

**SERIES: The Christ of Christmas
"The Messiah"
John 1:41**

Big Idea – Jesus Christ is God’s anointed One, the Savior, the King.

40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Jesus, was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother.

41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated, the Christ).

42 And he brought him to Jesus. Now when Jesus looked at him, He said, "You are Simon the son of Jonah. You shall be called Cephas" (which is translated, A Stone).

Before we get into the Messiah topic, notice with me something interesting about Andrew: whenever you find Andrew in John's Gospel, he is bringing somebody to Jesus: his brother, the little boy with the loaves and fishes (John 6:8), and the Greeks who wanted to see Jesus (John 12:20-21). No sermons from Andrew are recorded, but he certainly preached great sermons by his actions as a personal soul winner! Proverbs 11:30 says "he who wins souls is wise."

"We have found the Messiah!" was the witness Andrew gave to Simon. Messiah is a Hebrew word that means "anointed," and the Greek equivalent is "Christ."

To the Jews, it was the same as "Son of God" (see Matt. 26:63-64; Mark 14:61-62; Luke 22:67-70).

Matthew 26:63 But Jesus said nothing. Again the high priest said to Jesus, "I command you by the power of the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

64 Jesus answered, "Those are your words. But I tell you, in the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of God, the Powerful One, and coming on clouds in the sky."

65 When the high priest heard this, he tore his clothes and said, "This man has said things that are against God! We don't need any more witnesses; you all heard him say these things against God.

66 What do you think?" The people answered, "He should die."

In the Old Testament, prophets, priests, and kings were anointed and thereby set apart for special service.

Kings were especially called "God's anointed" (1 Sam. 26:11; Ps. 89:20); so, when the Jews spoke about their Messiah, they were thinking of the king who would come to deliver them and establish the kingdom.

1. Splendid King – Isaiah 9 & 11

The Jewish people were looking for a deliverer, someone who could free them from the bondage of the occupying Roman armies.

Isaiah 11:1 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots:

2 And the spirit of the LORD will rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

3 And will make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he will not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

4 But with righteousness will he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he will smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips will he slay the wicked.

5 And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins.

6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 And the suckling child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the den of the basilisk.

9 They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

10 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.

11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord will set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the isles of the sea.

12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

This is why even after Jesus' three years of ministry with His disciples, His crucifixion and resurrection they asked Him the question in Acts 1:6.

Turn in your Bibles to Acts 1:6-8

2. Sufficient Sacrifice

Isaiah 53:3 He was hated and rejected by people. He had much pain and suffering. People would not even look at him. He was hated, and we didn't even notice him.

4 But he took our suffering on him and felt our pain for us. We saw his suffering and thought God was punishing him.

5 But he was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds.

6 We all have wandered away like sheep; each of us has gone his own way. But the LORD has put on him the punishment for all the evil we have done.

7 He was beaten down and punished, but he didn't say a word. He was like a lamb being led to be killed. He was quiet, as a sheep is quiet while its wool is being cut; he never opened his mouth.

8 Men took him away roughly and unfairly. He died without children to continue his family. He was put to death; he was punished for the sins of my people.

9 He was buried with wicked men, and he died with the rich. He had done nothing wrong, and he had never lied.

10 But it was the LORD who decided to crush him and make him suffer. The LORD made his life a penalty offering, but he will still see his descendants and live a long life. He will complete the things the LORD wants him to do.

11 "After his soul suffers many things, he will see life and be satisfied. My good servant will make many people right with God; he will carry away their sins.

Hebrews 9:25 The high priest enters the Most Holy Place once every year with blood that is not his own. But Christ did not offer himself many times.

26 Then he would have had to suffer many times since the world was made. But Christ came only once and for all time at just the right time to take away all sin by sacrificing himself.

3. Suffering Savior

Whether or not Jesus was indeed the Messiah was a crucial problem that challenged the Jews in that day (John 7:26, 40-44; 9:22; 10:24).

John 7:25 Then some of the people who lived in Jerusalem said, "This is the man they are trying to kill.

26 But he is teaching where everyone can see and hear him, and no one is trying to stop him. Maybe the leaders have decided he really is the Christ.

27 But we know where this man is from. And when the real Christ comes, no one will know where he comes from."

- 43 So there was a division among the people because of Him.
44 Now some of them wanted to take Him, but no one laid hands on Him.
45 Then the officers came to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, "Why have you not brought Him?"
46 The officers answered, "No man ever spoke like this Man!"
47 Then the Pharisees answered them, "Are you also deceived?"

John 9:22 His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had agreed already that if anyone confessed that He was Christ, he would be put out of the synagogue.

Jesus had to explain even to His own followers that the cross had to come before the crown, that He must suffer before He could enter into His glory (Luke 24:13-35). **(PICTURE OF JESUS ON THE ROAD TO EMMAUS WITH 2 DISCIPLES)**

Luke 24:17 Then he said, "What are these things you are talking about while you walk?" The two followers stopped, looking very sad.

18 The one named Cleopas answered, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who does not know what just happened there?"

19 Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about?" They said, "About Jesus of Nazareth. He was a prophet who said and did many powerful things before God and all the people.

20 Our leaders and the leading priests handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him.

21 But we were hoping that he would free Israel. Besides this, it is now the third day since this happened.

22 And today some women among us amazed us. Early this morning they went to the tomb,

23 but they did not find his body there. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels who said that Jesus was alive!

24 So some of our group went to the tomb, too. They found it just as the women said, but they did not see Jesus."

25 Then Jesus said to them, "You are foolish and slow to believe everything the prophets said.

26 They said that the Christ must suffer these things before he enters his glory."

27 Then starting with what Moses and all the prophets had said about him, Jesus began to explain everything that had been written about himself in the Scriptures.

WHO IS THE JESUS OF CHRISTMAS?

Jesus is the Word – John 1:1

Jesus is the Light – John 1:4

Jesus is the Son of God – John 1:34 & 49;

Jesus is the Lamb of God – John 1:29

Jesus is the Gift of God – John 3:16

Jesus is the Messiah, the Coming King! - John 20:31

Psalm 24:7 Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, The LORD mighty in battle.

9 Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in.

10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory. Selah