

# The Promised Son



## SABBATH—JANUARY 8

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S LESSON:** Numbers 24:14–19; Hebrews 1:1–4; Exodus 24:16, 17; Nehemiah 9:6; Hebrews 1:5.



**After Adam and Eve sinned, God promised them a Son.**

**MEMORY VERSE:** “In these last days, he talked to us through [by] his Son. God chose him to be the one to whom [the one who] he would give all things. God also made the world [the earth and everything on it] by this Son. He [the Son] shines as bright as God. He is just like [the same as] God himself. He holds up the world by the power of his word. He made people clean from their wrong ways. Then he sat down beside [next to] God in heaven” (Hebrews 1:2, 3, WE).

**AFTER ADAM AND EVE SINNED,** God promised them a Son. This Son will free them. He will help them get back the things they lost. The Son will do the things they failed to do (Genesis 3:15). He will take their place. He will destroy the snake.

“Adam and Eve expect God to give them their Savior right away. So, they are happy when their first son is born. They hope this baby is the special Son God told them about. But the promise does not happen at that time.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 31, adapted. Later, God makes the same promise to Abraham. God also promises Abraham that his future Son will be a blessing to all people (Genesis 22:16–18; Galatians 3:16). God makes the same promise to David. God promises David that He will make His Son King above all the kings on the earth (2 Samuel 7:12–14; Psalm 89:27–29). No doubt Adam and Eve, Abraham, and David do not know that this Promised Son will be God Himself!

**IN THESE LAST DAYS (Numbers 24:14–19)**

Paul says he lives in the “last days” (Hebrews 1:2, ERV). Paul lived 2,000 years ago. What is Paul thinking when he says the “last days”? The Bible talks about the future in two ways: (1) “the last days” and (2) “the time of the end.” These words do not show the same thing. The Old Testament writers wrote the words “the last days” to talk about a time far away in the future (read Deuteronomy 4:30, 31; Jeremiah 23:20). Daniel uses the words “the time of the end” to show the end times and the end of history on earth (Daniel 8:17; Daniel 12:4).

**Read Numbers 24:14–19 and Isaiah 2:2, 3. What does God promise to do for His people in the future?**

Several Old Testament writers announce that God will send a King to His people. People from different lands and family groups on earth will search for this King. Their search will lead them to Israel (read Isaiah 2:2, 3). Paul says that Jesus made all these promises happen. Jesus beat Satan. Then people from all over the earth came to Jesus (Colossians 2:15; John 12:32). So, these promises show us that “the last days” already started.

Our spiritual fathers died in faith. They did not see God’s promises happen in their time. But we can see how Jesus kept the promises God made to Israel.

Let us think about the things God the Father promised. God promised to wake up His children from the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16). God started to keep this promise when Jesus woke up from the dead and woke up other people with Him (1 Corinthians 15:20; Matthew 27:51–53). God also promised to make everything on earth new (Isaiah 65:17). He started to keep that promise when He made our spiritual lives new (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15). God promises that His kingdom will be the final kingdom on earth (Daniel 2:44). He started this kingdom when He made us free from Satan and made Jesus our King (Matthew 12:28–30; Luke 10:18–20). These promises are just the beginning of the things that God will do. God will finish at the Second Coming the things He started to do when Jesus first came to the earth.

**Look at all the promises God made and kept in the past. How should these promises help us to trust God to keep His promises that have not happened?**



**God promised to wake up His children from the dead (1 Thessalonians 4:15, 16).**

**GOD TALKS TO US BY HIS SON (Hebrews 1:1–4)****Read Hebrews 1:1–4. What do these verses say?**

Hebrews 1:1–4 is only one sentence in the Greek language. Many Bible experts say that this sentence is the most beautiful sentence in the whole New Testament. These verses tell us that God talks to us by Jesus, His Son.

God had not sent any messages to His people since the time of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Malachi, more than 400 years before. That was a long time ago for the Jews living during New Testament times. But now God communicates to His people again. God sends Jesus to give His people His messages.

These messages from Jesus are better than the messages God gave to His special messengers in the Old Testament. Why? Because Jesus is God Himself. Jesus made the sky and the earth. He controls all the stars and planets in outer space. Paul has no doubts about who Jesus really is. Paul completely accepts that Jesus is God.

Also, Paul accepts that the Old Testament came from God. The same God who communicated Bible truth in the past continues to communicate Bible truth to His people today. The Old Testament shows us the things God wants from us and for us. The Old Testament also tells us the things God will do for us.

After Jesus came to this earth, we understood the Old Testament better. His coming made possible our deeper knowledge about the Bible. Jesus and His life explained so much of the Old Testament.

Jesus also came to be our Helper and Savior. He takes our place in the fight against the snake. Jesus beats the snake for us. Paul shows us that Jesus is our “perfect Leader” (Hebrews 2:10, NLV). Jesus has “gone . . . ahead of us” to God (Hebrews 6:20, WE). God the Father wants to do for us the things He did for Jesus. God told Jesus to sit at His right side. God also wants us to sit with Jesus on His throne (Revelation 3:21). The message that Jesus gives to us from God includes far more than sermons. The message includes promises. What are these promises? They include everything that God did because of Jesus and for Jesus. God did all these things to bless us now and forever.



**Jesus beats the snake  
for us.**

**Think about this idea: Jesus, who is God, came to this earth. Why should this Bible truth bring us so much hope?**

**THE SON SHINES AS BRIGHT AS GOD (Hebrews 1:2–4)**

**Read Hebrews 1:2–4. What do these verses teach us about Jesus?**

We are going to look at the part of Hebrews 1:2–4 that says: “He shines as bright as God. He is just [completely] like [the same as] God himself” (Hebrews 1:3, WE).

**What is God’s glory? Read Exodus 24:16, 17; Psalm 4:6; Psalm 36:9; and Psalm 89:15 for the answer.**

In the Old Testament, God’s glory shows us how God looks to human eyes when He shows Himself to His people (Exodus 16:7; Exodus 24:16, 17; Leviticus 9:23; Numbers 14:10). God shines the same as a bright light.

The Bible compares Jesus to light. Jesus came to this earth to show us God’s glory (Hebrews 1:3; John 1:6–9, 14–18; and 2 Corinthians 4:6). Remember how Jesus looked to Peter, James, and John after light covered Him? “While these followers watched him, Jesus was changed. His face became bright like [the same as] the sun, and his clothes became white as light” (Matthew 17:2, ERV).

We know about the sun because we can see and feel its light. In the same way, we know God the Father because we know Jesus. Jesus and the Father are two different Persons but the same God. God’s glory is light. Just as light and its bright rays are the same, God and Jesus have the same heart and mind.

Paul also says that Jesus is “just [completely] like [the same as] God himself” (Hebrews 1:3, WE). What does Paul want to teach us when he compares Jesus to God in this way? Paul wants us to understand that God the Father and Son think, feel, talk, and behave exactly the same. As humans, we are copies of God (Genesis 1:26). We are not the same as God. But the Son **is** God. No wonder Jesus says, “‘Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father too’ ” (John 14:9, ERV).

**The person who sees Jesus also sees God. Jesus shows us the love and the glory of the Father. Why is this news so wonderful? How does Jesus show the Father to us?**



**Jesus came to this earth to show us God’s glory.**

**YOU GIVE LIFE TO EVERYTHING (Nehemiah 9:6)**

Hebrews shows us that God made the earth and the sky “through” or “by” Jesus. Jesus keeps everything running smoothly, too. His powerful Word gives life to everything.

**Read Isaiah 44:24; Isaiah 45:18; and Nehemiah 9:6. In the Old Testament, the Lord says, “ ‘I alone’ ” made the skies and the earth “ ‘by myself’ ” (Isaiah 44:24, NlrV). The Lord also says, “ ‘I am the LORD. . . There is no other God’ ” (Isaiah 45:18, ERV). But the New Testament tells us that God chose His Son Jesus to give us all things. “God also made the world [the earth and everything in it] by this Son” (Hebrews 1:2, WE). Do these verses show us that the Old Testament and the New Testament writers do not agree about who really made the earth and the skies? How should we understand these verses?**



**Paul believes Jesus made the earth and everything in it.**

Some people think that Jesus was God’s “helper.” Is that teaching true? What does Paul write in Hebrews 1:10? But Jesus is more than just a helper. First, Paul believes Jesus made the earth and everything in it. Jesus was not just a helper (Hebrews 1:10). Paul also uses the same words from Psalm 102:25–27 to show us that Jesus is the One who made us. Second, Hebrews 2:10 says that all the other planets and stars were made by, or through, the Father. (Hebrews 1:2 also shows us that everything was made by, or through, Jesus.) So, both the Father made everything, and Jesus made everything (Hebrews 1:2, 10; Hebrews 2:10). The Father and the Son think and talk the same in Their work and plans. This Bible truth is a wonderful mystery that is part of the Bible teaching about the Godhead. The Godhead is the Three-in-One God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Yes, Jesus made everything, and God the Father did, too. The Bible tells us there is only One God who made everything. So, Jesus is God. Jesus is our Helper. That is different from “God’s helper.”

Hebrews 1:3 and Colossians 1:17 also show us that Jesus “holds everything together by his powerful command” (Hebrews 1:3, ERV). Only the Leader of heaven and earth can control this mighty work. Every breath, every pump of our hearts, and every second of our lives comes from Jesus. He is the reason that all life started and continues.

**TODAY I HAVE BECOME YOUR FATHER (Hebrews 1:5)**

Hebrews 1:5, ERV, reports what God the Father says to Jesus: “ ‘You are my Son. Today I have become your Father.’ ” What does Paul mean? Does this verse show us that God made Jesus?

**In Hebrews 1:4, 5, Paul talks about a promise God made to David. Why is this promise also about Jesus? For the answers, read also 2 Samuel 7:12–14; Psalm 2:6–8; and Luke 1:31, 32.**

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Jesus is God just as the Father is God. But Jesus became God’s Son when He became a Man. In Psalm 2, God promises that His Son will be the real King over all the people groups on earth. Then the Father will give His Son many gifts. The Father also will fight against His Son’s enemies. The Father also will give to His Son the people on this earth as a gift (Psalm 89:27; Psalm 2:7, 8).

As we see in Romans 1:3, 4 and Acts 13:32, 33, God makes a public announcement that Jesus is His Son. God also announced that Jesus was His Son after Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:17). Later, God said the same thing when light covered Jesus and changed the way He looked (Matthew 17:5).

Paul also tells us that Jesus “came alive from death. That showed he was God’s Son. He had God’s power” (Romans 1:4, WE). Then God tells Jesus to sit at His right side. After Jesus becomes a Man, God announces that David’s Son is His own Son. When Jesus becomes King David’s Son, we see that God keeps His promise to David. God puts His Son on His throne. His Son will be King over all people forever (2 Samuel 7:12–14).

When God announces that Jesus is His Son, the Bible is not saying that Jesus was born at this time. No, Jesus became King over all people on earth at this time. “His days have no beginning. His life has no end” (Hebrews 7:3, NIV; also read Hebrews 13:8.) Jesus is everlasting. He always has lived. So, when the Bible says that Jesus becomes a Son, the Bible tells us how Jesus saves us. Jesus becomes human, so that He can keep all the promises God made to us.



**God tells Jesus to sit at His right side.**

**ADDITIONAL THOUGHT:** Jesus came to this earth as the Son of God to do several things. First, Jesus came to show us the Father and His love. Jesus came to show us why we can trust and obey the Father, too.

Jesus also came as the Son that God promised David, Abraham, and Adam. God promises that this Son will win and be King of the whole earth. Jesus came to do what Adam failed to do. Jesus came to show us the plan that God had for our lives before there was any sin (Genesis 1:26–28; Psalm 8:3–8).

“At the Jordan River, God said to Jesus: ‘This is my Son, the one I love. I am very pleased with him’ ’ [Matthew 3:17, ERV]. When God said these words to Jesus, our Helper, God also said them to us. We have many sins and are weak. But God does not throw us away as if we have no worth. ‘We have been accepted by God through [because of] Jesus Christ, whom [who] he loves so much.’ Ephesians 1:6, [WE]. The honor that God gave Jesus is a promise of the love of God for us. . . . Light fell from heaven on the head of our Savior at the Jordan River. This light will fall on us when we pray for help over sin in our lives. The voice of God from heaven announced His love to Jesus. This voice of God announces this same love to every person who trusts in God: ‘This is My child, the one I love. I am very pleased with him or her.’”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, page 113, adapted.



“God does not throw us away as if we have no worth.”

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- ① When we understand better what Jesus said and did, we will understand God better. How has your understanding of Jesus helped your walk with God?
- ② The love that God showed Jesus is the love that God wants to show us. What should that Bible truth tell us about how we should love other people, too?
- ③ What if we believed that Jesus was only human the same as we are, and not God? How does this idea change what Jesus did at the cross? Compare this idea with the Bible truth that Jesus, as God, died for us. How are these two ideas different, and why is the answer so important?
- ④ How is our giving glory to God part of the Three Angels' Messages in Revelation 14:7 and present truth? Present truth is the Bible truth we need most for our time.