

MSB268

MORE Seed and Bread

BRIEF BIBLICAL MESSAGES FROM

THE WORD OF TRUTH MINISTRY

Otis Q. Sellers, Founder - David R. Hettema, Director

GOD'S WORD ON THE MESSIAH

By Mike Walko

(Editor's Note: This brief study imparts the Bible's meaningful Messianic message, found throughout the Bible, which seems to be missing or lacking in many people's lives today. It encompasses some additional, little-known facts proving the deity of Jesus Christ and displays specific Scriptural truths regarding the coming Kingdom of God. DRH)

The word "messiah" comes to the English language from the Hebrew *meshiach*, whose basic meaning is "to anoint." Its Greek equivalent is *khristos*, which in English is translated "Christ." This word is found in the New Testament's very first verse (Matt. 1:1), where it clearly refers to Lord Jesus, the son of David, the son of Abraham (*Editor's Note: "Jehovah" of the Old Testament is the "Jesus" of the New Testament, and the former is the English name for Jehoshua, His Hebrew name [found in E.W. Bullinger's *The Companion Bible*, Appendix 98, under "X. Jesus"] which encompasses the Hebrew word for "salvation" *yeshua*).*

Messiah or *meshiach* is often applied to Old Testament priests and kings, such as Aaron (Exod. 29:7) and David (2 Sam. 19:21). All of these, however, pointed to one individual who would ultimately be given the title of *the* Messiah. Because of their understanding of Daniel 9:25, many in Israel in the early years of the first century AD claimed to be *the* Messiah. According to the *Wycliffe Bible Dictionary*, there were at least two men named Theudas, four named Simon, and three named Judas, to name just a few who made this claim for themselves, and of these, two are mentioned in the New Testament (Acts 5:36, 37).

Even in Post-Biblical times false teachers made these claims, including Bar Kokhba, Moses of Crete, David Alroy (Persia), Shabtie Zvi (Turkey), and Jacob Frank (Poland). Some of these men had a million or more

followers, even though they did not fulfill even one Old Testament prophecy regarding the Messiah. The fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies was the standard for ascertaining the identity of the Messiah, and the New Testament shows us how they are fulfilled in Christ Jesus.

He would be born in the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10, Matt. 1:2),

of the house of David (Isa. 9:7, Luke 2:4),

in the city of Bethlehem (Mic. 5:2, Luke 2:4),

of a virgin (Isa. 7:14, Matt. 1:18),

when babies were being killed (Jer. 31:15, Matt. 2:16-18).

He would be called out of Egypt where He had been taken (Hos. 11:1, Matt. 2:15).

He would grow up as a righteous branch in Nazareth (Jer. 23:5, Luke 2:51).

He would grow up hidden and protected by God from those who would do Him harm (Isa. 49:2).

He would proclaim the message of the New Covenant (Psa. 132:12) and proclaim it in the temple of Jerusalem before the temple's destruction in 70 AD (Mal. 3:1).

He would cast out the enemy in the midst of His people (Zeph. 3:15, Luke 13:32).

He would be righteous (Psa. 45:7), speak in parables (Psa. 78:2, Matt. 13-11), and bring light to the people of Galilee and beyond the Jordan (Isa. 9:1-2, Matt. 4:16).

He would perform great wonders like healing the sick (Isa. 35:5-6, John 5:8) and calming the storm (Psa. 107:29, Matt. 8:24-27).

He would enter Jerusalem on a donkey (Zech. 9:9, Matt. 21:1-9) and be betrayed by someone close to Him (Psa. 41:9, John 13:18).

His days would be shortened on Earth (Psa. 102:23).

He would suffer and die for our sins (Isa. 53:1-12), be pierced (Zech. 12:10).

At His death, the veil of the temple in Jerusalem would be torn from top to bottom. This is symbolic of the veil that was cast over all people, separating them from God (Isa. 25:7, Matt. 27:51).

He would be raised from the dead (Psa. 16:10) and ascend on high and receive gifts from the Father for men (Psa. 68:18, Luke 24:51).

He was begotten of God (Psa. 2:7, Luke 1:35), and the fullness of deity is in Him (Col. 2:9).

These and many other Messianic prophetic statements were recorded in the Old Testament over a period of about 1,000 years from Moses to Malachi (i.e., from about 1400 to 400 BC). Faith in the complete work of Christ is all that is necessary for salvation in this Dispensation of Grace (Eph. 2:8-3:2).

The existence of the Lord Jesus Christ and His living in that place and time is confirmed even by such eminent first-century pagan writers, as Tacitus and Pliny the Younger. There was even a first-century writer named Thallus who wrote about 50 AD on the history of the Eastern Mediterranean world from the Trojan War to His own time. Thallus mentions what appears to be the same event mentioned in Luke 23:44, namely, the darkness that fell over the land midday during the Jewish Passover in the year the Lord was crucified. Josh McDowell brings these things out in greater detail in his book, *New Evidence* (Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1999).

Having established who the Messiah is, we must ask what His message was. At its center is the Kingdom of God, the era during which God will directly govern human affairs on Earth. The Lord's try in Galilee begins with His proclamation that "the time is fulfilled and the Kingdom of God is at hand" (Mark 1:14-15). This was the message that the Lord gave to the Twelve when they were called upon to proclaim the Kingdom throughout the all of Israel.

In Mark 4:26, we are taught that God's Kingdom comes in stages. It is likened to the growing of corn or wheat, which has a "blade stage," an "ear stage," and finally a "full-corn-in-the-ear stage." The first two stages had

already passed by the time of the events recorded in the Acts of the Apostles, but they pertained only to the nation of Israel at that time. The stage of the "full corn in the ear" will be when the Kingdom is world-wide in reach and God completes the work He is doing during the present Dispensation of Grace.

The Kingdom of God is not found on Earth today, except perhaps in the sense of His providential care for us in grace (Col. 1:13). It is, however, the only hope that God holds out for mankind. This is the truth we can draw from the following Scriptures:

- ◆ **Be still and know that I am God and I will be exalted among the nations** (Psa. 46:10).
- ◆ **I will govern the nations upon the Earth** (Psa. 67:4).
- ◆ **All kings shall fall down before Him and all nations shall serve Him** (Psa. 72:11).
- ◆ **Thou hast caused judgment to be heard from Heaven. The Earth feared and was still** (Psa. 76:8).
- ◆ **Arise, O God, judge the Earth, for thou shalt inherit all nations** (Psa. 82:8).
- ◆ **All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before Thee, O Lord and shall glorify Thy name** (Psa. 86:9).
- ◆ **All the nations of the world shall remember and turn to the Lord and worship Thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's and He is the governor among the nations** (Psa. 22:27-28).
- ◆ **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** (Isa. 11:9).
- ◆ **The dead shall arise and live** (Isa. 26:19).
- ◆ **The blind shall see and the deaf shall hear** (Isa. 35:5).
- ◆ **He will cause the inhabitants of the world to learn righteousness** (Isa. 26:9).
- ◆ **The meek (submissive) shall inherit the Earth** (Psa. 37:11, Matt. 5:5).
- ◆ **Evildoers shall be cut off** (Psa. 37:9).
- ◆ **Those who hunger and thirst shall be filled** (Matt. 5:6, Isa. 55:1).
- ◆ **Israel shall return to their land and seek the Lord** (Hos. 3:5).
- ◆ **Those who live in Jerusalem shall dwell safely**" (Jer. 33:16).
- ◆ **The Lord has made known His salvation (*yeshua*). All the ends of the Earth have seen the salvation (*yeshua*) of our God** (Psa. 98:2-3).

All of this will be accomplished before the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. For when He returns, He will come in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the Gospel (2 Thess. 1:8). It stands to reason that God will not pour out His wrath until He has given mankind a clear-cut opportunity to learn of Him and His ways. The Divine Assumption of Sovereignty over the Earth will teach man how to love God and his neighbor as himself (Matt. 22:37-39). And this will bring about a brotherhood on Earth under God.

The Lord prayed for His Kingdom to come and His will to be done on Earth as it is in Heaven (Matt. 6:10). This should be the desire of all who know and love Him.

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