

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.

In our study in Matthew 22 we are still on Tuesday of Passion Week that climaxes in the crucifixion.

Slide # 2

Sunday

- Triumphal Entry into Jerusalem
- Jesus weeps over Jerusalem
- Jesus observes Temple Activities

Monday

- Jesus Curses Fig Tree

- Jesus Clears the Temple

Tuesday

- Jesus Explains the Withered Fig Tree
- **Temple Controversies with Religious Leaders**

On this day there was a series of challenges put forth by the religious leaders at the Temple in an attempt to get Jesus entangled in His Words and thereby discredit Him.

After answering three questions they had regarding taxes, the afterlife, and what constitutes the greatest commandment, Jesus now presents a question of His own. It's almost humorous. They brought they're most intriguing "Gotcha Questions" to Him and didn't even lay a finger on him.

Now Jesus in effect says if you want to play that game, I too have a "Gotcha Question" and they failed miserably to answer Him. The synoptic parallels to Matthew 22:41-46 are found in Mark 12:35-37 and Luke 20:41-44.

So, Jesus answers all their questions handily in a way that reduced them to silence and marveling. But they couldn't answer the single question that He put to them. This is a win – win for Jesus both on defense and offence - all the way! If you were a religious leader it was embarrassing. He made them look foolish.

We now continue the narrative that relates to the temple controversies by picking it up at Matthew 22:41...

Matthew 22:41–46 (NKJV)

41 While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them,

The Pharisees on this day were continually huddled together in the background trying to figure out their next move.

We saw them "gathered together" in verse 34 and now again in verse 41 we again see them "gathered together.

And as they were gathered there Jesus presents a 2 part counter-question to them. It's His turn now.

**42 saying, “What do you think about the Christ? Whose Son is He?”
They said to Him, “The Son of David.”**

Christ is an effort to get people to think often framed the discussion through a thought-provoking question. The phrase “***What do you think***” was really sort of a test to see if they were really thinking deeply in terms of the revelation of God (cf. Mt. 17:25; 18:12; 21:28).

Note Jesus presents a question that was really ultimately about Him in an indirect way. He asks generically what they thought about the Christ; namely whose Son is He?

Slide # 3

Messiah (Hebrew – O.T)

Christ (Greek -N.T)

Meaning: “Anointed One”

John 1:41 (NKJV)

41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the **Messiah**” (which is translated, the **Christ**).

The idea of “anointed one” in the O.T. referred to one specially chosen by God to serve in a special role such as a priest, prophet, or king. They were all “anointed ones” but the special coming One was to be THE ultimate SPECIAL CHOSEN ONE. He would be anointed – not with oil, but uniquely with the Holy Spirit (cf. Isa. 11:1-2; 61:1). This special chosen One would come as both a deliverer and a reigning King.

The religious leaders had asked penetrating questions about the great debates of the day regarding taxes, the resurrection, and the great commandment, but Jesus asks them what has been termed “***the all-important question***” or “***the most important question in the world***”. Jesus here put His finger on the central and most important issue developed in the gospels during the course of Christ’s earthly ministry. At core the Christian religion centers on the PERSON of Christ and everything builds on this. Get this wrong and you have it all wrong.

The religious leaders brought up topics related to religion and how it intersects with politics, they brought up matters of the law; but Jesus’ question was about the Christ Who is the center of all things.

Thus, they dealt with secondary questions, but Jesus focused on the ultimate issue.

The Pharisee's immediately responded that the Christ is "The Son of David" and in this they were right – at least half right.

"Son of David" was the most common Messianic title used of the coming Christ in the time of Christ. The Jews commonly knew that the Messiah would be a descendant of David.

They knew that God had promised David a Son who would sit on his throne and have an enduring kingdom (2 Sam. 7:12-16). They knew the long Psalm of Psalm 89 that at great length presents God's covenant promises to David and His seed involving the throne and the kingdom. They knew of Isaiah 9:7, 11:1-10, 16:5, and 55:3 that promised a special coming One that would sit on David's throne. They knew full well of God's promise in Jeremiah 23:5 to raise up to David a King who would reign supreme.

And there were many other intersecting references with David that showed the Messiah would be a descendant of David (cf. Amos 9:11; Micah 5:2; Ezek. 37:21-25, etc.).

The book of Matthew begins by identifying Jesus as "the Son of David".

Slide # 4

Matthew 1:1 (NKJV)

1 The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, **the Son of David**, the Son of Abraham:

During Jesus earthly ministry the people were consistently either affirming Him to be the "Son of David" or musing about whether or not He was the Son of David (cf. Mt. 9:27; 15:22; 20:30-31).

Slide # 5

Matthew 12:23 (NKJV)

23 And all the multitudes were amazed and said, "**Could this be the Son of David?**"

At the time of the Triumphal entry the multitudes cried out, "Hosanna to the Son of David" (Mt. 21:9) which caused the Pharisees in dismay to cry out to Jesus to rebuke them for saying this (Lk. 19:39).

This was followed up by the children in the temple crying out, “Hosanna [Save Now] to the Son of David” which caused the chief priests and scribes to be indignant.

So, all these religious leaders knew full well the Messianic talk surrounding Jesus and that many were entertaining the idea that He was perhaps the “Son of David”.

And they had to have known that Jesus was indeed a descendant of David.

Until the Temple was destroyed in A.D. 70 meticulous genealogical records of all Jews were kept there. ...No one could hold a position of responsibility in Israel whose genealogy was unverified. It is therefore certain that the authorities had carefully checked Jesus’ genealogy and discovered that His descent from David was legitimate.

Otherwise, they would simply have exposed Him as having no claim to Davidic heritage and all discussion about His possible messiahship would have ended. – **John MacArthur**

It was for this reason that the Messiah had to come on the scene prior to the destruction of the Temple because otherwise there would have been no way to verify His genealogical qualifications to be the Messiah.

They had the right answer, but they didn’t understand the full truth of it. As someone has said, “**A half truth when presented as the whole truth becomes an untruth.**” Exactly!

They were thinking in terms of the Messiah purely in terms of being a man – a human descendant of David. And they were right that He was this, but He was MORE than that – He was also divinity – He was also God.

43 He said to them, “How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying:

Here is the follow up question. They knew Jesus had just been heralded as “**The Son of David**” and now Jesus asks, “**How then does David in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord’**”. Now that was a mouth stopper moment coming straight out the Scripture from Psalm 110.

With a single word (“Lord”) Christ silenced the Pharisees...

- **Henry M. Morris**

This word “Lord” was a showstopper for the Pharisees.

They always assumed since the Messiah was to be a descendant of David that of course He would merely be human and nothing more, but now Jesus drops the “L” word into the equation, and He does so in such a way that they can’t argue with it and don’t know what to do with it. And the same is largely true to this day among orthodox Jews.

Dan Bergman writing for Jewish Awareness Ministries quotes from an authoritative Jewish source...

Mashiach (Messiah) will be a great political leader descended from King David...often referred to as ‘mashiach ben David’ (mahiach, son of David). He will be versed in Jewish law, and observant of its commandment... be a charismatic leader, inspiring others to follow his example...be a great military leader, who will win battles for Israel. He will be a great judge, who makes righteous decisions. But above all, he will be a human being, not a god, demi-god, or other supernatural being. (Quoted from Israel’s Messenger, Spring 2016).

And right there’s the rub! The Jews to this day do not recognize Jesus as Lord-God. They have completely missed the twin truths that yes Jesus is the Son of David (which accounts for His humanity) but He is also the Son of God (which accounts for His Deity).

They should have seen from the OT Scriptures that the Messiah would be a combination of human and divine – that is fully man and fully God in one Person.

Slide # 6

Jeremiah 23:5–6 (NKJV)

5 “Behold, the days are coming,” says the LORD, “That I will **raise to David** a Branch of righteousness; **A King** shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.

6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**

This is a very clear text tying the Messiah to the human ancestry of David and yet at the same time clearly saying He would be the LORD.

This is a major theme in the gospels.

Matthew builds to the climactic question: “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man am?**” which was followed up by Jesus directly asking the disciples, “**But who do you say that I am?**” This is the great issue. And then Peter under inspiration gives the right answer saying, “**You are the Christ, the Son of the living God**” (Matt. 16:13-16).

Now here at the very conclusion of His earthly ministry Christ in a climactic showdown with the religious leaders in Israel Jesus makes the issue about the LORDSHIP identity of the Son of David Who is also David’s Lord.

This is the great issue in John (the gospel of Belief). The book begins by emphasizing Jesus is God and then presents 7 I AM statements showing that Jesus is eternal God and then climaxes with Thomas coming to a New Testament saving faith as he confesses Jesus as “**My Lord and my God!**” (Jn. 20:28). This is followed by John’s Purpose Statement saying he wrote the entire book so people might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and so believing that might have life (Jn. 20:30-31).

This issue of WHO Jesus is no minor deal in the Scriptures and yet so much of evangelicalism has bought into a “**Lordless Gospel**” that correctly emphasizes the finished work of Christ but is very weak on the Person of Christ. Little do they seem to realize that the gospels first and foremost develop WHO the PERSON of Christ is, and then building on that present the all importance of His once for all finished work on the cross.

Paul in presenting the most systematic presentation of the gospel found in the NT begins by emphasizing this dual reality of the PERSON of Christ. This is the starting point.

Slide # 7

Romans 1:3–4 (NKJV)

3 concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who was **born of the seed of David** according to the flesh,

4 and **declared to be the Son of God** with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.

This is the starting point of the gospel to which Paul says he was separated in keeping with the holy Scriptures (Rom. 1:1-2).

And this is where the Bible ends. In the final finale in the very last chapter of the Bible Jesus signs off in this way.

Slide # 8**Revelation 22:16 (NKJV)**

16 “I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the **Root** [Source as God] and the **Offspring** of David, [human descendant] the Bright and Morning Star.”

Thus, the Bible totally harmonizes around this dual theme that the Messiah is at the same time the human descendant of David and also that He is His divine Lord.

All the Jews recognized Psalm 110 as a Messianic Psalm. There was no debate here. And Jesus in effect reminds them that David said this “***in the Spirit***” meaning it was inspired by the Spirit and thus the authoritative Word of God. Again, they could not argue with this as that was the established position in Judaism. All the Pharisaic scholars concurred.

And so, the Lord quoted verbatim from Psalm 110:1 which of course they all knew well as a Messianic text.

44 ‘The LORD said to my Lord, “Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool” ’?

Again, this is Psalm 110:1 which is most prominently quoted in the NT.

Slide # 9

Psalm 110 is the most frequently quoted or referenced psalm in the New Testament. New Testament authors directly cite Psalm 110:1 regarding (my Lord) sitting at the right hand of (the LORD) in Matthew 22:44; Mark 12:36; Luke 20:42; Acts 2:34; Hebrews 1:13; and they allude to it in Matthew 26:64; Mark 14:62; Luke 22:69; Ephesians 1:20; Colossians 3:1; and Hebrews 8:1. Also the author of the Book of Hebrews quoted Psalm 110:4 in affirming that the Lord is of the priestly order of Melchizedek in Hebrews 5:6; 7:17; and he made a general reference to the psalm in Hebrews 5:10; 6:20; and 7:11-15.

– **Barry C. Davis**

What Jesus is establishing here is that David himself recognized the Messiah (Who is the Son of David) as Lord. How can it be that the Messiah is David’s son and at the same time David’s Lord? There is the riddle. There is the conundrum.

Now we know the answer, but they didn't. We know the answer is that Jesus is both human and divine at the same time – He is both man and God in one person. Thus, He is the most unique person in the history of the world – totally unique which is in perfect accord with the prophetic Scriptures.

Slide # 10

Psalm 110:1 (NKJV)

A Psalm of David.

1 The LORD [**YHWH**] said to my Lord [**Adonai**], “Sit at My right hand,
Till I make Your enemies Your footstool.”

Every orthodox Jewish scholar recognized this as God [YHWH] addressing the Messiah as Lord. In the Scriptures there are 3 primary names for God in the OT Scriptures. There are more than this, but these are the primary names.

Slide # 11

Elohim (Supreme Higher Being)

YHWH (Eternal/Unchanging God)

Adonai (Sovereign Master)

In Exodus 20:7 when God commanded, “You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain” the name LORD there is YHWH and God is Elohim. So very literally it reads, “You shall not take the name of YHWH your Elohim in vain”. The Jews took this very seriously to where they didn't even want to pronounce the sacred name YHWH let they mispronounce it and thus use it in vain.

By the way using God's name or the Lord's name commonly or irreverently is using it in vain. Be very sure that is not okay even though many professing Christians seem to be oblivious to this truth.

But here is my point: When the Jews came to a Scripture that had the Hebrew name YHWH, they would insert Adonai instead so that they still referenced God but only with another of His names.

Adonai is translated as Lord in English. This word “Lord” means MASTER. It can be used of an earthly Master as one who is a superior and has authority over you. But it is also used of God Who is the Master over His people. That is how David used it here.

Slide # 12

Adonai (Hebrew = Master)

Kurios (Greek = Master)

Lord (English = Master)

David under inspiration said that YHWH (referring here to Father God) said to “***my Lord***” – literally “***my Master***”. Everyone thought that the descendant of David would be in a lesser position of rank than him because He descended from him. But here David here calls the Messiah “***my Lord***”. How could it be that this descendant would be superior to him as His Master (God-Master)?

There are hints right in the text. For one thing David under inspiration at the time he was writing recognized that his Lord (the Messiah) was already in existence – was already as he says, “***my Lord***”. David wasn’t addressing a non-entity. No, He was already in existence and thus already right then recognized as “Lord” by David. This recognizes the pre-existence of the Messiah as One who was existing prior to being born into the world. And this of course harmonizes with progressive revelation that shows Jesus as Lord is eternal God.

The language of Psalm 110:1 is revealing. The Messiah as “the Son of David” would have to become human. How does this Son of David as a human being arrive at the seated position at the right hand of God prior to the time His enemies are put under Him? Well, that requires the truth of the incarnation – and then as we follow the story through, we see that He is exalted to the right hand of God as the God-Man by way of the resurrection (cf. Phil. 2:9-11).

Slide # 13

Philippians 2:9–11 (NKJV)

9 Therefore God also has **highly exalted Him** and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.

This is where Jesus is as Messiah-God right now? In the resurrection He is seated at the right hand of God waiting until His enemies are made His footstool. The right hand is the position of highest honor and authority.

How long He will be seated there waiting we are not told. But this waiting time corresponds to where we live right now in the Church Age.

How will His enemies be made His footstool? Well, this will happen in the Day of the Lord judgment when God humbles the whole world under the Lordship authority of Jesus Christ. At His Second Coming Christ will crush all His enemies under His feet and set up His kingdom and reign forever.

In the OT Scriptures when a king defeated an enemy, he would call for the defeated ruler to be brought before him and then he would put his foot on the neck of the vanquished enemy as if he were a footstool (cf. Josh. 10:24 1 Chron. 28:2; Ps. 99:5; 132:7; Isa. 66:1; Lam. 2:1).

It was a picture of complete subjugation. This is what is going to happen to Christ's enemies. They are going to be put under Him in humiliating defeat!

This is what Christ is waiting for to happen right now as He awaits at the Father's right hand. It hasn't happened yet, but it's coming! Right now in GRACE Judgment is being held back. This is the age of GRACE. This is the Church Age.

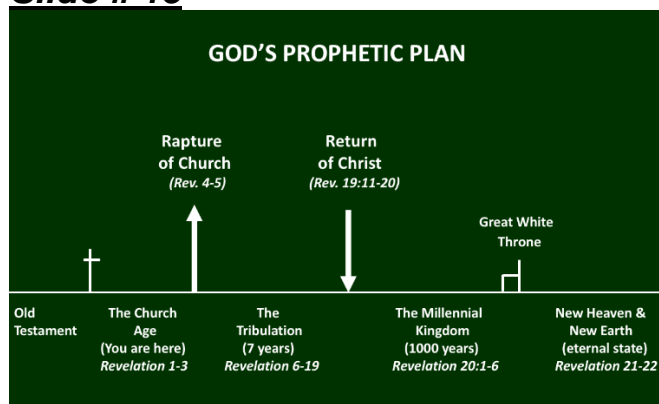
Slide # 14

Hebrews 10:12–14 (NKJV)

12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God,

13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool.

Slide # 15



This is the time of WAITING and in the meantime the Messiah-Lord is seated at the right hand of God allowing for the hostility of His enemies to still be in place at present. But have no doubt He is about ready to put His foot down on them! It's just a matter of when!

How glorious that Christ as the God-Man is now seated at the right hand of God the Father, but we should take note of what Christ has promised to overcomers in the Church Age.

Slide # 16

Revelation 3:21–22 (NKJV)

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

22 “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” ’ ’ ”

And who are these overcomers?

Slide # 17

1 John 5:4–5 (NKJV)

4 For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

5 Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the great issue in the context of Matthew 22. They refused to recognize the Lordship of Jesus Who is Messiah – the Son of David. Overcomers believe on Jesus as the Son of God – which is to say that He is God Who shares in the very nature of God.

45 If David then calls Him ‘Lord,’ how is He his Son?”

Here is the ultimate question. If David called the Messiah (the Son of David) “Lord” then how is He his Son? How can the Messiah be David’s descendant and at the same time be his Lord/Master?

The answer of course is that as God Jesus was David’s Lord; but as a man He was David’s Son. No problem for those who properly understand the Scriptures and harmonize them correctly.

Jewish scholars were often conflicted when it came to the Messiah. They saw places in the OT that predicted a suffering Messiah, but they also saw Him portrayed as a reigning Messiah. They couldn't understand how both could be true in one person and therefore assumed there must be TWO different Messiahs.

But again, putting the full picture together we see that Jesus is both God and Man in one person. Born a human being in the line of David He could suffer and die, which He did. As Lord over all He arose again and will one day reign over the world. So not only did they not see the dual nature of Christ as the God-Man they also didn't see there were two comings which is required in Him being seated as the Son of David at the Right hand of God while waiting for His enemies to be put under His feet.

In His first coming Jesus came to suffer and die – He was the suffering Messiah. In His second coming He will come to reign and set up His kingdom. It all fits perfectly in Jesus as we consider the whole counsel of God.

This issue of Who Jesus is as the God-Man became a huge issue in the early church. Athanasius [A-thuh-nay-shuhs] was a bishop in Alexandria who lived from 295-373 A.D. He was the good guy who stood for sound doctrine. He had a theological enemy by the name of Arius who was an early heretic.

Arius made famous in the Roman Empire among professing Christians the saying, "There was a time when the Son was not". He was a songwriter and put together a little ditty that he made popular that went something like, "By the Father He was begot because there was a time He was not." Thus, today we know Arius as an arch heretic because He denied that Jesus was eternal God.

In contrast was Athanasius [A-thuh-nay-shuhs] who would not compromise on the PERSON of Christ being eternally God. He was put out of his church 5 times and yet would not give up. At times it seemed like the whole world was following Arius and that Athanasius [A-thuh-nay-shuhs] was against the whole world. For a time even many of the Christian leaders were being swayed.

But then as they studied the truth it became more and more clear that indeed that Jesus was eternally God. Eventually the Council of Nicene was convened to address the error of Arianism. 318 bishops were involved and all but 2 voted to condemn and excommunicate Arius as a heretic.

Out of this came what came to be called “The Athanasian [A-thuh-Nay-Sian] Creed”.

Slide # 18

The Athanasian Creed

“For the right faith is that we believe and confess that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and man. ... Perfect God and perfect man... This is the catholic [meaning universal] faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved.”

Today the most prominent heirs to the error of Arianism are Jehovah’s Witnesses and Mormons. Both groups continue to teach Arianism which says that Christ is not eternally God, but rather was a created being.

How serious is this error? It is deadly serious – eternally deadly serious.

Every well versed Jew knew that God had told Moses His eternal Name is “I AM.” I am means “to be”. He just is. He is the eternal unchanging God.

Slide # 19

Exodus 3:13–15 (NKJV)

13 Then Moses said to God, “Indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they say to me, ‘**What is His name?**’ what shall I say to them?”

14 And God said to Moses, “**I AM WHO I AM.**” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘**I AM** has sent me to you.’ ”

15 Moreover God said to Moses, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: ‘The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. **This is My name forever, and this is My memorial to all generations.**’

I AM is God’s eternal name showing that He is eternally Who He is as God. This is God’s eternal name by which He is to be remembered throughout time to all generations. It is this name indicative of Him being the eternal unchanging God that Jesus used in reference to Himself.

Slide # 20

John 8:24

Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for **if you do not believe that I am**, you will die in your sins.”

John 8:58–59 (NKJV)

58 Jesus said to them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **before Abraham was, I AM.**”

59 Then they took up stones to throw at Him; but Jesus hid Himself and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.

One day I was talking to a young man who grew up in an evangelical Christian home. I asked him who Jesus was to him. He emphatically said, “He is my Savior”. I pressed him, “But who is He?” He didn’t know what to say and so eventually he said, “He is a man”. Then I really pressed him further wanting to know if he was anything more than a man. He didn’t know. Yet, everyone in his circles thought sure he was a Christian. He also thought so. I assured him that if he did not know and believe in Jesus as His God he was not saved.

Here is the deal. You have to come to the knowledge of the truth about WHO Jesus is as Lord-God and Savior – you have to know the truth and then you have to personalize it – you have to from your heart believe it for yourself.

Slide # 21 Gospel: Christ is LORD

2 Corinthians 4:3–6 (NKJV)

3 But even if our **gospel** is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing,

4 whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not **believe**, lest the light of the **gospel of the glory of Christ**, who is the **image of God**, should shine on them.

5 For we do not preach ourselves, but **Christ Jesus the Lord**, and ourselves your bondservants for Jesus’ sake.

6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the **knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ**.

True believers have come to see the truth of Who Jesus is as Lord-God.

Slide # 22 Gospel – Christ is SAVIOR

1 Timothy 2:4–6 (NKJV)

4 who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

6 who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,

The gospel truth is all about WHO Jesus is as the God-Man and what He has done in dying for our sins and rising again. Paul sums it up very well in Gal. 2:20.

Slide # 23**Galatians 2:20 (NKJV)**

20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, [Person = Lord-God] who loved me and gave Himself for me [Work = Cross].

Once again in Matthew 22 at a very climactic moment in His ministry Jesus focuses in on the issue of LORDSHIP. Three times in our text today this is the issue related to the Messiah. In verse 43 David in the Spirit calls Him “Lord”. In verse 44 we have a quote from Psalm 110 in which David references Him as “my Lord”. And then in verse 45 again David calls Him “Lord”.

The GREAT issue in Jesus’ ministry was that of His Messianic Lordship.

This is why the gospel of John builds to the climactic illustration of saving faith as seen when doubting Thomas upon seeing the risen Lord said to Him “My Lord and my God!” and Jesus said, “Thomas you have seen and believed” (Jn. 20:28-29).

This is what it means to believe in Jesus. It means to personally believe on Him for Who He is as Lord-God.

This was the KEY missing reality for the religious leaders in Israel. They did not accept Jesus as the Messiah Who is the Son of David and they did not accept His LORDSHIP. In short, they rejected Jesus as Messiah-God which is the all-important issue. Without believing on Jesus as Messiah-God no one can be saved.

Slide # 24

46 And no one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare question Him anymore.

Jesus had answered so profoundly and irrefutably that the religious leaders were completely shut down. All Christ's opponents had been silenced. He shut down the chief priests and the elders (Mt. 21:23-27); He shut down the Pharisees and the Herodians (Mt. 22:15-22); He shut down the Sadducees (Matt. 22:23-33); and then again, He shut down the Pharisees (Mt. 22:34-46).

They had no questions that Christ could not answer, and they had no answer to the question He asked of them. This sets us up for the long chapter of Matthew 23. Jesus has patiently taken it and answered with profound wisdom, but now He is about to speak with blistering judgment that is some of the strongest language of judgment found in the Scriptures as recorded in Matthew 23.

From that time on they dared not ask him any more questions. Instead, they now were looking at a different strategy – a strategy of violence which in a few short days would be carried out in the cross (cf. Mt. 26:3-4).

Someone once asked if God became a man what kind of man might we expect Him to be?

Of course we would expect Him to be holy and sinless. We would expect Him to do powerful and miraculous things no one else ever did. We would expect Him to live and love on a level that no one else ever did. And we would expect that in His wisdom and teaching He would be so profound as to have no peers. This is the exact kind of person we have in the Lord Jesus Christ. He was indeed the God-Man unequalled in all these ways.

After saying these things regarding the Messiah being David's Lord Mark 12:37 then says, "***And the common people heard Him gladly.***"

However, the Pharisees in view here outright rejected Jesus as the Son of David and also as God's Son. Consequently, they were in the position of being Christ's enemies and now await the day when they will be made His footstool.

Such is the fate of all who reject Jesus as Lord and Savior!

Julian the Apostate was emperor of Rome from A.D. 361-363. He at one point dismissively said, "*Jesus has now been celebrated about three hundred years; having done nothing in his lifetime worthy of fame, unless anyone thinks it a very great work to heal lame and blind people and exorcise demons*".

But I might add this little detail - He did it all in perfect accord with the prophetic Scriptures.

One day Julian was severely wounded in battle. Initially it looked as though he might survive, but late in the evening the wound began to bleed profusely, and he cried out his last words, "***you have won, Galilean!***"

In the end Jesus always wins! In the end Jesus is either our Lord and Savior or He is Lord with His foot on our throat! It all depends on what we do with Jesus in the here and now! But no matter what Jesus is Lord to whom every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess. In the end Jesus always wins because He truly is LORD! The Son of David is Lord!

Who is Jesus to you? That is the ultimate question set before each individual for time and eternity.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved (Acts 16:31).