



## Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

## Short Study 29:

### THE GREAT CONFESSION

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Read Matthew 16:13-17

There are two types of "confession" in the New Testament: that which acknowledges sin and that which acknowledges faith in Christ. This pronouncement of Peter is one of the latter, and is known by Bible scholars as "The Great Confession." Why do you think they call it "great"?

**1.** "The Christ". "Christ" (*Christos* in the Greek) in the New Testament and "Messiah" (*mashiyach* in the Hebrew) in the Old Testament both mean "Anointed One" (see John 1:41). Consult the topic under both "Christ" and "Messiah" in a Bible dictionary and explore what this means.

(See also Short Study 018.)

The Messiah was promised by God several times in the Old Testament, though not always with that title. His arrival was eagerly awaited by faithful Jews in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century (see John 1:41). From the sources you used above, can you find out what was expected of the Messiah? How did Jesus fulfil these expectations?

**2.** "Son of the Living God". Essentially "Son of God" is one of the titles of the Messiah, but it is rich in meaning since it speaks of His divinity. Peter showed a depth of insight in this confession that did not come from human thinking. Where did it come from according to Jesus?

Look up some of the many New Testament references to *Son of God*, such as Luke Matt 3:17; Matt 14:33; Mark 15:39 Luke 9:35; Luke 22:70; John 10:36 and John 19:7, to suggest a few. Who declared Jesus to be the Son of God?

**To think about:** Who do *you* say Jesus is? What does this mean to you?

**To dig deeper:** Read commentaries on this passage and topical articles on *Son of God* in Bible dictionaries or encyclopaedias.