

BIBLICAL TRUTH ABOUT GOD THE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT

Lesson 15: Jesus is Messiah

Biblical doctrine is the study of what the Bible teaches about God and other important truths. This is the fifth of ten lessons about Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and our Lord and Savior. We will explore what the Bible teaches about Jesus Christ as the Messiah.

MAIN TRUTH, CENTRAL SCRIPTURE, AND OUTLINE

Jesus Christ is the Messiah who the Old Testament prophesied would come. In the Old Testament, the prophets spoke of a coming Savior, King, and sinless God-man. They referred to Him as the “Messiah,” which means “Anointed One.” Isaiah 52:13-53:12 shows how Jesus is the fulfillment of these prophecies. He is the preeminent one who suffered on behalf of His people. Despite His sinless life, the world rejected Him. They hated Him so much that they crucified Him. Jesus humbly gave Himself into their hands, submitting to the Father’s will and accomplishing salvation for His people.

God gave His people extended prophecies during their suffering as captives in Babylon. These prophecies are found in the book of Isaiah and are known as “Servant Songs.” These songs speak of a chosen Servant of Yahweh who would lead the nations, suffer at the hands of His own people, and be highly exalted and rewarded in the fullness of time. God revealed that Jesus of Nazareth was this Servant of Yahweh. He was the long-awaited “Anointed One” (Hebrew, “Messiah”; Greek, “Christ”).

1. Jesus is the prophesied Messiah (Isaiah 52:13-15)

Isaiah 52:13-15 contains one of the clearest and most graphic messianic descriptions in the Old Testament. Throughout the New Testament, this passage is used to refer to Jesus as the fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies about the Servant of Yahweh.

A. In His preeminence

The song begins by focusing on the preeminence of the Messiah (Isa. 52:13-15). God highly exalted Him and gave Him a preeminent name—the name that is above every name. God promised that His servant would succeed. His actions would be guided by wisdom (Isa. 52:13). The prophecy describes Him as “exalted and extolled” (high and lifted up) emphasizing His preeminence. The same expression refers to God in Isaiah 6:1 and 57:15. The New Testament makes clear that Jesus shares the Father’s exalted position because He is God (Jn. 12:41). Philippians 2 says that Jesus is God (2:6), but humbled Himself by taking on humanity (2:7-8) in order to live a perfect life and then die. Therefore, God highly exalted Him and gave Him a preeminent name, the name that is above all other names (2:9). Christ is the preeminent one through whom all things were created and in whom all things hold together (Col. 1:15-18).

B. In His blessing the nations

Isaiah 52:14 states that not only would Messiah be preeminent in exaltation, He would also undergo immense suffering. His appearance would be marred beyond human resemblance. His agony would astonish many and would accomplish a great result, the sprinkling of many nations. The term “sprinkle” refers to the Old Testament sacrificial system where the priest would sprinkle blood on the altar to atone for the people’s sins. The Messiah’s sacrifice and shed blood would cleanse and reconcile sinners from every tribe, language, and nation (Isa. 55:5; Rev. 7:9).

King’s mouths will be stopped at the unexpected work of the Messiah and the salvation He would accomplish (Isa. 52:15; Rom. 15:21). Paul refers to the results of the Messiah’s work as a mystery, a truth previously unknown that God revealed in the New Testament (Rom. 16:25-27). This mystery is that the gospel would be preached across the whole world, so that even those unfamiliar with Israel or its sacrificial system would hear and receive salvation. Following Christ’s death and resurrection, God enabled His followers to understand the fullness of this mystery.

2. Jesus is the triumphant Messiah (Isaiah 53:1-12)

Isaiah 53:1-12 shows that it was God’s eternal plan for Christ to suffer and be rejected by many people. God handed over the Messiah to be crushed, pierced, and stricken (Acts 2:23), and yet, the Lord willed that this humble servant prosper and used His suffering to accomplish salvation for His people. The Messiah would triumph over death and be victorious in bearing the sins of many.

A. In His rejected work

The Messiah humbled Himself, lived a life of obedience, endured rejection and persecution on our behalf. Israel mocked, beat, and killed their Messiah despite the clear prophecy of His coming. His own people did not receive Him (Jn. 1:11). Even Jesus’ disciples abandoned Him the night before His crucifixion (Mt. 26:56). Isaiah 53:7-9 explains that Messiah would remain passive through His opposition and betrayal. Like a lamb headed to slaughter, the Messiah offered no resistance to His captors. Not once did He retaliate for the abuse He received, even in His crucifixion (1 Pet. 2:23). The image of a lamb was appropriate for Jesus because He was the appointed Passover sacrifice to take away the sins of His people (Ex. 12). John the Baptist recognized this truth and referred to Christ as “the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world” (Jn. 1:29).

Isaiah 53:4 speaks of the Messiah bearing the grief, sorrow, and iniquity of His people. This was necessary because all have gone astray and turned from God to their own way (Isa. 53:6). He was punished in the place of sinners like you and me, whose sins deserve God’s wrath and judgment (Gal. 3:13). When Jesus the Messiah bore the guilt and wrath of His people’s sins, He secured for them the divine blessing and righteousness that they could never merit for themselves (2 Cor. 5:21).

B. In His finished work

From all eternity, God planned to offer Jesus as a sacrifice (Isa. 53:10; Acts 2:23). Christ's suffering was God's ordained means by which sinners would be saved. God proclaimed His satisfaction with and acceptance of the Christ's sacrifice by raising Him from the dead. Isaiah 53:1-12 predicted that Jesus would be rewarded for His perfect sacrifice. When He rose from the dead, He secured justification for all who would believe in Him (Rom. 4:25). For all who trust in Him, Jesus' work guarantees the permanent removal of God's condemnation (Rom. 8:1) and the reversal of the deadly consequences of Adam's sin (Rom. 5:18). All those in Christ will receive eternal life instead of the eternal death they deserve (1 Cor. 15:21-22).

The New Testament repeatedly affirms that Jesus is the promised Messiah. Acts 8:26-38 tells the story of Philip and an Ethiopian government official. The Holy Spirit sent Philip to tell the Ethiopian about Christ. As Philip approached his chariot in the desert he heard the official reading from Isaiah 53. The Ethiopian didn't understand who the Scripture referred to, so Philip explained that this text spoke of Jesus the Messiah. The man believed in Christ for salvation and obeyed the Lord in baptism.

MEMORY VERSES

John 20:31 *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

Luke 24:44 *And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me.*

Matthew 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The following notes are from a sermon by Pastor Stan titled, *Jesus is the Christ*, preached on January 26, 2020.

Subject: *Jesus is the Christ*

Scripture: *Matthew 16:13-20*

The most important thing the church has ever done or will ever do is to proclaim and defend the truth about Jesus and His ministry because apart from Him and His work there is no Christian faith and no hope in the world.

Names and titles were extremely important in Bible times. Names had great significance and titles carried weight. If we're not careful, we hear some names and titles so frequently that they become familiar to us and lose their special meaning. One of these titles is "Christ." It was a title often used in connection with another title, "Son of God." The Christ and the Son of God were understood to be one and the same person. Look at Peter's confession of truth in Matthew 16:16, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Some people anticipated and longed for the coming Christ, and therefore were ready to receive Him.

John 1:41 *He (Andrew) first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messiah, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.*

Others were eager to reject Christ. When Jesus was on trial before the Jewish Sanhedrin, they grilled Him because they wanted to know His real identity.

Matthew 26:63 *And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God.*

At the end of John's Gospel he tells us the reason why he wrote the book.

John 20:30-31 ³⁰ *And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹ But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

The title of "Christ" was a unique and significant title that could belong to only one person. In this message I want us to explore what the Bible says about Jesus as the Christ.

1. The UNIQUE IDENTITY of Christ

The title "Christ" (from Greek, *chrio*, "anoint") appears 539 times in the New Testament. It is equivalent to the Old Testament title, "Messiah." Both Messiah and Christ mean "the anointed One." John the Baptist wanted to be sure that Jesus was the Christ.

Matthew 11:2-6 *Now when John (the Baptist) had heard in the prison the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and show John again those things which ye do hear and see: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.*

John the Baptist would have known for sure that Jesus was the Christ because He fulfilled these verses from Isaiah about the promised Messiah.

Isaiah 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.*

When Jesus preached His first sermon in His hometown of Nazareth, He went into the synagogue and read this same scripture from the scroll of Isaiah.

Luke 4:20-21 ²⁰ *And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.*

Jesus is the one and only Christ the world will ever know. He predicted that many people would make false claims to be Christ and they would deceive many people in the last days.

Matthew 24:4-5 *And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.*

The Apostle John said this was happening even in his lifetime.

1 John 2:18 *Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.*

The word “antichrist” means someone who is opposed to Christ and tries to usurp the place of Christ. There is one Antichrist and many antichrists.

2. The UNIQUE MINISTRY of Christ

The title Christ (Messiah) means “the anointed One.” In the Old Testament there were three offices that involved a holy anointing by God for divine service. These men were anointed with oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit, thus authorizing them and setting them apart for God’s purpose and giving them wisdom and power for their assignment. These three offices or roles were prophets, priests, and kings. They pointed to Jesus, the one who fulfilled all three.

A. Jesus is God’s chosen prophet

As a prophet, He speaks to men on behalf of God. He reveals God’s will to us. His role as Prophet is related to His title as “the Word.” Peter understood this. **John 6:68** *Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.* This role was prophesied by Moses in **Deuteronomy 18:15** *The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken.* This was fulfilled in **Acts 3:20-23** *And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.*

B. Jesus is God’s chosen priest

As high priest, He offered the perfect sacrifice of Himself to God and He continues to intercede for us. His role as high priest is related to His title as “the Lamb.” He is the perfect priest. All other priests first had to offer a sacrifice for their own sins and then for the sins of the people. He had no sin, so He offered Himself as the perfect sacrifice for all His people. **Hebrews 10:12** *But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God.*

All the Old Testament priests did not sit down because their work was never finished. There were no chairs in the tabernacle or the temple. But when Jesus went to Heaven he sat down at the Father’s right hand. His work of sacrifice was done. That’s why He said on the cross, “It is finished.” He ascended back to God the Father in heaven to intercede on our behalf. **Hebrews 7:25** *Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

C. Jesus is God's chosen king

As a king, He rules over all people and things. He is seated at the Father's right hand, the place of power and authority. He rules now and He will rule forever, a fact so important it is mentioned twice in the Lord's Prayer (Model Prayer).

Matthew 6:10 *Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*

Matthew 6:13 *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*

We should pray His rule in our world and in our personal lives. As God's authorized prophet, priest, and king, Christ meets our three great needs:

- As prophet, He provides instruction because we are ignorant.
- As priest, He provides salvation because we are sinful.
- As king, He provides oversight and protection because we can't govern ourselves.

3. The UNIQUE AUTHORITY of Christ

Before Jesus left earth and went back to Heaven, He said, **Matthew 28:18** *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*

A. We obey Him as Prophet

Matthew 7:29 *For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.*

Matthew 17:5 *While he yet spake, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them: and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him.*

B. We rest in Him as High Priest

*My faith has found a resting place, not in device or creed
I trust the Ever-living One, His wounds for me shall plead.
I need no other argument, I need no other plea;
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*

C. We submit to Him as King

To be a Christian you must acknowledge and receive Jesus Christ as all three. You must say, "Lord, You are God's chosen Prophet and I will listen and learn from you and your Word. Lord, you are God's chosen Priest and I will rely on your perfect blood sacrifice and trust you to intercede for me. Lord, you are God's chosen King, and I will surrender my life to serve and obey you."