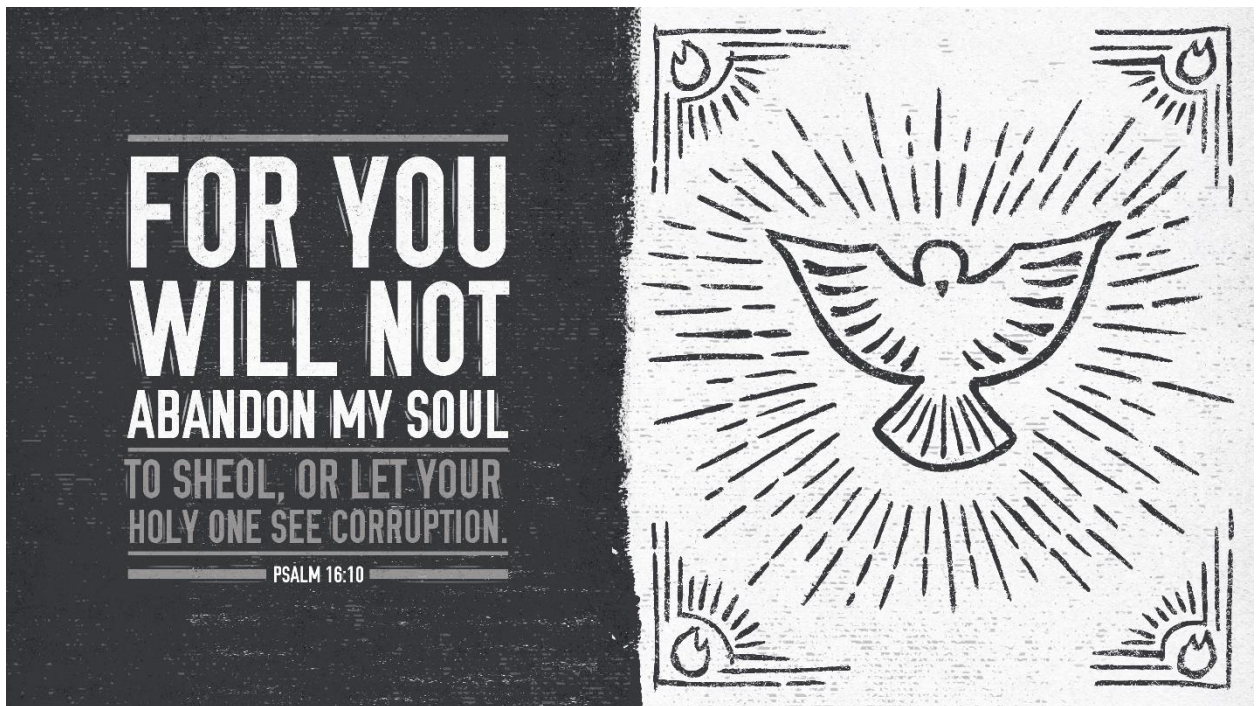


My God, My God, why have You forsaken
Me?

Why are You so far from helping Me,
And from the words of My groaning?

- Psalm 22:1

His Resurrection –



Questions:

1. Does it amaze you that God told of His Son coming years in advance?
2. Are you surprised that most people did not know Him when He came? Why?
3. How do you know whether Jesus fulfilled everything He was sent to do?
4. What have you learned about the names for Jesus that we have discussed?
5. People often wonder why Jesus would go through so much trouble for people who don't deserve Him. Part of the answer is in Isaiah 53:11. Do you understand it?
6. What amazes you the most about what we have discussed?
7. What was Jesus' favorite name for Himself?
8. If God is that detailed about His plan through His Son, what does that mean concerning how He plans your life?

Final Thoughts

During this class, we were only able to begin to address who Jesus is as proclaimed in the Bible. There is so much more to learn and understand but if you can comprehend most of what we discussed in this class, it will be a great launching point for future study and growth in His Word. As we've mentioned numerous times, God is looking for a "hungry heart" to bless. Please remember what Jesus said concerning your "hungry heart".

