

LESSON 30

EASTER PROPHECIES

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21

**He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised
for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
and by His stripes are we healed.**

(Isaiah 53:5)



The King of Heaven

Christmas was just the beginning of the mission the Lord would fulfill while He lived on earth as Jesus Christ. In many ways the young Jesus was like other children. He probably played with His siblings, worked with His father and learned many things from His parents. We learn from the Heavenly Doctrine that Jesus learned very quickly and always chose to do the right thing. The story of Jesus at age twelve, speaking with the teachers in the temple, gives us a picture of how mature He already was at such a young age.

As an adult He taught people many new truths to help them think more deeply and to banish their ignorance of the Lord and His Word. He was a miracle worker who healed and demonstrated the omnipotence of the Lord. He stood up against the evil desires of the leaders of the Jewish Church and those of the Romans who were rulers in Israel at that time. He showed compassion for the weak, the sick, the poor and all people who needed and wanted His love and care. Because of all of these actions, Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem as a king on Palm Sunday.

Was Jesus entering Jerusalem to take the throne as the king of Israel?

He was not going to be an earthly king who would free the Israelites from the Romans and other earthly kingdoms. With each miracle He performed and every truth He taught, Jesus was revealing Himself as the Lord, the King of heaven.



The Most Amazing Miracle of All

From the time He was very young, Jesus successfully fought temptations from evil spirits who wished Him to fail in His mission.

How is it possible that Jesus was tempted? He was the Lord, wasn't He?

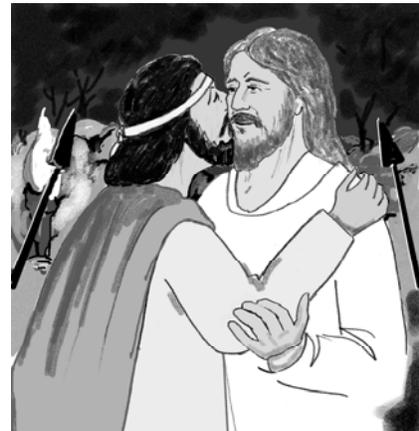
Remember that Jesus was born of a human mother, Mary. The human part of Him could be tempted, just as all human beings can be tempted. The difference was that as to His soul, He was God. When Jesus was inclined to do something wrong or to give up, it was not the God part, but the Mary part of Him that hesitated. Every time Jesus overcame a temptation, He made a part of the human that was in Him from Mary divine.

In the final days of Jesus' life on earth, He suffered His worst temptations. However, in spite of terrible sadness and pain, the Lord fought through them. With the resurrection of His body as well as His spirit, He accomplished His mission. People could now choose to go to heaven or to hell, the power of the evil spirits on the earth and in the spiritual world was broken, and a new heaven was formed. The human body that the Lord had taken on from Mary was made fully divine—nothing of the natural world was left. This process is called the “Glorification” and is the greatest miracle of all time.

As you learned in the Christmas lesson, there were many prophecies concerning the Lord's birth and His life on earth. Some of them foretold His final days and His resurrection—the miracle of Easter.

Judas's Betrayal Is Prophesied

Many people followed the Lord in His ministry, among them twelve men who were His disciples. They ate with Him, camped with Him, and traveled with Him, learning and discussing many things. You can imagine that these men became very close to the Lord. He would have considered them His friends—people whom He could trust. However, years before He even was born in the world, the Lord knew that one of the disciples would betray Him.



“Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against Me.”(Psalm 41:9)

Judas' betrayal was an image of the betrayal of the whole Jewish Church at that time. It was a picture of their disrespect toward the truths of the Word.

He Was Oppressed and He Was Afflicted

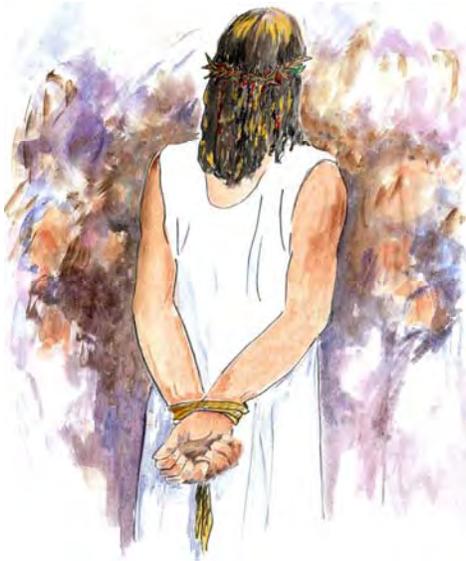
The betrayal of Judas was only the beginning of the terrible things that happened to the Lord during the week after He was welcomed into Jerusalem as a king. After the betrayal, Jesus was taken into custody by the priests and elders of the Jews who mocked Him and beat Him. He was taunted during and after His trials before the Jews and the Romans. As He went from Jerusalem to His place of crucifixion, He was made to carry His own cross while the people spat upon Him and made fun of Him. Then, as He hung on the cross, people sneered and asked Him why He didn't save Himself if He was such a powerful king.

The insults and pain that The Lord suffered had been prophesied many years before in the Psalms and by prophets like Isaiah.

He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief, and we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised and we did not esteem Him. (Isaiah 53:3)

The above words are only part of a long description of the hurt the Lord would suffer for the sake of all people on earth. The quotation at the beginning of this lesson is also from this chapter of Isaiah.

Knowing what He did about what was going to happen to Him while on earth, why didn't the Lord think of another way to save people?



The very essence of the Lord is love. His love for people is so great that He is willing to do whatever possible to help people choose a life of eternal happiness in heaven rather than hell. His wisdom is such that He knew exactly what would give people the best chance for making such a choice.

Evil loves to attack good and the Lord is Goodness itself. The evil spirits and the evil people who came into contact with the Lord while He was on earth felt compelled by the evil in their hearts and minds to try to harm Him and destroy the success of His mission. They failed, as all evil fails when faced with the Lord and faith in Him. His triumph over evil enabled the Lord to fulfill His mission and save the human race from certain destruction.

The Final Temptation

Of all the temptations Jesus suffered, the one on the cross was the most severe. As the people around were abusing Him, all of the hells were rising up against Him, tempting Him and causing the last human part of Him to feel as though He had failed. How could His mission have been successful if people could still act as they did while He suffered on the cross?

So He cried out to God.

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” (Mark 15:34)

Almost immediately after speaking those words, He said,

“Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.” (Luke 23:46)



Not only was the crucifixion of Jesus prophesied, but the very words He cried out were given in a Psalm of David a thousand years before. The words are spoken as if by the Psalmist, but they tell of the time when Jesus would suffer His greatest temptation. He would wonder if all that He had done was in vain. He would even doubt the presence of God.

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are you so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning? O My God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not hear; and in the night season, I am not silent.” (Psalm 22:1-2)

This psalm goes on to tell of the crucifixion and the division of the Lord’s garments among the people who crucified Him. However, it also speaks of a belief in the Lord’s holiness and power.

The Miracle of Easter

On the day of the Lord’s resurrection, three days after His crucifixion, all of the prophecies concerning His life and death were fulfilled. He was buried in a rich man’s tomb, His spirit and body were resurrected, and His disciples saw Him ascend into heaven. With the fulfillment of the prophecies came the completion of His mission on earth. However, this did not mean that His work of caring for and protecting people was over.

The miracle of Easter is possible in each of our lives. We will not make our earthly bodies divine as the Lord did, but each time we choose good over evil we will bring a little more of heaven into our lives. As heaven grows within us, there is more room for the Lord and the angels to dwell, and less room for the evil spirits.

At times it will seem very difficult, almost impossible, to overcome temptation. We might wonder if the Lord really is present with us—if He has forgotten us. At these times we need to remember that Jesus overcame temptations by praying, recalling the words of the Old Testament, or by calling out to the Lord, not by denying Him. When we feel afraid and wonder if we can succeed, then we need to pray, go the Lord’s Word, and call out to Him. He is there, waiting for us to put our lives into His care.

ACTIVITIES

LESSON 30: EASTER PROPHECIES

❖ **REFLECTIONS ON GEMS FROM THE WORD**

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes are we healed.

(Isaiah 53:5)

1. Think of a story or movie you have read or seen in which someone suffers because he or she is defending something or someone good. Write about why you think that person was willing to suffer.
2. Explain why you think the Lord did not just give up.

❖ **ANSWER THE QUESTIONS**

❖ **CHART OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH**

There is no information to add.

❖ **EASTER PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILLMENTS**

As you do this activity you will see how the Lord fulfilled the Easter prophecies.

❖ **THE PASSION OF THE CROSS – CHALLENGE**

The purpose of this activity is to help you understand more about what the Lord accomplished by means of His life on earth.

❖ **EASTER POEM**

Using the form below, create a poem that reflects the power and wonder of Easter. Think of the events from Palm Sunday until Easter when the risen Lord was seen. Think of your emotions when you hear the story or see pictures of it. Your poem will be a cinquain, which is a five-line poem that describes a person, place, or thing. You can find examples of cinquains in poetry anthologies or on the Internet. Print your finished poem onto a separate page with pictures or a decorative border. Put the poem up in your house for Easter or give as a present.

Easter	a one-word title
_____	two adjectives
_____	Three “ing” verbs
_____	A phrase
_____	a synonym for your title, another noun

QUESTIONS—EASTER PROPHECIES

1. The Lord was born as a baby and grew up to become the greatest Prophet of all—someone who taught people how to conquer evil and choose good. In what ways do you think the Lord's childhood may have been like yours? In what ways would it have been very different?
2. When the Lord rode into Jerusalem, He was welcomed as a king. What kind of a king did the people think He was going to be? What kind of a king is He?
3. While He was on earth the Lord had to fight many temptations. How could the Lord be tempted while He was on earth?
4. Did the Lord ever give in to a temptation? Why or why not?
5. Many things were prophesied concerning the Lord's life on earth—including the events of Easter week. From the very first time people chose not to follow Him, The Lord knew that He would eventually have to come on earth to bring truths so that people could go to heaven. He also knew that He would be scorned and tortured, but He came anyway. Why?
6. Why do you think Easter is such an important time in the history of the world?
7. In many countries, Easter happens at a time when the world is waking up from a winter sleep—springtime. Because of this, certain things have come to be used to picture Easter, such as flowers, baby animals, and eggs. Why do you think this is so?

Kings of Israel and Judah - Signs of Righteousness

(Jacob's Ladder Level Six – The Lord Is Prophet and Preserver of the Covenant)

Fill in the details of each king as you learn about them. Use the information on Saul and David as samples on how to fill out the chart. Leave out details you cannot find.

The Kings of the Israelites

	Father	Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous?
Saul	Kish	40	?	Jehovah	Some	✓ -	Kingdom grew	Depression/fell on sword	In beginning
David	Jesse	40	Many	Jehovah	More	✓	Kingdom grew	Good/old age	Most of life
Solomon	David								

The kingdom is divided into two kingdoms - Israel and Judah – about 930 B.C.

Kings of Israel										Kings of Judah									
King	Father	# Years Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous ?	King	Father	# Years Reigned	# Sons	Worshiped	Wealth	Wisdom	Building	Health & Death	Righteous ?
Jeroboam										Rehoboam									
Nadab										Abijam									
Baasha										Asa									
Elah										Jehoshaphat									
Zimri										Jehoram/Joram									
Omri										Ahaziah									
Ahab										Athalia (woman)									
Ahaziah										Joash/Jehoash									
Jehoram/Joram										Amaziah									
Jehu										Azariah/Uzziah									
Jehoahaz										Jotham									
Joash/Jehoash										Ahaz									
Jeroboam II										Hezekiah									
Zechariah										Mannasseh									
Shallum										Amon									
Menahem										Josiah									
Pekahiah										Jehoahaz									
Pekah										Jehoiakim									
Hoshea										Jehoiachin									
										Zedekiah									
Fall of Israel - 721 BC										Fall of Judah – 587 BC									

Easter Prophecies and Their Fulfillments

Match the Old Testament prophecy to the place in the New Testament that describes its fulfillment

Old Testament Quotes: Prophecies of the Lord's Life

- ___ **1. Rejected by His own people**
(Isaiah 53:3) He is despised and rejected by men, a Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.
- ___ **2. Palm Sunday**
(Zechariah 9:9) "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, A colt, the foal of a donkey."
- ___ **3. Betrayed for thirty pieces of silver**
(Zechariah 11:12) Then I said to them, "If it is agreeable to you, give me my wages; and if not, refrain." So they weighed out for my wages thirty pieces of silver.
- ___ **4. Accused by false witnesses**
(Psalms 35:11) Fierce witnesses rise up; they ask me things that I do not know.
- ___ **5. Silent to accusations**
(Isaiah 53:7) He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.
- ___ **6. Spat on and struck**
(Isaiah 50:6) I gave My back to those who struck Me, and My cheeks to those who plucked out the beard; I did not hide My face from shame and spitting.
- ___ **7. Hated without reason**
(Psalms 35:19) Let them not rejoice over me who are wrongfully my enemies; nor let them wink with the eye who hate me without a cause.
- ___ **8. Scorned and mocked**
(Psalms 22:7-8) All those who see Me ridicule Me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, "He trusted in the Lord, let Him rescue Him; let Him deliver Him, since He delights in Him!"
- ___ **9. Prayer for His enemies**
(Psalms 109:4) In return for my love they are my accusers, but I give myself to prayer.
- ___ **10. Soldiers gamble for His clothing**
(Psalms 22:18) They divide My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots.
- ___ **11. Felt forsaken by God**
(Psalms 22:1) My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me? Why are You so far from helping Me, and from the words of My groaning?

New Testament Quotes: Fulfillment of Prophecies

- A. (Matthew 26:14-15)** Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot went to the chief priests and said, "What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?" And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver.
- B. (Matthew 27:35-36)** Then they crucified Him, and divided His garments, casting lots, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet: "They divided My garments among them, and for My clothing they cast lots." Sitting down, they kept watch over Him there.
- C. (Mark 11:7-9)** Then they brought the colt to Jesus and threw their clothes on it, and He sat on it. And many spread their clothes on the road, and others cut down leafy branches from the trees and spread them on the road. Then those who went before and those who followed cried out, saying: "Hosanna! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"
- D. (Luke 23:34)** Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do."
- E. (Mark 14:57-58)** Then some rose up and bore false witness against Him, saying, "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and within three days I will build another made without hands.'"
- F. (Mark 15:4-5)** Then Pilate asked Him again, saying, "Do You answer nothing? See how many things they testify against You!" But Jesus still answered nothing, so that Pilate marveled.
- G. (Matthew 26:67)** Then they spat in His face and beat Him; and others struck Him with the palms of their hands.
- H. (John 15:24-25)** "If I had not done among them the works which no one else did, they would have no sin; but now they have seen and also hated both Me and My Father. But this happened that the word might be fulfilled which is written in their law, 'They hated Me without a cause.'"
- I. (Matthew 27:46)** And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?"
- J. (John 1:11)** He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.
- K. (Luke 23:35)** And the people stood looking on. But even the rulers with them sneered, saying, "He saved others; let Him save Himself if He is the Christ, the chosen of God."

THE PASSION OF THE CROSS—CHALLENGE



The passion of the cross was the last temptation which the Lord, as the greatest Prophet, endured, and was the means whereby His Human was glorified, that is, whereby it was united with the Divine of the Father. (True Christian Religion 126:6)

The Lord from His earliest childhood up to the last hour of His life in the world, was assaulted by all the hells, against which He continually fought, and subjugated [put under His control] and overcame them, and this solely from love toward the whole human race. (Arcana Coelestia 1690)

The Lord was born on earth as a baby. His earthly human body and mind were from His mother, Mary, but He was always the Lord as to His most inner part—His soul. The most amazing miracle of all time was how the Lord changed His earthly body and mind into His Divine Human. He did this by overcoming one temptation after another so that by the time He suffered His final temptation on the cross, He had conquered all the hells. This process is called the Glorification.

Glorification is similar to the process people go through as they choose to become angels to eternity. This process is called regeneration or spiritual rebirth. Unlike the Lord, a person’s earthly body does not become spiritual as he or she overcomes temptations, nor does a person on earth have to fight against all of the hells. However, like the Lord, each time a person chooses good over evil, a part of the person’s earthly mind becomes more heavenly. When this process is complete, the person is an angel. He or she is regenerated.

The diagram below is a picture of a person’s mind. Although no one is born evil, everyone starts out with inclinations to do evils. The diagram below names some of the evils that a person might be tempted to choose. Think about how a person could completely overcome the temptation to do that evil. For example, over “bullying” you might write “kindness”. Then, using a red marker or crayon, write an opposing good over top of each word. When you are finished filling in each box, you will have a picture of an angel’s mind filled with goodness and love.

Denying the Lord	Cheating	Stealing
Gossiping	Bullying	Hurting
Lying	Hating	Coveting

The earthly human mind the Lord had from Mary was completely filled with Divine Love and Divine Goodness, and so it became completely Divine.

LESSON 30

EASTER PROPHECIES

Psalm 41:7-9; Isaiah 53:1-9; Psalm 22:1-21



OVERVIEW OF THE STORY

- The King of Heaven
- The Most Amazing Miracle of All
- Judas's Betrayal Is Prophesied
- He Was Oppressed and He Was Afflicted
- The Final Temptation
- The Miracle of Easter

THOUGHTS FOR PARENTS

When people first chose to follow their own path, rather than the Lord's, the Lord knew that He would have to come on earth to teach His truths and combat the hells so that people could choose good over evil. The very first prophecy of His coming was given in the story of Adam and Eve. The Lord knew and had prophesied that He would have to endure great hardships and that He would be crucified. The prophecies did not just foretell of events that would happen on this earth, but also amazing events that would occur in the spiritual world. All of these events—natural and spiritual—were part of the Lord's salvation of the human race. Young adolescents can begin to understand something about these events. You might discuss the following ideas with your child.

- Subdued the Hells—Before the Lord came on earth, evil spirits of hell had become so strong that human beings were about to lose the ability to choose good over evil and truth over falsity. The Lord's conscious mind came from His mother, Mary, and had the same weaknesses and tendencies to evil that all human beings have. Evil spirits attacked this portion of the Lord's mind in every possible way. In each case, the Lord conquered the evil spirits and reformed part of that flawed mind. Because of His complete victory over the evil spirits, He has guaranteed that we, with His help, have the freedom to choose good and truth.
- Reorganized Heaven and Hell—Before the Lord's advent on earth, the spiritual world was in chaos. The light of heaven could not help good spirits coming from earth to see hidden evil and reject it. The Lord reorganized heaven so that the light could once again show good from evil. He provided a new heaven, founded on the truth of the New Testament, for the people who wanted to be good. He also provided a new place in hell for those who the light showed to be evil and who wanted to flee from that light.
- Provided for a New Church on Earth—The truths the Lord taught and the events of His life on earth became the New Testament. Together with the Old Testament, this became the Word for the Christian Church which began shortly after the Lord's resurrection.

- **Glorified His Human**—A simple explanation of how the Lord completed this process is given on the second page of your child’s lesson and in the activity called “The Passion of the Cross—Challenge”. You might like to work on this activity together with your child.

From the Word

The Lord came into the world to save the human race, which if He had not done so would have perished in eternal death. He saved it by subduing the hells which were molesting every person coming into the world and going out of it, and at the same time by glorifying His Human; for having accomplished this He is able to keep the hells in subjection for evermore. The subjection of the hells and the glorification of His Human simultaneously was accomplished by means of temptations which His Human was allowed to undergo and by repeated victories in them, His passion on the Cross being the final temptation and the complete victory.

(Arcana Coelestia 10828)

In brief, the Lord from His earliest childhood up to the last hour of His life in the world, was assaulted by all the hells, against which He continually fought, and subjugated and overcame them, and this solely from love toward the whole human race. And because this love was not human but Divine, and because such as is the greatness of the love, such is that of the temptation, it may be seen how grievous the combats were, and how great the ferocity on the part of the hells.

(Arcana Coelestia 1690:6)

[G]lorification is the uniting of the Lord's Human with the Divine of His Father. This was effected gradually, and was completed through the passion of the cross. For every person on his part ought to draw near to God; and as far as a person does draw near, God on His part enters into him.... The union itself was made complete through the passion of the cross, because that was the last temptation endured by the Lord in the world; and it is by means of temptations that conjunction is effected.... From all this it can now be seen that it was not in respect to His Divine but in respect to His Human that the Lord suffered; and that thereby an inmost and thus a complete union was effected.

(True Christian Religion 126)

An image of the Lord's victories over the hells and of the glorification of His Human, by means of temptations, is presented in man's regeneration; for just as the Lord subjugated the hells and made His Human Divine, so, in a man's case, He subjugates them and makes him spiritual, and so regenerates him.

(Canons 30:8)

READING THE STORY FROM THE WORD

1. Pre-reading Activities and Questions

- ❖ Ask your child to recall as many of the events of Easter as possible.
- ❖ Ask your child to tell you what he or she thinks was the most important part of the Easter story and why.
- ❖ Vocabulary—Please review with your child before they begin to read if you feel the words might be difficult for your child to read and/or understand.
 1. Chastise—punish or scold somebody
 2. Crucifixion—a form of execution used in ancient time that involved binding or nailing the victim to an upright cross until death
 3. Custody—detention by the police or other authorities
 4. Devise—think something up and figure out how it will work
 5. Esteem—think highly of someone
 6. Glorification—the process by which the Lord made His human divine
 7. Iniquity—great injustice or extreme immorality
 8. Regeneration—the process by which a person becomes an angel
 9. Resurrection—the rising of Jesus Christ from the dead after His crucifixion
 10. Transgression—a crime or any act that violates a law, commandment or moral code

2. Read the Word

Please help your child as needed with the reading of the text.

- ❖ First Reading—Psalm 41:7-9
- ❖ Second Reading—Isaiah 53:1-9
- ❖ Third reading—Psalm 22:1-21

3. Ideas to Discuss Together Following Reading the Word

If your child is working independently, you might want to give him or her the following ideas to think about. They are not designed for students to answer on paper.

- ❖ The Lord knew that He would suffer great hardships while on earth, but He came anyway. What does this tell you about His love for you?
- ❖ The people who taunted the Lord and mocked Him feared His goodness. Why do you think anyone would fear the Lord's goodness?

WORK IN THE STUDENT ACTIVITY BOOK

1. Reading the Lesson

- ❖ Your child should now read the lesson in the Student Activity Book. You may wish to read with your child sometimes.
- ❖ You might like to discuss the questions that appear from time to time during the lesson.

2. Activities

Your child may need some guidance deciding which activities to choose. He or she might also need some assistance finding materials not provided with the lessons. Some additional notes for each activity are provided below.

❖ REFLECTIONS ON GEMS FROM THE WORD

You may wish to discuss the quotation with your child before he or she writes a response, using the suggestions for this lesson found in the Student Activity Book.

❖ ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary; 2. Earthly king, Heavenly king; 3. He received a human mind from Mary that could be tempted; 4. He never gave in because as to His soul He was God; 5. His love is so great; 6. Answers will vary; 7. Answers will vary

❖ CHART OF THE KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JUDAH

There is no information.

❖ EASTER PROPHECIES AND THEIR FULFILLMENT

As your child does this activity he or she will see how the Lord fulfilled certain prophecies by His life on earth. 1-J; 2-C; 3-A; 4-E; 5-F; 6-G; 7-H; 8-K; 9-D; 10-B; 11-I

❖ THE PASSION OF THE CROSS—CHALLENGE

The purpose of this activity is to help your child understand more about what the Lord accomplished by means of His life on earth.

❖ EASTER POEM

Your child is asked to create a cinquain poem, a five line poem describing person, place, or thing about the power and wonder of Easter.