

New Life Vineyard

Pathway into Discipleship



Who is Jesus?—Part 1

Key Verse

Matthew 16:15-16

“But what about you?’ He (Jesus) asked. ‘Who do you say that I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.’”

Peter declared that Jesus was the “Christ”. That is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word “Messiah”. The word actually means “anointed one”, a reference to His being set apart to deliver God’s people. It was also a royal reference. The kings of Israel were always anointed when they became king. The anointing oil was a picture of God’s blessing and of His Spirit resting upon His chosen one.

Long before the birth of Jesus, God gave many signs to enable His people to identify the promised Messiah. Jesus neither took the title because He wanted it nor was He elected to the position. The Old Testament prophets gave various authenticating things to look for to tell if someone was in fact the Messiah.

1. Look up Micah 5:2. Where was the Messiah to be born?
2. Look up Isaiah 11:1-2. This says that the Messiah was to be a descendent of Jesse. Though Jesse may not be well known, most people have heard of his son, David. Can anyone control where they are born or who they are descended from? Of course not! No one can choose these things, only God can. That is why they were signs that God gave. Luke 1:1-16 lists the genealogy of Jesus (notice verse 6). Who was Jesus a descendent of?
3. In Luke 18:38, a blind man named Bartimaeus cried out to Jesus, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”. What could this blind man see that many of the rulers couldn’t see?

4. *Isaiah 7:14 says, “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call Him Immanuel.”* (Immanuel was a reference to the Messiah’s nature. The name means “God is with us”.) Many people have heard that Mary was a virgin when she became pregnant, but why do you think it is important that it was predicted by a prophet many years beforehand?

5. Psalm 22: 1-18 says a lot about the crucifixion of the Messiah. Hosea 6:1-2 tells us of the resurrection on the third day. How does it make you feel to know that so many of the key events in the life of Jesus were predicted hundreds of years before He was even born?

Questions for Review

1. *Zechariah 11:12-13 says, “¹² I told them, ‘If you think it best, give me my pay; but if not, keep it.’ So they paid me thirty pieces of silver. ¹³ And the LORD said to me, ‘Throw it to the potter’—the handsome price at which they priced me! So I took the thirty pieces of silver and threw them into the house of the LORD to the potter.”* Who and what does this refer to?

2. Look at Isaiah 61:1-2. What does this prophecy refer to? Compare this with Luke 4:18-20 to help you with the answer.

3. Isaiah 53 is one of the most important chapters in the Old Testament. Read it and describe what was to be the purpose of the Messiah’s death.

4. Isaiah 9:6-7 portrays a different picture of the Messiah. What does this passage refer to?

5. Why did God scatter so many clues throughout the Old Testament regarding the Messiah and His purpose for coming ?

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Leader's Guide and Related Resources

Purpose

The key in this lesson is to show the new believer exactly who it is that they have put their trust in. Jesus IS the Messiah. The Old Testament had much to say prophetically about the coming of the Messiah, and the passages fit Jesus perfectly.

Answers to the Questions

1. The Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem.
2. Jesus is a descendent of David.
3. By using the term "Son of David", Bartimaeus was identifying Jesus as the Messiah. It was an unmistakable term reserved only for the coming Messiah, and it was certainly a bold declaration of his personal faith in Jesus.
4. God wanted to make sure people understood the Messiah's unique nature. Immanuel means "God is with us". Jesus' birth was of Divine origin: While Mary was still a virgin, she was impregnated by the Holy Spirit. Though she was accused by ignorant people of having conceived Jesus in sin, as Jesus' public ministry unfolded, many realized that her testimony of conceiving while a virgin was true. It is another important proof that Jesus is the Messiah.
5. It gives security. Eye witnesses applied these passages to Jesus, so we have a trustworthy foundation for why we believe in Him.

Answers to Review Questions

1. Judas and the price he was paid to betray Jesus
2. It refers to the public ministry of Jesus. In Luke, Jesus quotes the passage from Isaiah at the beginning of His ministry.
3. He was to suffer for our iniquities (sins). He paid the price for us.
4. This tells of the coming, reigning King.
5. God gave enough prophetic clues so that people would be able to eliminate those who claimed to be the Messiah who didn't meet the prophetic requirements. The prophecies also referred to things which a person could not control on their own.

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