

Christ's Relation to the Messianic Hope

Introduction:

1. The Hebrew word for *messiah* and the Greek word for *christ* are both derived from words which mean "to anoint," and therefore they came to designate "an anointed one."
2. Both priests and kings were anointed with oil when appointed to office.
3. David spoke of King Saul as "Jehovah's anointed (1 Samuel 24:6); David himself was later referred to by the same expression (2 Samuel 19:21).
4. Jehovah promised David that of his descendants God would set one upon the throne and "establish the throne of his kingdom forever" (2 Samuel 7:11-16).
5. This divine revelation from God developed the idea of a unique or ideal king who was to come the earth.
6. As David draw near the time of his death, he described in his last words the character of the king that should rule over God's people (2 Samuel 23:1-7).
7. The writings of the other prophets of the Old Testament point to the coming of an ideal and unique king, an anointed one, or Messiah, of the seed of David.
8. The Messiah is described as ruling as king and priest upon his throne, related to God and to man, reigning and judging in righteousness, saving and delivering his people from sin, feeding and caring for them as a shepherd, and cutting short his enemies with a rod of iron.
9. By the time Jesus came into the world the children of Israel held many distorted concepts of what the Messiah should be; but the anticipation of a savior-king, based on the promises of the prophets, was a strong factor in the consciousness of the Israelites.
10. Our purpose in this lesson is to examine the Gospel of John for the claims of Jesus in his relation to this messianic hope of the prophets.

I. Jesus Confessed Himself To Be The Messiah

- A. Jesus and the woman at Jacob's well (John 4:25-26).
- B. Jesus at the Feast of Dedication (John 10:22-42; 8:56-58).
 1. The time intervening between the promises of the prophets and the coming of Jesus had given rise to the expectation of a political Messiah who would deliver them from the bondage to Rome and restore the political kingdom to a united Israel.
 2. With the thought so deeply burned into their minds, the Israelites were blind to the evidence Jesus was offering them in his life, teaching, and works to support the idea that he was the Messiah of promise.

II. Jesus Acknowledged Himself To Be King

- A. The Israelites were correct in their understanding that the Messiah would be a king; but they were mistaken in their understanding of the nature of the king that had been promised.
- B. After Jesus had fed the multitude of five thousand men with five barley loaves and two Small fishes, the Jews were so impressed with Jesus that they were ready to crown him King (John 6:1-15).

- C. The incident of feeding the five thousand led to the sermon on the next day on “the bread of life.” Jesus was testing to see if the Israelites would accept a spiritual Messiah (John 6:41-58).
- D. Many of the Israelites could not accept a spiritual king (John 6:66).
- E. Jesus came to Jerusalem for the Passover and was hailed by the people as a King (John 12:12-19; Zechariah 9:9-10).
- F. Jesus before Pilate (John 18::28-38).

III. Jesus Claimed To Speak From God

- A. The question asked by the priests and Levites sent from the Pharisees to John the Baptist in John chapter one implied that the children of Israel were looking for three persons to appear: the Christ, Elijah, and “the prophet” (John 1:19-28).
- B. The idea of a Messiah and a prophet prevailed among the children of Israel (Deut. 18:18-19). This points clearly to the fact that a prophet of God was to be one in whose mouth God would put his words and that he would require everyone to give heed to that word as his word.
- C. When Jesus was in Jerusalem for the feast of tabernacles and had invited all who thirsted to come to him and drink, he promised that from within those who should come to him there would flow rivers of living water (John 7:37-39).
 - 1. Immediately there arose a division among the multitudes as to who Jesus was.
 - 2. Upon hearing these words from Jesus, some said, “This is of a truth the prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some others said, What doth the Christ come out of Galilee?” (John 7:40-44).
- D. Among others there seems to have been the idea that the prophet and the Messiah would be the same (John 6:14-15).
- E. When the Samaritan woman at the well said to Jesus, “Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet” (John 4:19), Jesus neither denied the implication nor corrected her.
- F. In all his teaching Jesus claimed no originality for what he taught, but he claimed that the words which he spoke were from God, that God gave them to him (John 5:19-24; 6:38; 7:16-18; 8:25-30; 12:44-50; 14:8-14; 15:15; 17:1-5)
- G. If Jesus revealed the Father and his will and his way so that man could know God, then that revelation of God must be complete; and if complete, then final, for there could be no revelation beyond that which is complete and full.

IV. Jesus Claimed To Be The “Good Shepherd”

- A. Jesus claim to be the good shepherd identified him with the Old Testament prophecies which pointed to a shepherd-king who was to come.
- B. If Jesus measures up to the promises made by the prophets, he is thereby proved to be the Messiah and the fulfillment of Israel’s hope.
- C. Jesus claimed to be the shepherd, fulfilling the promise of God and the hope of Israel (John 10:1-18).

V. Jesus Confessed Himself To Be The Son Of God

- A. The Messiah of Old Testament hope was definitely related to God as his Son.
- B. Jesus often referred to himself as “the Son” in relation to God as his father (John 5:17-24; 17:1-5). Jesus also accepted the worship of the man whom he healed (John 9:38).

VI. Jesus Identified Himself as “the Son of Man”

- A. Jesus preferred and used the designation “Son of man” over that of any other title or salutation by which he was recognized.
- B. As a designation of himself, Jesus alone used the expression; no one else used it of him in the Gospels.
- C. Jesus used the title “Son of Man” in order to identify himself with humanity and it emphasizes Jesus’ human nature (John 1:51).
- D. Jesus used the term “Son of Man” with messianic connotation.
 - 1. Jesus as the son of man is no earthly being, but is from above and will return to his heavenly place (John 3:13; 6:62).
 - 2. Jesus identifies himself as the suffering servant (John 3:14; 8:28; 12:34)
 - 3. Jesus has been given authority to execute judgment (John 5:27).
 - 4. Jesus provides eternal life for mankind (John 6:27; 53).
 - 5. When Jesus work is completed he will enter into his glory (John 12:23; 13:31).

VII. Jesus claimed to be the Mediator between God and Man

- A. The door to heaven is now open; Jesus, the Son of man, is the one on whom the angels will ascend and descend.
- B. As such Jesus is the one Mediator between God and man and between man and God.
- C. Jesus is the one in whom all blessings and revelations are made from God to man, and Through whom man must come to the Father as he brings his petitions to him.
- D. Jesus Mediator between God and Man:
 - 1. Mediator of salvation (John 3:16-18)
 - 2. Revealer of Light (John 3:19-21)
 - 3. Revealer of the Father’s will (John 6:38; 7:16-17)
 - 4. Teacher send from God (John 13:13-14)
 - 5. Draw all men to God (John 12:32).
- E. Jesus is the only way man can come to God:
 - 1. The Door (John 10:9)
 - 2. The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
 - 3. All prayers to God should be made through Jesus (John 14:14; 15:16; 16:23-24).

Questions

1. What is the meaning of the word “Messiah?”
2. What is the meaning of the Greek word “Christ?”
3. Why did Jesus claim to be the Messiah?
4. Describe the relationship between the prophecies concerning the Messiah and his kingship.
5. What was the reaction of the children of Israel following Christ’s feeding of the 5000?
6. How were the Israelites confused concerning Jesus and the promise of a Messiah?
7. What answer did Jesus give Pilate when he asked Jesus if he was a King?
8. Who is God’s spokesman for mankind today?
9. Why is the perfect shepherd?
10. What relationship did Jesus claim with God the Father while upon this earth?
11. What is the meaning of the term “Son of Man?”
12. Why did Jesus use the term “Son of Man” to refer to himself?
13. Who is the only mediator between God and man?
14. List the benefits than mankind receives because Jesus Christ is our mediator.
15. What is the only means of approaching God, the Father?

