

## BELIEVING IN JESUS AS THE CHRIST

### John 20:31 (NKJV)

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.

John wrote the entire book of John so that we might believe that Jesus is the Christ, but what does that mean?

The Greek word translated as “**Christ**” (Gk. Christos) corresponds to the Hebrew word translated as “**Messiah**” (Heb. Mashiach). So, the word Christ and the word Messiah are equivalents. The word Christ literally means “**Anointed One**”. It is a word rooted and grounded in the Old Testament.

In the OT kings and priests were anointed with oil designating them as being set apart for special service (cf. 1 Sam. 16:1, 13; 26:11; Ex. 40:13-15; Lev. 4:3). But in the OT **THE ANOINTED ONE** (the Messiah) was the prophesied CHOSEN ONE who would come as a DELIVERER. He is the prophesied coming Deliverer of Israel who would ultimately deliver from sin and bring in the kingdom (cf. Mt. 11:3).

So, the concept of Messiah/Christ is that of the promised DELIVERER who was prophesied in the OT. In New Testament language the Christ is the promised SAVIOR!

This special COMING ONE would be unique in terms of WHO He was and because of WHAT He would do. He would be both God and man in one person (cf. Isa. 9:6). He would both deliver and rule over God's people forever (cf. Lk. 1:31-33). He would be both a SAVIOR and a KING! And He is referenced from Genesis all the way through the Old Testament Scriptures in a myriad of ways (cf. Dan. 9:25-26).

A key reference to Jesus being THE ANOINTED ONE is found in the Messianic passage of Isaiah 61:1 (cf. Isa. 61:3; Lk. 4:18; Acts 10:38; Heb. 1:9).

### Isaiah 61:1 (NKJV)

1 “The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because the Lord has **anointed Me** To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; [cf. Luke 4:18 – fulfilled in Jesus].

The New Testament, at its most crucial defining points, connects the idea of CHRIST to WHO Jesus is as God!

At His birth the angel announced that there was born "**a Savior, who is CHRIST THE LORD**" (Lk. 2:11 - emphasis mine). In Simon Peter's divinely revealed confession he said to Jesus, "**You are the CHRIST, THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD.**" (Mt. 16:16- emphasis mine). In giving his purpose statement for writing the gospel of John he says, "**these are written that you may believe that Jesus is THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD**" (Jn. 20:31). In each case CHRIST is closely linked to this special One being GOD! Not only was He a man but He was also God. THE CHRIST is the CHOSEN ONE Who is the GOD-MAN - fully man and fully God in ONE PERSON!

In order to be the qualified DELIVERER/RULER Jesus had to line up with ALL the prophetic Scriptures concerning the prophesied COMING ONE. He had to be of the right lineage (of Abraham/David). He had to be God and at the same time man. He had to be without sin (virgin born) and yet man in order to represent mankind (cf. Isa. 7:14; Heb. 2:14). Jesus meets ALL the qualifications. He fulfills ALL the prophecies. It all ties together perfectly in Him.

The prophecies given many hundreds of years in advance concerning His person, His birth, His life, His death, His resurrection, His exaltation, ALL harmonize PERFECTLY in the person of Jesus of Nazareth! Clearly, this Jesus is THE CHRIST, the prophesied/promised COMING ONE, Who has come and Who is yet coming, Who fulfills ALL the OT Messianic prophecies! (cf. Jn. 1:41; 4:25-26; Isa. 9:6-7)

It is with this background that we read in 1 Corinthians 15...

### **1 Corinthians 15:3-4 (NKJV)**

**3** For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that **Christ** died for our sins according to the Scriptures,

**4** and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,

To believe in Jesus as the Christ is to believe that He is the prophesied promised coming Savior Who fulfills the Scriptures in dying for our sins, being buried, and rising again from the dead as Lord over all (cf. Isa. 53).