



Learn Your Bible

Resources to help you learn and understand the Bible

Short Study 083: The Messiah

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Read: Matt 11:2-6 and Isaiah 61:1-3.

Introduction: The prophets and Psalmists of the Old Testament told of one whom God would send who would be the 'Messiah' (from the Hebrew, meaning 'anointed'). (In the New Testament He is called 'Christ,' from the Greek, also meaning 'anointed.') Jesus confirmed the Isaiah passage when speaking in the synagogue in Nazareth (read Luke 4:18-21). Consider in what ways Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.

A. In Prophecy. There are over 30 prophecies to the Messiah in the Old Testament. Here are a few of them. Identify how Jesus fulfilled them:

Gen 3:15 (spoken to Eve after she had listened to the serpent. Why the contrast between *head* and *heel*?)

Psalm 16:10 (*Sheol*, in the NKJV, simply means *dead*, not necessarily *Hell* as used in the AV.)

Isaiah 53:1-5

Isaiah 53:9

Micah 5:2. Why does it say 'everlasting'?

Zech 9:9

B In Identification. Opinion about whether Jesus was the Messiah was divided (John 7:37-43) but those with insight attested to His person.

(i) Look up the following examples of recognition and, where you can, suggest what prompted the witness to believe. You might need to read around some verses to identify the context.

Matt 16:16-17

Luke 2:26-30

John 1:41

John 6:14

John 6:69

John 11:27

(ii) Preached and taught by Saul (Paul). Notice what words are used to describe Paul's method of persuasion.

Acts 9:22

Acts 17:2-3

(iii) Declared by angels. Who was this to?

Luke 2:11

(iv) Declared by Jesus Himself. Jesus usually avoided openly speaking of being the Messiah. Why was this, and why did He do so on these two occasions?

Matt 26:63-64

John 4:25-26

What will be the ultimate proof that Jesus is the Messiah (John 8:28)?

What does belief in Jesus being the Messiah prove of the believer (1 John 5:1. See also 1 John 4:3)?

To think about: If you were a 1stC Jew listening to Jesus, would you believe Him to be the Messiah?

To dig deeper: Read what you can about the concept of the Messiah.