

Prayer:

Slide # 1

Theme: *Christ the King*

Outline:

Chps. 1-2 The Advent of the King. (Proving His LEGAL right to the throne by His genealogy.)

Chp. 3 The Forerunner of the King and the King's baptism.

Chp. 4 The Test of the King. (Proving His MORAL right to the throne by not yielding to temptation; and exhibiting His kingdom resume.)

Chps. 5-7 The Pronouncements of the King. (Proving His JUDICIAL right to the throne as seen in the wisdom of His kingdom teaching.)

Chps. 8-10 The Power of the King. (Proving His PROPHETICAL right to the throne by fulfilling prophecy.)

Chps. 11-12 The Rejection of the King.

Chp. 13 The Parables of the King.

Chps. 14-16 The Revelations of the King.

Chps. 17-20 The Instructions of the King.

Chps. 21-23 Formal Rejection of the King.

Chps. 24-25 The Predictions of the King.

Chps. 26-27 The Passion of the King.

Chp. 28 The Resurrection of the King.

As we work our way through Matthew we see more and more Israel (via her religious leaders in particular) rejecting Jesus as Messiah-Lord. And we see Christ's response was to more and more build privately into His disciples and also the trend to reach out to the Gentiles.

In the previous section in Matthew 15 we saw Jesus way up north in the Gentile region of Tyre and Sidon. There a woman of Canaanite ancestry approached to Jesus for help with her demon-possessed daughter. She initially appealed to him on the basis of the Davidic covenant calling Jesus the “**Son of David**”. Jesus responded by saying He was sent to “**the lost sheep of the house of Israel**”. In response the woman then worshipfully responded to Jesus strictly on the basis of WHO He is as **Lord** acknowledging her unworthy position but requesting only a few crumbs that fall from the master's table.

Jesus honored this as **great faith** and granted her desire. If you come to Jesus as Lord He will respond to you no matter who you are. The miracles that now follow up in Gentile territory in relation to Gentiles essentially follow up on this emphasis showing that indeed although Gentiles are in a secondary role, yet Jesus has blessing for them too.

In Israel's rejection of Jesus as the Messiah, the Gentiles more and more come into the picture. If Israel rejected the main meal (so to speak), then the Gentiles would gladly feed off the crumbs. The miracles of healing and his feeding the multitudes of Gentiles that follows the story of the Canaanite woman serve to show that the Gentiles also have a part in God's program. Gentiles who come to FAITH will also ultimately share in the kingdom banquet.

Yes, the kingdom comes through Israel, but in the meantime Gentiles who come to faith also share in the Messiah's blessing. That is the concluding message of Matthew 15. Yes, to the Jew first, but also to the Gentile. That is the message of this text.

Matthew 15:29–39 (NKJV)

29 Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.

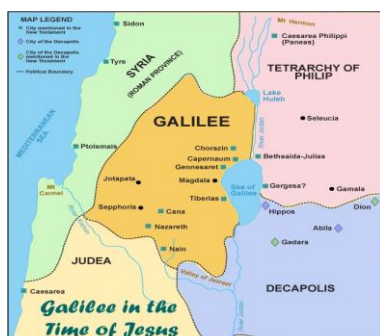
The cross reference to Matt. 15:29-39 is found in Mark 7:31-8:10. Mark 7:31 is more specific about where Jesus went after leaving the area of Tyre and Sidon.

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Mark 7:31 (NKJV)

31 Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the **region of Decapolis** to the Sea of Galilee.

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Jesus movement at this point was from one Gentile area to another – both which were outside of Herod’s jurisdiction. It seems that Jesus at this point was avoiding both hostile Judaism and also the hostile threats of Herod Antipas who had killed John the Baptist (cf. Matt. 14:1-2, 13).

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“Decapolis” means “ten cities”. It was largely Gentile territory. This is the same area where Jesus had earlier healed the demoniacs as seen in Matt. 8:28-34. These cities formed a league and were authorized by Rome to largely run their own affairs. The cities of Decapolis had their own courts and minted their own coins. Again, this was predominately Gentile territory.

30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them the lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus’ feet, and He healed them.

Just as happened in Jewish contexts (Mt. 14:14) so now it also happened in this Gentile context. Jesus is shown to be able to heal every malady concerning everyone. There is no qualifier here – it just says, “**and He healed them.**” If you can do that the MULTITUDES will show up & they did.

This is reflective of two things: Jesus is the Messiah and also that Jesus is Lord. As Messiah-Lord Jesus did these miracles in fulfillment of Messianic prophecy before Israel as part of His Messianic credentials showing that indeed He was Israel’s promised Messiah performing kingdom miracles, and thus was truly offering the kingdom to Israel of the condition of repentance (cf. Isa. 29:18-19; 35:5-6; Matt. 11:1-6).

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Isaiah 35:5–6 (NKJV)

5 Then the eyes of the **blind** shall be opened, And the ears of the **deaf** shall be unstopped.

6 Then the **lame** shall leap like a deer, And the tongue of the **dumb** sing. For waters shall burst forth in the wilderness, And streams in the desert.

This came first. The offer of the kingdom to Israel came first on the condition of repentance. Theoretically, if Israel had accepted Jesus as their Messiah, then the kingdom would have been ushered in through Israel affecting the entire world. But that didn't happen. So then, being rejected by Israel, the Messiah reached out to the Gentiles. That is the pattern in Christ's ministry and throughout the NT. The gospel goes first to the Jew and then to the Gentile.

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Acts 13:46–47 (NKJV)

46 Then Paul and Barnabas grew bold and said, "It was necessary that the word of God should be spoken to you first; but since you reject it, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, behold, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so the Lord has commanded us: 'I have set you as a light to the Gentiles, That you should be for salvation to the ends of the earth.'

The Jews are God's special chosen people. The covenants belong to them. And God's intention is to fulfill His kingdom plans through them. And this He will do when Israel finally comes to repentance. Then the kingdom will come! But in the meantime, the good news of God's salvation also goes to the Gentiles. They too can share in Messiah's blessing. But at this point as noted last week – it was not on the basis of covenant – but on the basis of FAITH alone in Christ's Lordship that the Gentiles could appeal to Christ.

As Messiah, Jesus came to Israel – but as Lord over all even the Gentiles could share in the truth of Jesus! In John 4 the Samaritans came to believe in Jesus as "***the Savior of the world***" (Jn. 4:42). Jesus is the Jewish Messiah, but beyond that He is the Savior of the world for all who will believe in Him.

As Jesus went to the cross, He became not only the Savior of believing Israel but also of believing Gentiles. And today this side of the cross we now as believers all partake in the New Covenant blessings established by Christ's blood.

However, at this point in Matthew 15 Christ hadn't been to the cross yet. The New Covenant was not yet established. And yet, even then for the Gentiles on the basis of faith in Jesus as Lord – even for Gentiles, as seen in the faith of the Gentile centurion in Matthew 8, and the faith of the Gentile Canaanite woman as seen in Matthew 15 – even Gentiles could in a secondary sense know the blessing of Jesus as Lord strictly on the basis of faith in Him as Lord.

In Matthew 8 after the Gentile centurion demonstrated great faith in the PERSON of Christ as authoritative, Lord Jesus said this:

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Matthew 8:10–13 (NKJV)

10 When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such **great faith**, not even in Israel!

11 And I say to you that **many will come from east and west**, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob **in the kingdom** of heaven.

12 But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

13 Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have **believed**, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

God’s plan always included the Gentiles. His intention is to bless them through Israel, and if Israel rejects then in a more secondary fashion – as in the Jew first but then also to the Gentile. In the Servant section of Isaiah (Isa. 42-53) this emphasis on Gentile inclusion repeatedly comes through.

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Isaiah 42:6 (NKJV)

6 “I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, **As a light to the Gentiles**,

Isaiah 49:6 (NKJV)

6 Indeed He says, ‘It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; **I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles**, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.’ ”

31 So the multitude marveled when they saw the mute speaking, the maimed made whole, the lame walking, and the blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

When it says, “they glorified the God of Israel” this is an indicator that this was essentially a Gentile crowd. Israel would just praise God as their God, but the Gentiles here recognized the power of the God of Israel working through Jesus. Hence, as Gentiles ***“they glorified the God of Israel.”***

To what extent these Gentiles recognized Jesus as God incarnate is not clear, but they certainly recognized that what He was doing was done by the power of God – and more specifically by the power of the God of Israel.

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Mark 7:37 (NKJV)

37 And they were **astonished beyond measure**, saying, “**He has done all things well**. He makes both the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

To say they were impressed is an understatement. These Gentiles were “astonished beyond measure”. In our common vernacular “it blew their minds”.

32 Now Jesus called His disciples to Himself and said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat. And I do not want to send them away hungry, lest they faint on the way.”

This is the same pattern we saw in Matthew 14 in reference to the Jews. Jesus first healed their sick and then He fed the multitudes. We now see that same pattern here with the Gentiles. First to the Jew – then to the Gentile.

Some have tried to say that the feeding of the 5000 in Matthew 14 and the feeding of the 4000 here in Matthew 15 were the same event but that is not true.

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Careless (or critical) readers, confusing this incident with the feeding of the 5000, have accused the Bible of duplication, contradiction, and miscalculation. The fact is that the two incidents are quite distinct, and supplement rather than contradict each other.

– *William MacDonald*

Slide # 11

Contrast of Matthew 14 and Matthew 15 Feedings

Jesus at this point was compassionately concerned about the multitude because they had now been with Him for three days and were completely out of food. His concern was that if they were sent away they would faint on the way. Jesus had healed them but at this point He had compassion for their need for physical nourishment.

33 Then His disciples said to Him, “Where could we get enough bread in the wilderness to fill such a great multitude?”

Even though there are dissimilarities there are also similarities between this feeding and the first. In light of Christ at the earlier time feeding the 5000 through the hands of His disciples this question seems ridiculous! Had they so soon forgotten?

Various lines of explanation have been given.

- 1) Some surmise that while the disciples were expecting the Jews to partake of “the Messianic Banquet” they did not conceive of Gentiles participating in any anticipation of the coming Messianic Banquet and therefore Christ miraculously feeding this Gentile multitude was off their radar.
- 2) Another view is that after Christ rebuked the people for wanting more food after the feeding of the 5000 as seen in John 6 that the disciples were reticent about bringing this idea up.
- 3) And one commentator says, “we must never lose sight of a human being’s vast capacity for unbelief.” (D.A. Carson)
- 4) Another view is that the disciples had not forgotten and are being careful in terms of how they answer Jesus at this point. They acknowledge that they could never meet such a demand saying, “**Where could we get enough bread**” but that is not to necessarily say they included Jesus in this statement. Perhaps they admit that as disciples they cannot do it, but at the same time are reluctant to try and press Jesus into doing something miraculous in view of His earlier rebuke of the crowd for seeking bread in John 6. There is perhaps something of this balanced nuance in view.

We note there is no rebuke from Jesus for unbelief on the part of the disciples at this point. He just instructs them on what to do. And they respond like they know the drill at this point from the earlier feeding event.

Perhaps Jesus once again wants them to realize that apart from Him they are powerless to do anything about this situation, and thus was seeking to reinforce this lesson, but this time in relation to GENTILES! As one said, "Jesus had no less power than before, and they had no more." (MacArthur) Therefore the answer was that they needed to rely on Jesus and take their cue from Him – which it seems on this occasion they do.

34 Jesus said to them, "How many loaves do you have?" And they said, "Seven, and a few little fish."

Note that Christ once again expects them to do what they can and then He will take it from there. As they do what they can, then Jesus will do what they can't. This is a great principle in life. Be responsible and do what you humanly can do and then leave the rest with God to do what only He can do. We often see this principle in the Scriptures.

As David went out to fight Goliath he said this to the giant.

Slide # 14

1 Samuel 17:47 (NKJV)

47 Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for **the battle is the LORD's**, and **He will** give you into **our hands**."

God does it but He often uses our feeble efforts in the process. God loves to do His work through us and He does it in such a way that He gets the glory. Christ in John 15:5 said, "without Me you can do nothing" but at the same time Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." By ourselves we can do nothing, but with Christ's help we can accomplish all things He calls us to do.

Slide # 15

2 Corinthians 3:5–6 (NKJV)

5 **Not that we are sufficient of ourselves** to think of anything as being from ourselves, but **our sufficiency is from God**,

6 who also **made us sufficient** as ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

There is the balance. Within ourselves we have no sufficiency. But as we rely upon God He makes us sufficient to accomplish His purposes in and through us. In this event of once again feeding the multitude this lesson was being reinforced with the disciples.

35 So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground.

The Lord being the Lord is ever in charge. He, not the disciples or anyone else, commanded the multitude to sit on the ground.

36 And He took the seven loaves and the fish and gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitude.

Once again we see a creation miracle. After giving thanks in recognition of God's provision Christ began to multiply the seven loaves and fish. And once again we see Christ then giving the supplies to the disciples who in turn then feed the multitude. Christ once again fed the multitude but He did it through the use of the disciples.

This is God's consistent pattern. God being all powerful doesn't need to use us, but He chooses to do so.

37 So they all ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets full of the fragments that were left.

Note they ALL ate - not just some of them. This whole large crowd consisting of 4000 men - not counting women and children were fed. There may will have been 12,000 or more people here. They all ate to the full. They weren't merely served appetizers. No, they all ate and were all filled.

This would have involved a drawn-out process for the 12 disciples to serve this large group. It had to have been quite a scene. Can't you just see Peter and John making the rounds making sure everyone had enough. And it would have required a LOT of food. Remember these people were hungry having been there for 3 days. When you are hungry you can eat a lot. Yet, Jesus fed them all to the full!

When they were all done, they collected the left overs consisting of seven large baskets. Remember these baskets were large enough to hold an adult person inside which is why the word for these baskets is translated as "large baskets".

Slide # 16**Acts 9:23–25 (NKJV)**

23 Now after many days were past, the Jews plotted to kill him.

24 But their plot became known to Saul. And they watched the gates day and night, to kill him.

25 Then the disciples took him by night and let him down through the wall in a **large basket** [same Greek word].

We note that in both feeding miracles it is precisely documented how much was left over. In the feeding of the 5000 Jewish men (not counting women and children) Matthew 14:20 says 12 baskets of leftovers remained. In neither passage are we told the significance of the count of leftovers.

In chapter 14 I noted that perhaps the Lord orchestrated this outcome to impress His provision upon the disciples – especially in relation to what He had asked them as His 12 disciples to do! I noted that a key emphasis throughout that text has to do with Christ testing and teaching the 12 disciples in particular. Without Christ they could do nothing, but with Christ there was more than sufficient provision as impressed upon the 12 as seen in the 12 full baskets of more than was needed. God’s grace is always over the top sufficient!

Perhaps the 12 baskets of leftovers on that occasion was meant to make a special impression upon the 12 disciples, but again we are not specifically told. Likewise we are not told the significance of having 7 large baskets of leftovers on this occasion here in Matthew 15. Clearly, we see that God’s provision is more than sufficient.

Slide # 17

Seven. Usually symbolic of perfection or completion; here the number may symbolize the fullness of God’s provision for all peoples, now including Gentiles. As Israel rejects the kingdom, Gentiles increasingly come into view. – ***ESV Study Bible***

38 Now those who ate were four thousand men, besides women and children.

A KEY distinction between this miracle of feeding the 4000 and that of the earlier feeding of the 5000 is that this feeding of the 4000 seems to have been almost, if not entirely, Gentile in make-up.

This miracle demonstrated that the Lord’s blessings through His disciples would fall not only on Israel (14:13–21) but also on Gentiles.
– ***The Bible Knowledge Commentary***

Again, we note the order first the Jew in Matthew 14 and then the Gentile in Matthew 15.

Slide # 18

Romans 1:16 (NKJV)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, **for the Jew first and also for the Greek.**

And why do we find Jesus ministering to Gentiles in our text? It is because our Lord has already indicted the Jewish cities where He has ministered most for their unbelief ([Matthew 11:20-24](#)). Our text is a preview of what we will see in [Acts 10](#) and 11, when God sends Peter to the Gentiles to preach the gospel. – **Bob Deffinbaugh**

The way that the Messiah miraculously fed both Jews and Gentiles was a preview of the great Messianic banquet. This was greatly anticipated among the Jews of Jesus' day, but they were offended by the idea that Gentiles would also attend. – **David Guzik**

The great emphasis in the miracle of Christ feeding the 4000 Gentiles is that they too are included in God's great program of redemption. As the Jews rejected Christ it made way for the Gentiles and many of them accepted Him.

Romans 11:12 (NKJV)

12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness!

The point of this miracle may be to indicate that Jesus would include Gentiles in the scope of His ministry and that they would participate in the great messianic banquet that described the kingdom, along with the Jewish people. – **The Moody Bible Commentary**

Slide # 19

John 1:11–12 (NKJV)

11 He came to His own, and His **own did not receive Him.**

12 But **as many as received Him,** to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those **who believe in His name:**

As many as received Christ on the basis of believing in His NAME – that is WHO He is as Lord and Savior- every individual who receives Christ by believing in Him is thus made a child of God. There are no exceptions!

Slide # 20

John 3:16 (NKJV)

16 For **God so loved the world** that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish but have everlasting life.

These feeding miracles are prominent. The feeding of the 5000 is recorded in all four gospels, while the feeding of the 4000 is recorded only in Matthew and Mark. Eating with someone in the Bible is indicative of fellowship.

Slide # 21

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him **and dine with him, and he with Me.**

Dinning with Christ is a picture of fellowship. When you eat with people you talk heart to heart (at least in a good situation). It is picture of fellowship.

The famous messianic Jew Alfred Edersheim (1825-1889) observed that, “the Lord ended each phase of His ministry with a feeding. He ended His Galilean ministry with the feeding of the five thousand. He ended His Gentile ministry with the feeding of the four thousand. And He ended the Judean ministry before His death on the cross with the feeding of His own in the upper room.”

And in Christ we have the promise of the coming Messianic Banquet in the kingdom.

Slide # 22

Isaiah 25:6 (NKJV)

6 And in this mountain **The LORD of hosts will make for all people A feast** of choice pieces, **A feast** of wines on the lees, Of fat things full of marrow, Of well-refined wines on the lees.

Revelation 19:9 (NKJV)

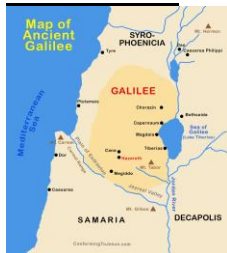
9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

39 And He sent away the multitude, got into the boat, and came to the region of Magdala.

Once again we see Christ's Lordship authority as He sends the multitude away. He then got into a boat and came to the region of Magdala.

Magdala is thought to be the home of Mary Magdalene (Mt. 27:56). Magdala was evidently just north of Tiberias and was also called Dalmanutha (cf. Mk. 8:10).

Slide # 23



This transition put Christ back into Galilee – once again into Jewish territory and immediately the conflict picks up where it left off between Jesus and the Jewish religious leaders as we see in chapter 16 – which Lord willing we get to next time.

Miracles figure prominently in the earthly ministry of Jesus! In Matthew 14 we find Jesus healed the Jewish multitudes and then fed them. In Matthew 15 we see that Jesus healed the Gentile multitudes and then fed them.

But let me ask you what made Jesus' miracles so convincingly authentic? The reason I ask is because there are a lot of people today who claim to believe in miracles and may even claim to believe in Jesus, but in truth they are way off base. How do we know who is the real Jesus? How can the real Messiah be determined?

This week I read the testimony of converted bestselling New Ager author Doreen Virtue. She explains how she was intrigued by healing crystals and healing techniques.

She says, *“I immersed myself in yoga, Eastern meditation, astrology, divination, and other New Age practices.”* She says, we believed *“your words create your reality. Many of us twisted Jesus’ words to suggest that God would give you whatever you asked for. ... For me, Jesus functioned as a ‘spirit guide’ who like a magic genie, helped me make my wishes come true.”*

A turning point came one day when she happened to hear Alistair Begg preaching on the radio. He was preaching a sermon titled *“Itching Ears”* out of 2 Timothy 4. She was so convicted that it became a turning point in her life. She proceeded to read the whole Bible and in her words that **“changed everything.”** She says, *“Having to admit that I was wrong to the entire world – my books were published in 38 languages – has been deeply humbling. ... After seeking but never finding peace in New Age, I have finally found it in Christ.”* Now Doreen says, **“Please don’t read my books anymore!”**

(Quoted from Christianity Today, March 2022, p. 87-88)

P.S. She now as a Christian has a new book out titled, “Deceived No More”.

Back to my question: ***How do we know Who is the real Jesus?*** People are all enamored by **“miracles”** today. Doreen was intrigued by the healing techniques of the New Age and saw Jesus as a means to help her in this regard.

When the Antichrist comes on the scene the Bible in 2 Thess. 2:9 says he will come **“according to the working of Satan with all power, signs, and lying wonders”**. These miracles will be very convincing! Satan, too has supernatural power. He too can perform **“miracles”**.

So how can one know the true Christ from false ones – from Satanic counterfeits. Miracles in and of themselves are not sufficient.

Here is the bottom line: The true Christ comes with a frame of reference called the Bible. He didn’t just perform miracles in a vacuum. That is the stuff of Satan. It is in a vacuum that is self-serving and self-oriented. Jesus said in John 5:43 that He came in the Father’s name – that is in accordance with what the Father had revealed in the Holy Scriptures. His life aligned with the Scriptures at every point regarding His birth, His genealogy, His character, His wisdom, His forerunner, and yes then His miracles too, and ultimately His death and resurrection. It all aligned perfectly with Scripture.

But when Antichrist comes Jesus said he will come in his own name (Jn. 5:43). He has no frame of reference. He just comes doing miracles and making claims in a vacuum. That is the difference.

Another thing: Satanic miracles are all about the WOW factor emphasizing pure sensationalism that is very flesh and self-oriented. In contrast Christ's miracles were consistently benevolent in nature and consistently for the greater good.

The true Christ aligns with the truth of Scripture – with the whole counsel of God. And true faith sees this and embraces it. That is the point of believing that Jesus is the Christ – which is a way of saying we believe He is the fulfillment of the OT Messianic prophecies.

We saw this last week in our study of the Canaanite woman who recognized Jesus as the Son of David (Mt. 15:22). We saw in our study today as the Gentiles recognized Jesus' ministry as being that of "the God of Israel" (Mt. 15:31). This is the frame of reference related to the God of the Bible.

Did you catch what Doreen said, "***Reading the entire Bible changed everything.***" The true Christ is the Christ of the Scriptures and everything about Him aligns perfectly with God's revealed truth. This is how we discern the true Christ in contrast to false Christ's.

As Rev. 19:10 says, "***the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.***" As such Jesus fulfills all the Messianic prophecies related to the Jews and He fulfills all the prophecies also related to the Gentiles. Jesus is Lord over all, and He is Savior of all Who will believe in His Name! And His name is LORD! He is Messiah-Lord!

This is the ultimate question: Have you believed on the Christ of the Bible? It's in believing in Christ Who died for our sins according to the Scriptures, was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures – it's believing in this Christ that we have eternal life.

John at the end of His gospel – that we call the gospel of belief, said this:

John 20:30–31 (NKJV)

30 And truly Jesus did many other signs [miracles] in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;

31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

Jesus is the Christ of the Scriptures. He is the Son of God – very God of very God. Have you believed in His name? Is He your God? Is He your Savior? Believing in Him, we have life in His name!

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved!