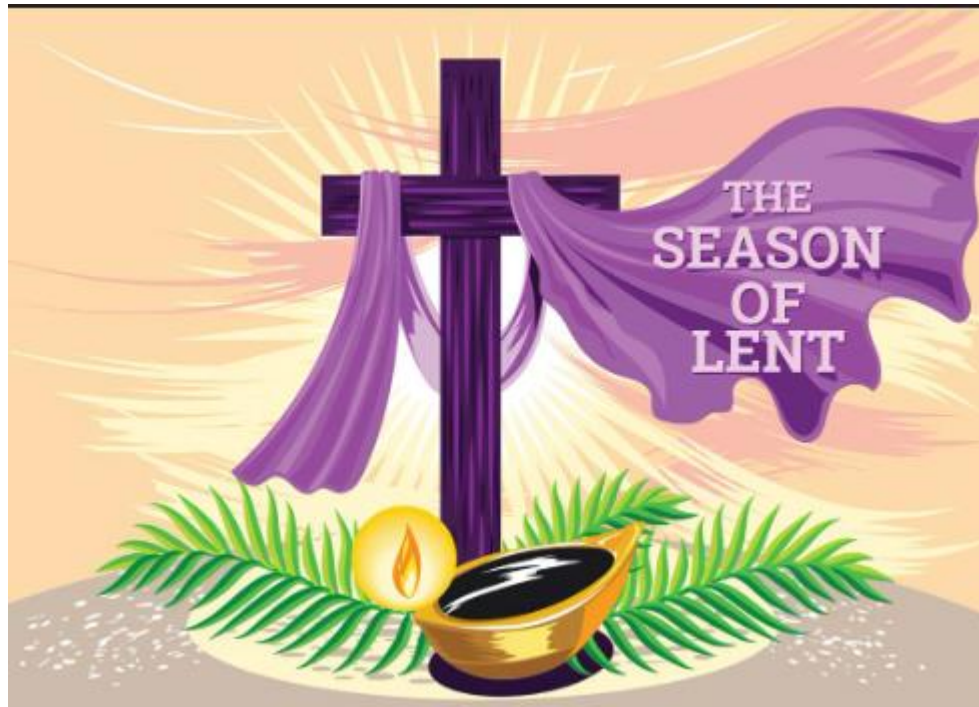


THE ANOINTED ONE

BIBLE STUDY MATERIAL



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This document is prepared to assist in Bible studies to reflect on the Person of Christ and the expectations of the role of the Messiah. The title 'Christ' which was adopted by the early church has a lot to say about who Jesus is. When we use the name 'Jesus Christ' we are indeed making a confession of faith that Jesus is Lord, the anointed One, the Adonai (Lord God) and the Messiah. Many people treat the title 'Christ' as the last name of Jesus instead of using 'Christ' to refer to Jesus' destiny as the anointed One. This study aims to interact with some of the different roles and expectations of the Messiah as fulfilled in our Lord Jesus.

Contents

1	Opening Summary.....	3
1.1	Scope.....	3
2	Study 1: The Messiah as a portrait of Moses.....	4
3	Study 2: He will come from David’s descendants	6
	The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1: 26-33.....	7
4	Study 3: The Messiah as the Son Of God	8
	Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah	8
5	Study 4: The Son of Man – as a Man of Sorrow	10
	Jesus Predicts His Death ; Matthew 16	10
5.1.1	The Suffering and Glory of the Servant	11
6	Study 5: The moment the Messiah was crushed	13
	Jesus Predicts His Death.....	13
7	Closing review	14

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1 Opening Summary

1.1 Scope

The purpose of this study is to show how the different roles and expectations of the Messiah converge into a perfect symmetry in the person of Jesus.

What are some of these roles and expectations?

- a. He will be like Moses
- b. He will be the son of God
- c. He will be the son of Man
- d. He will be a suffering servant
- e. He will come from the line of David and restore the Kingdom of Israel
- f. Many more

From human perspective, it is difficult to square up some of these expectations and how they could be held together in one person. How can a powerful king who would sit on the throne of David to restore the Kingdom of Israel become a suffering servant and be humiliated and spat upon? How can the Son of God become the Son of Man?

This study aims to show the perfect symmetry of these expectations in Jesus. The title Messiah is filled with many diverse meaning, and is both challenging and interesting, as well as gives us a deeper understanding into the very design of our salvation, which the Divine Incarnate came to fulfil.

Together, we will explore the title 'Christ' in order to gain a better understanding of its ramifications for the proclamation and affirmation of our faith. In other words, whenever we use the name "Jesus Christ" we are saying that He is Lord.

The study concludes with the study of John 12:23-26

Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

2 Study 1: The Messiah as a portrait of Moses

In this first study section, we review the Old Testament proclamation by Moses to the people of Israel.

Take a moment to reflect on some attributes of Moses and the kind of leadership he provided to the people of Israel. To do this, look at the passage below from Deuteronomy, and see if you can identify some attributes of the expected Messiah and how they are fulfilled Jesus.

Deuteronomy 18: 14-20

¹⁴ The nations you will dispossess listen to those who practice sorcery or divination. But as for you, the LORD your God has not permitted you to do so. ¹⁵ The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your fellow Israelites. You must listen to him. ¹⁶ For this is what you asked of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said, "Let us not hear the voice of the LORD our God nor see this great fire anymore, or we will die."

¹⁷ The LORD said to me: "What they say is good. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. ¹⁹ I myself will call to account anyone who does not listen to my words that the prophet speaks in my name. ²⁰ But a prophet who presumes to speak in my name anything I have not commanded, or a prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, is to be put to death."

Comments: "A man like me" is an example.

Could the group discuss what expectations of the Messiah could be drawn from the person of Moses.

The Messiah like Moses brings into focus a number of attributes:

1. The giving of the "Law"
2. Moses as a prophet
3. One who leads his people through the wilderness
4. One who leads his people to worship God
5. A mediator between man and God
6. One who conveys the Covenant of God to the people

Note: Both Jesus and Moses share many other similarities in human experience such as kings tried to kill them in their childhood and both babies were rescued by God. Both had control over threatening storm and river and both provided food for the people. Jesus spent 40 days on the desert and Moses spent 40 years in the desert – however, these similarities do not reflect the expectations of the Messiah.

We will take a moment to focus on the role of the expected Messiah in – worship, covenant and the law. In the passage above Moses was referring to a person who would bring the message from God and lead the people to worship God, to fulfil the Law and bring a new covenant between God and the people. Let us look at the following scripture passages below and discuss them together:

The Last Supper: Luke 22:14-23 for the covenant;

The law: Matthew 5:17-48,

Worship: the cleansing of the Temple John 1: 13-25

Additional reading

Stephen's speech in Acts 3: 30-38. Stephen recounts the same incident in his trial.

3 Study 2: He will come from David's descendants

We are in part 2 in the study of the expectations of the Messiah. This study unit will explore some of the Old Testament prophecies about the kingship of the expected Messiah and the link to the kingship of David.

We shall review a number of passages in this week study and many of them will be short verses.

2 Samuel 7:12-13

When your (David) days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build a house for My name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

Discuss whether this assurance given to David refers to his son Solomon or the Messiah? Then read and discuss Jeremiah 23:5-6. What is the expectation of the Messiah in this passage?

Jeremiah 23:5-6

*"Behold, the days are coming," declares the Lord,
"When I will raise up for David a righteous Branch;
And He will reign as king and act wisely
And do justice and righteousness in the land.
"In His days Judah will be saved,
And Israel will dwell securely;
And this is His name by which He will be called,
'The Lord our righteousness.*

Let's now review the Christmas message from Isaiah 9: 6-7

*For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us;
And the government will rest on His shoulders;
And His name will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.
There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace,
On the throne of David and over his kingdom,
To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness
From then on and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will accomplish this.*

Discuss the question raised by the people when they heard Jesus preaching, teaching and healing.

John 7: 42

Does not Scripture say that the Messiah will come from David's descendants and from Bethlehem, the town where David lived?" Their expectation was that the anointed One would be the Son of David.

These passages were used by the Jewish leaders and their expectation was the Anointed One would restore the Kingdom of Israel first and foremost and then reach out to the rest of the world. Jesus did not fit the image they

expected. King David went to war and was triumphant over his enemies, but Jesus maintained that the one who wields the sword shall die by the sword and he sent a message of peace and love even to the enemies.

Group discussion: In what way could Jesus' reign resemble that of David?

Additional reading

Isaiah 11: 1-5, 10-11

*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.*

² *The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—*

³ *and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.*

*He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;*

⁴ *but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.*

*He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

⁵ *Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.*

¹⁰ *In that day the Root of Jesse will stand as a banner for the peoples; the nations will rally to him, and his resting place will be glorious. ¹¹ In that day the Lord will reach out his hand a second time to reclaim the surviving remnant of his people from Assyria, from Lower Egypt, from Upper Egypt, from Cush,¹² from Elam, from Babylonia,¹³ from Hamath and from the islands of the Mediterranean.*

The Birth of Jesus Foretold Luke 1: 26-33

²⁶ *In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you."*

²⁹ *Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favour with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

4 Study 3: The Messiah as the Son Of God

We are in part 3 of the study unit and our focus is on the expectation that the Messiah will be the Son of God. Jesus in his ministry emphasized the fact that he was sent. He used phrases like “my Father who sent me” or “The one who sent me” or “I have come so that.. “

He constantly made reference to his work as the work of the one who sent him. He made constant references to the affirmation from God who testified about him in audible form “ This is my Son, hear Him”.

Jesus praises Peter for his affirmation of faith “you are the Christ, the Son of the Most High God”. Peter had successfully joined the self designation of Jesus as the Son of God to the expectation of the Messiah for Israel – that was unusual – as the son of God was not in the expectation of the Anointed One.

Let us study the passage on the event in Caesarea Philippi.

We shall also study John 3:13- 21. Nicodemus had come to see the Lord and he affirms that Jesus was from above based on the works of Jesus.

We will reflect on the points raised after the passages.

Peter Declares That Jesus Is the Messiah

Matthew 16

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴ They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵ “But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸ And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades[Ⓜ] will not overcome it. ¹⁹ I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be[Ⓜ] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be[Ⓜ] loosed in heaven.” ²⁰ Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

John 3

¹³ No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man.[Ⓜ] ¹⁴ Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,[Ⓜ] ¹⁵ that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”[Ⓜ]

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God’s one and only Son. ¹⁹ This is the

verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. ²¹ But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

The concept of Sonship is not fully understood. The Greek word “Mono genes “ means the only one of its kind within a special relationship and being unique in every aspect”. An example is, Isaac was Abraham’s monogenes (one and only unique son).

Whenever Jesus used the term “Son” in his relationship to his Father, it meant a son with special relationship to his father and the relationship was unique “. His sonship also meant obedience to his father. He was saying the Messiah they were expecting was in the form of special sonship relationship to the father. This led to the Pharisees accusing him for making himself equal to God. Throughout his ministry, he maintained that he was Monogenes and that he had come from above to fulfil the role of the Messiah.

The group could discuss many more examples of occasions Jesus made such references in relation to his work on earth as doing the work he was sent to accomplish.

The special relationship with his father has been from the beginning of time. What was Jesus’ response when the Pharisees accused him of blasphemy by making himself equal to God? Let us discuss together.

‘Let this cup pass away from me ..” a cry from Gethsemane was one such moment Jesus realized that the special relationship with his father could be broken on the cross. Anything that upsets this relationship was too much a price to pay. The cross was a divine purpose the Messiah had to accomplish but it came at a high price to the Son of God.

5 Study 4: The Son of Man – as a Man of Sorrow

Of all the expectations of the Anointed One, the suffering servant was most contradictory to the rest of the attributes. **The Son of Man was to suffer many things.** This did not fit the expected credentials of the Messiah.

The phrase Son of Man was used frequently by Ezekiel to reflect his overburdened suffering. The same phrase was used by Daniel to portray a heavenly figure in the form of man. This figure carried formidable power to judge the world.

It was a phrase Jesus used most frequently (about 80 times) as his self designated title. He used the phrase as a reference to his impending suffering and also in an eschatological way to explain the power of the Messiah in his second coming.

The passages we will study are Daniel 7 and then go back to the event in Caesarea Philippi about Peter's affirmation of faith in Matthew 16.

Also Refer to Isaiah 11 this Messiah who will unite humanity and will be a banner to all.

Daniel 7:13-14

*"I kept looking in the night visions,
And behold, with the clouds of heaven
One like a Son of Man was coming,
And He came up to the Ancient of Days
And was presented before Him.
"And to Him was given dominion,
Glory and a kingdom,
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language
Might serve Him.
His dominion is an everlasting dominion
Which will not pass away;
And His kingdom is one
Which will not be destroyed*

Jesus Predicts His Death ; Matthew 16

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. "Never, Lord!" he said. "This shall never happen to you!"

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns."

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for

me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what they have done.

Peter rebukes our Lord and our Lord rebukes Peter

According to the Torah (Torah? or OT?), the Messiah will be a descendant of the Jewish King David and a perfect teacher of God's law and a powerful political leader who would rule in Jerusalem and rebuild Temple to its glory. This picture coming out of this section of a suffering servant did not fit the image. The suffering servant was such a problem that some Jewish leaders taught that he was a different figure from the Messiah.

Peter expected a Messiah who would be king and not a suffering Messiah who would be despised by the very people he was meant to liberate.

Jesus wanted to explain to his disciples that suffering was part of the divine plan.

The group may study the song of the suffering servant which deals in detail with the many different forms of suffering the Anointed One would bear.

5.1.1 The Suffering and Glory of the Servant

¹³ See, my servant will act wisely;

he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.

¹⁴ Just as there were many who were appalled at him—

his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any human being
and his form marred beyond human likeness—

¹⁵ so he will sprinkle many nations,

and kings will shut their mouths because of him.

For what they were not told, they will see,

and what they have not heard, they will understand.

Isaiah 53

Who has believed our message

and to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?

² He grew up before him like a tender shoot,

and like a root out of dry ground.

He had no beauty or majesty to attract us to him,

nothing in his appearance that we should desire him.

³ He was despised and rejected by mankind,

a man of suffering, and familiar with pain.

Like one from whom people hide their faces

he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.

⁴ Surely he took up our pain
and bore our suffering,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted.

⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions,
he was crushed for our iniquities;
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,
and by his wounds we are healed.

⁶ We all, like sheep, have gone astray,
each of us has turned to our own way;
and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

⁷ He was oppressed and afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;
he was led like a lamb to the slaughter,
and as a sheep before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

⁸ By oppression and judgment he was taken away.
Yet who of his generation protested?
For he was cut off from the land of the living;
for the transgression of my people he was punished.

⁹ He was assigned a grave with the wicked,
and with the rich in his death,
though he had done no violence,
nor was any deceit in his mouth.

¹⁰ Yet it was the LORD's will to crush him and cause him to suffer,
and though the LORD makes his life an offering for sin,
he will see his offspring and prolong his days,
and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.

¹¹ After he has suffered,
he will see the light of life and be satisfied;
by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many,
and he will bear their iniquities.

¹² Therefore I will give him a portion among the great,
and he will divide the spoils with the strong,
because he poured out his life unto death,
and was numbered with the transgressors.
For he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

6 Study 5: The moment the Messiah was crushed

The hour has come, the journey to the cross has begun.

In this section we find Jesus checking the signs of the hour. The hour of his debasement as well as his exaltation. He will soon face the cup of wrath and is unwilling to change the course of events. We are going to study John 12.20

In this passage a number of portraits of the Messiah become evident.

Before this passage, the triumphant entry had taken place.

In this passage the Father glorifies the Son

The Son recognises that the seed must fall into the ground, or it will not multiply

Spare me from this hour ?? NO. It is for this purpose that I have come to this hour

Jesus Predicts His Death

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honour the one who serves me.

²⁷ "Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again." ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

³⁴ The crowd spoke up, "We have heard from the Law that the Messiah will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up'? Who is this 'Son of Man'?"

³⁵ Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. ³⁶ Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light." When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

7 Closing review

Let us together briefly recap the main points which came out of our Lent Bible Study.

Does anyone wish to share what stood out for you?

Closing summary

The early church took a bold step to maintain that Jesus is the *Christos – the Messiah, the Adonai, the Lord of all, the suffering servant and the Son of God, son of David, one like Moses.*

*Obviously Peter had earlier professed that Jesus is the Christos and our Lord had approved that. So the church adopted the title Christos giving us the name Jesus Christ. Every time we use this name we make a profession of faith that **Jesus is LORD.***