

Discovering Messiah, a Bible Study

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, RI, 2016

1. Definition of “Messiah”, “Anointed One” in Hebrew, equivalent is “Christ” in Greek
 - a. Deliverer
 - b. Savior
2. Jewish Concepts of Messiah
 - a. Ecstatic View, as a result of cataclysms, Isaiah 2:1-4, Christian parallel is found in some post-tribulation circles
 - b. Political Kingdom View, restoration of the Davidic Kingdom, 1 Chronicles 17:11-14
 - c. Son of Man, Daniel 7:13
 - d. Son of God, Psalm 2:12; Proverbs 30:4
 - e. Theophany (see Bible Study paper on this subject)
 - f. Comprehensive View, takes all of these, and also sees Isaiah 53:5-12 speaking of Messiah as the sin-bearing Servant, disputed in some Jewish circles because of Theophany implication in verse 6, and atonement references explained away
3. The Messiah in Genesis
 - a. Genesis 3:15, the first Messianic prophecy in the Bible
 - b. Genesis 4:1 in Hebrew reads literally, “I have gotten a man, YHVH”
4. Old Testament Hopes/Types (not self proclaimed, but hoped for by the people)
 - a. Solomon, 2 Samuel 7:12-16
 - b. Zerubbabel, Haggai 2:2-9
 - c. Note commonality of Davidic ancestry
5. Divinity of Messiah in the Old Testament, in addition to Theophany passages
 - a. Genesis 1:26, as a Person of the Godhead (plural)
 - b. Psalm 45:6-7, as God who sits on the throne
 - c. Isaiah 9:6, as Mighty God, and “pele” (Wonderful), a word only used of divinity

- d. Micah 5:2, as eternal in nature, and not created
6. Messianic Movements in Acts 5, verses 33-40 expounded
- a. Verse 33, at the preaching of Jesus as Messiah, the Sanhedrin is incited to murderous rage
 - b. Verse 34, Gamaliel (Cf. Acts 22:3), wise human counsel, but not divine counsel per se
 - c. Verse 36, "Theudas", "claiming to be somebody" with Messianic credentials, in context
 - i. About the time of Jesus' birth, near 5 BC
 - ii. Different Theudas mentioned in Josephus (Antiquities, 20.5.1), around 50 AD
 - d. Verse 37, "Judas of Galilee", not the Luke 2:2 census but a subsequent census, 6 AD
 - e. Verses 36-37, "scattered", "dispersed", coalescing into a loosely connected revolutionary party called the Zealots (one of Jesus' disciples was identified with this group in Luke 6:15, possibly Barabbas was also one of these)
 - i. Parties in Israel
 - 1. Pharisees, strict interpretation of the letter of the Law
 - 2. Sadducees, more liberal, anti-supernatural bias
 - 3. Essenes, ascetic, associated with John the Baptist and Qumran
 - 4. Zealots, political revolutionaries, against Rome
 - 5. Herodians, political compromisers with Rome
 - f. Verses 38-39, proved prophetic, in that throughout history the true universal church of God grows through persecution
7. Messiah's Two Comings
- a. Veiled in the Old Testament, no indication of two separate advents, though it can be deduced, but much easier so in hindsight, Isaiah 61:1-3 as an example of a passage that blends both advents of Messiah
 - b. Timing set in Daniel 9:24-27, for both comings
 - i. First advent, flurry of demonic activity, and such counterfeit or potentially misleading "messianic" activity as that recorded in Acts 5:36-37, and Josephus

- ii. Second advent, 2 Thessalonians 2:3-6 further indicator of the timing in the pre-millennial pre-tribulation view, Matthew 24:22-24 prophecies counterfeit “messianic” activity throughout history but in those days in particular

8. Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah

- a. Fulfillment of details of Old Testament prophecy regarding His first advent gives us a sure confidence that He will come again and fulfill all things related to His second coming. Some first advent prophecies and their fulfillment:

1. Genesis 3:15 in Galatians 4:4
2. Genesis 12:3 in Matthew 1:1 and Acts 3:25
3. Genesis 49:10 in Luke 3:33
4. Isaiah 9:7 in Matthew 1:1
5. Micah 5:2 in Matthew 2:1
6. Isaiah 7:14 in Matthew 1:18
7. Isaiah 53:3 in John 1:11
8. Zechariah 9:9 in John 12:13-14
9. Zechariah 11:12 in Matthew 26:15 (Cf. Matthew 27:3-10)
10. Isaiah 53:12 in Matthew 27:38
11. Psalm 22:16 in John 20:27
12. Zechariah 12:10 in John 19:34
13. Psalm 22:18 in Mark 15:24
14. Isaiah 53:9 in Matthew 27:57-60
15. Psalm 16:10 in Matthew 28:9