

# Four Messianic Studies 1



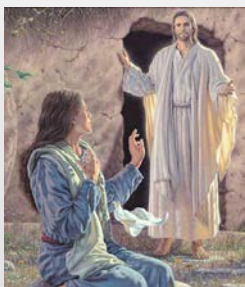
Hanukkah and the  
Messiah p.3



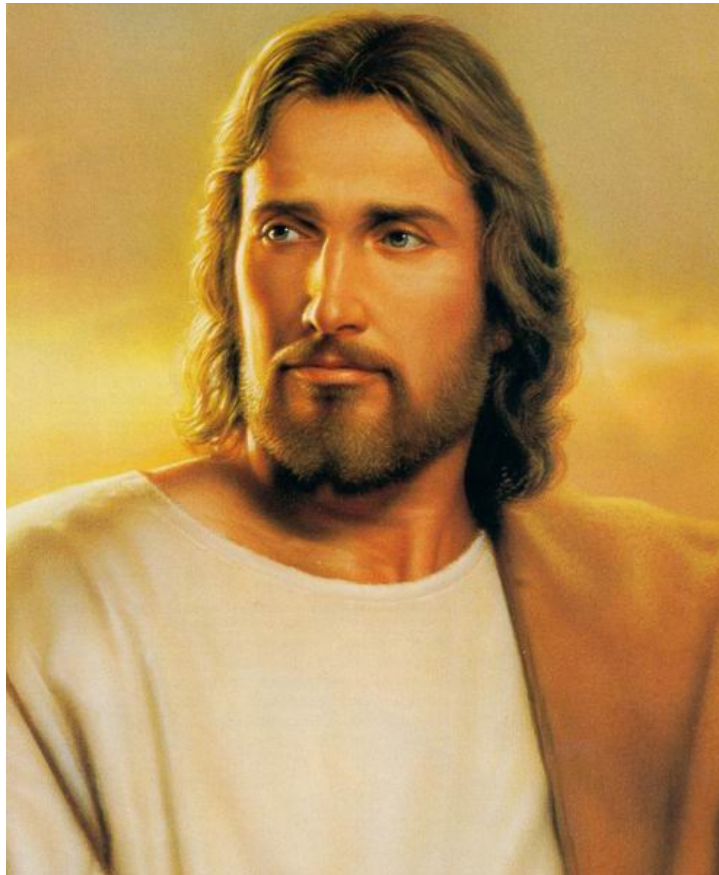
The Forerunner of  
the Messiah p.9



The Birth of the  
Messiah p.18



The Mission of the  
Messiah p.25



Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Study guide begins on page 34

FOR THE BIBLE STUDENTS OF  
WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH AND  
THE FREE GRACE BIBLE INSTITUTE

[www.DoctrinePastor.com](http://www.DoctrinePastor.com)

## Before you begin.....

If you do not know for sure about where you will spend eternity, the first issue for you is to place your faith alone in Christ alone and receive eternal life.

**John 6:47 (NKJV)** Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life.

**John 5:24 (NKJV)** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

**John 3:36 (NKJV)** He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."

**Ephesians 2:8-9 (NASB)** <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, *it is* the gift of God; <sup>9</sup>not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.

To believe is simply this: to be convinced that it is true. To believe in Jesus is to be convinced that it is true that He alone is the only one who can give you the gift of eternal life. Eternal life, first and foremost, means that one lives with God forever after this life is ended. Jesus Christ, who is God come in human flesh, died on the cross as our substitute bearing the penalty for our sin. When a person knows they cannot qualify for eternal life through the good works of self-effort or the rituals of any church or religion, and when a person knows that eternal life comes from believing in Jesus alone for that life, at that moment they receive eternal life absolutely free. This life can never be lost for any reason.

If you have received the gift of eternal life through faith alone in Christ alone, then before you begin any Bible study you must be sure you in fellowship with God and filled with the Holy Spirit. The method for this is to simply follow 1 John 1:9:

**1 John 1:9 (NASB)** If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our [known] sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness [any other sins we fail to recognize as sin or have forgotten about].

Failure to be open and honest in naming and citing our sins means we cannot be transformed by Bible Doctrine and advance in the faith to spiritual maturity.

**John 4:24 (NASB)** "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

**Romans 12:1-2 (NASB)** <sup>1</sup> Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, *which is* your spiritual service of worship. <sup>2</sup> And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

## Enjoy your time in God's Word!



# Hanukkah and the Messiah

Hanukkah is a special celebration of the Jewish people. The word is also spelled Channukah and the word simply means "dedication."

Hanukkah is known as both:

1. The Feast of Dedication (Channukah) and
2. The Feast (or Festival) of Lights (Hag Ha-Orim) - this is the most common term today

The timing of the celebration of Hanukkah:

In the Jewish calendar, the first day of Hanukkah is on the 25th day of the month of Kislev. In the Gregorian calendar Hanukkah may occur anytime during late November to late December.

Hebrew Months		
Tishri	תשרי	Sep/Oct
Heshvan	חשון	Oct/Nov
Kislev	כסלו	Nov/Dec
Tevet	טבת	Dec/Jan
Shevat	שבט	Jan/Feb
Adar	אדר	Feb/Mar
Adar II	אדר ב'	Mar
Nisan	ניסן	Mar/Apr
Iyar	אייר	Apr/May
Sivian	סיון	May/Jun
Tamuz	תמוז	Jun/Jul
Av	אב	Jul/Aug
Elul	אלול	Aug/Sep

This is a basic comparison of the two calendars, Hebrew and Gregorian.

John 10:22-39

Verse 22: This is the only place in the Bible where this Feast is mentioned. Jesus attended and taught at the celebration. We will return to briefly discuss this passage later.

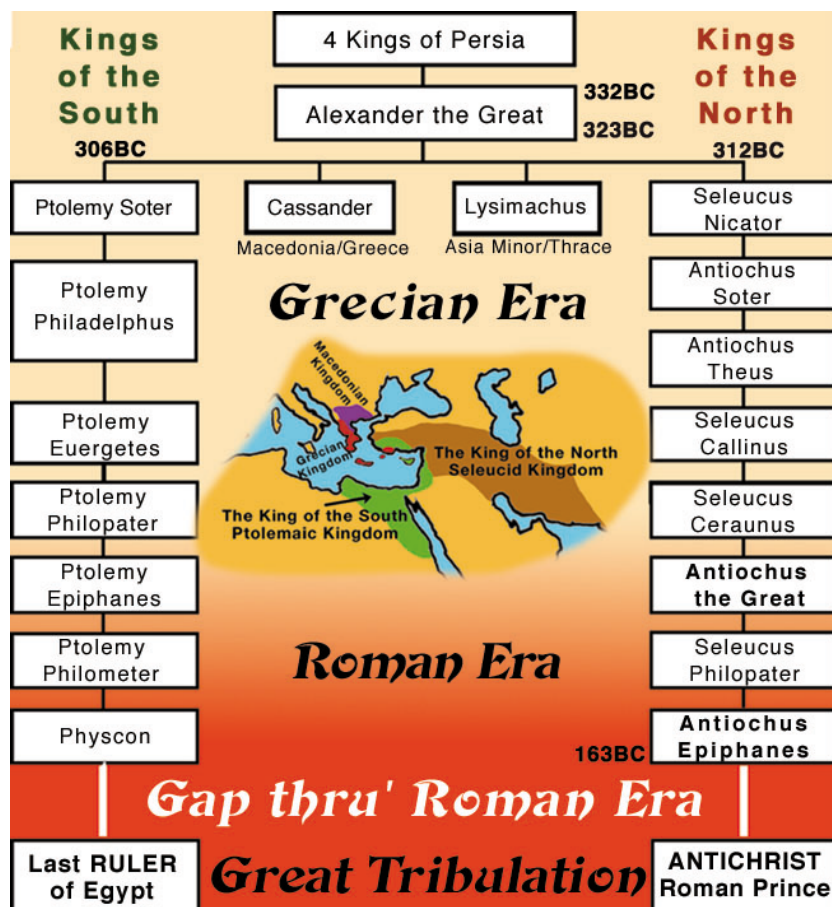
The Feast of Dedication is not one of the seven Feasts of Israel mandated by the Mosaic Law. It is a celebration time based on a historical event that happened in the intertestament period (the time between the Old and New Testaments). Nevertheless, Jesus attended the Feast and was preaching on the Temple Mount. The feast itself is not predicted in the Bible but the historical events that gave rise to this memorial celebration were.

Daniel 8:8-14: The Little Horn

Daniel 11:21-35

Antiochus IV Epiphanes (meaning "manifest God") is the one to whom these passages refer.

Interpretive note: don't confuse the little horn in Daniel 8 with the little horn in Daniel 7. They are two different individuals. The little horn in Daniel 7 comes out of the Roman Empire and that's the antichrist. The little horn in Daniel 8 comes up out of the he-goat which is Greece and refers to Antiochus IV Epiphanes.



DANIEL 11 - written about 200 years before the events - gives a totally accurate and detailed history of these years under the divided Greek empire and includes an introduction to "a despicable (vile = KJV) person" in verse 21: Antiochus Epiphanes.

#### THE TIME FRAME

There are some four hundred years of history that occur between the close of the Old Testament book of Malachi and the opening scenes in Matthew, the first New Testament book. "The Old Testament closes with the people of the Jews partially restored to their land {under Ezra and Nehemiah}, but under Persian dominion. The New Testament opens with the same people greatly multiplied and dwelling in the same country, but under Roman sway, and yet with an Edomite vice-king exercising jurisdiction over part of the land"

H. A. Ironside, The Four Hundred Silent Years). The Greek Empire falls into these years.

## Daniel 8:8-14

9: The Beautiful Land is Israel and this speaks of his military attacks and conquering of the nation

10: The host of heaven here refers to Israel, not angels

11: Commander of the hosts is the Lord - Antiochus made himself to be like God in his own estimation

11: removed the regular sacrifice

Antiochus stopped many aspects of Jewish Temple worship and practices including the sacrificial system

11: thrown down means "to be desecrated": he set up an idol and sacrificed a pig in the Temple

14: 2,300 evenings and mornings

This time began with the murder of the High Priest Onias on September 9, B.C. and ended at the rededication of the Temple on December 25, B.C.

## Daniel 11:21-35

21: the despicable person is Antiochus IV

The chapter discussed his ride to power, his invasion of Egypt, etc.

31: His desecration of the Temple is called the Abomination of Desolation

He set up an idol of Jupiter, Zeus Olympus, and sacrificed pigs to him in the Temple. This is recorded in 1 Maccabees 1:54-59 and 2 Maccabees 6:2-5.

Jewish resistance began in the village of Modiin, near Jerusalem. Greek soldiers forcibly gathered the Jewish villages and told them to bow down to an idol, then eat the flesh of a pig - both practices that are forbidden to Jews. A Greek officer ordered Mattathias, a High Priest, to acquiesce to their demands, but Mattathias refused. When another villager stepped forward and offered to cooperate on Mattathias' behalf, the High Priest became outraged. He drew his sword and killed the villager, then turned on the Greek officer and killed him too. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked the remaining soldiers, killing all of them.

Mattathias and his family went into hiding in the mountains, where other Jews wishing to fight against the Greeks joined them. Eventually they succeeded in retaking their land from the Greeks. These rebels became known as the Maccabees.

32-35: predicts The Maccabean Revolt which happened from 167-134 B.C. Maccabee is a military nickname and means "hammer"/ "hammerer." They defeated the Syrian forces in 164 B.C.

## The Origin of Hanukkah

On December 25, 164 B.C. the Temple was cleansed and rededicated by the Maccabees.



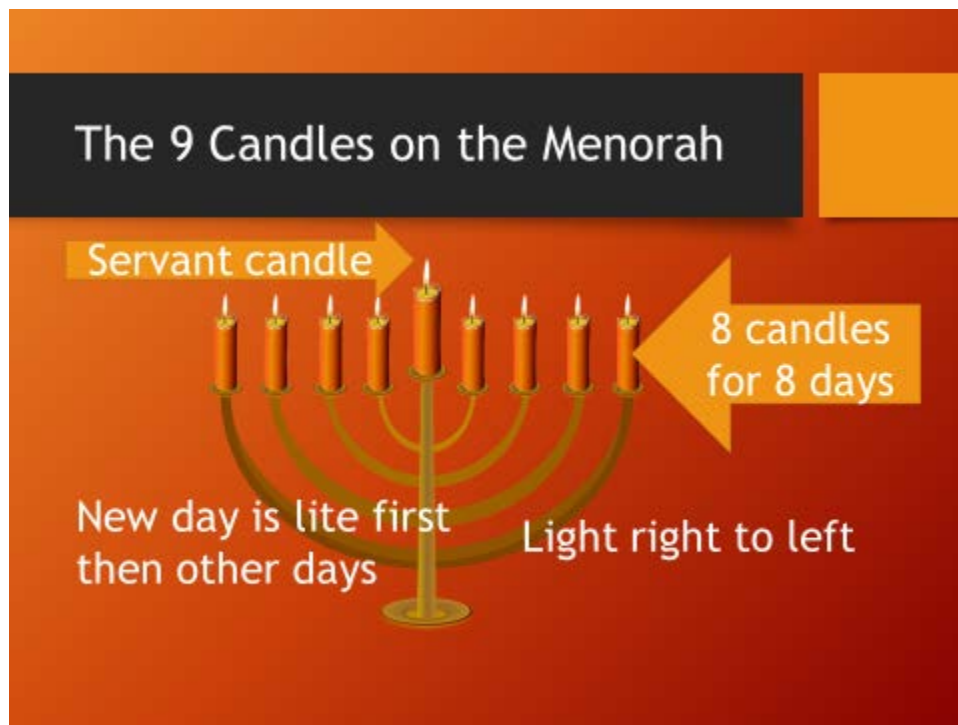
A new feast was started and was to last for eight days just like the Mosaic Feast of Tabernacles.

At the Feast of Tabernacles lampstands are lit so they were with this Temple rededication also. The feast actually celebrates the defeat of one of Israel's worst enemies!

Many years later the Jewish Rabbis, while under the rule of the Romans invented a story to change the basic meaning of the festival so that the new oppressors would not be offended.

The story was that when they went into the Temple for the rededication they needed to light the Menorah lamps but there was only enough oil for one day and it would take eight days to make the new special oil.

But they lighted the Menorah anyway and it "miraculously" burned for eight days until the new oil was ready. Because of its connection to the lamps with the Feast of Tabernacles, and this "miracle," it is called the Festival of Lights and is celebrated 8 days



The festival includes much special music just like the Christian Christmas. It also includes special foods cooked in oil - like jelly-filled doughnuts!

### Hanukkah and the Messiah

John 8:12; 9:5

This event occurs at the Feast of Tabernacles and emphasizes that Jesus is the light of the world. Three months later is Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

John 10:22-23



22-23: Jesus is in the Temple Compound at Solomon's Porch.  
 10:24-25: He had already told them who He was and His miraculous works proved who He was but they were not believing. This is not an honest question! Probably they wanted to arrest Him there and then - but it was not His time.

The issue with these unbelievers is that they did not

correctly believe in the Messiah to begin with. Jesus had repeatedly offered them not only the evidence of who He was but that faith alone in Him was required to be in the Kingdom. They rejected this reality.

The Messiah they expected was a political warrior Messiah who free them from the Roman rule just as the Maccabees had freed Israel from Syrian rule. They wanted another Maccabean revolt, a Messiah who was a "greater Maccabee."

However, Isaiah 53 especially shows that the Messiah's first coming was to be a sacrifice for sins, a suffering Messiah. Only afterwards - at the Second Coming - was there the Kingly rule of the warrior Messiah.

Jesus demonstrated with one miracle after another that he was the Messiah but they refused to be persuaded because He did not meet THEIR expectations. How many today believe in a false Jesus and thus do not receive eternal life!

28-29: The Messiah is the one who gives and guarantees eternal life.

30: Jesus claims absolute oneness with God the Father (of the same essence)

31-33: The Jews fully understood His claim to be God in the flesh, the Messiah

36: Jesus claims to be the Son of God in a unique and one-of-a-kind relationship with God the Father, sharing the exact same nature. Jesus is the God-man!

While the claim of the Hanukkah oil miracle is interesting, the real miracle to be celebrated is that God became man and that man was the Messiah, Jesus. He is the true light for those in the darkness of sin.

While the work of the Maccabees was wonderful, the work of the Messiah on the cross to make it possible for all to have eternal life is the most wonderful work of all. This is the true liberty! For those who believe in Him alone for eternal life, His work does not end as it with did the Maccabees (with another conqueror Rome) - it lasts for all eternity!

**How should believers in the Messiah see Hanukkah?**

- 1) Jesus is God bringing true victory that lasts eternally while the Maccabees victory was only temporary
- 2) Jesus is the true light of the world
- 3) Jesus is the true Shepherd of all believers including both Jewish and Gentile
- 4) Jesus alone is the one who gives eternal life as a gift and then guarantees
- 5) Jesus is God come in human flesh
- 6) Jesus is fully equal to God the Father and shares the same nature
- 7) The Feast of Dedication reminds that as Jesus dedicated Himself to redeem us, we should dedicate ourselves as living temples to be pure for Him.



#### **Matthew 20:28 & the Servant Candle**

*just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*

Are we servants of Christ and giving our life for the service of others?

#### **Matthew 5:14-16 & The Light**

"You [believers] are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. "Let your

light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.



Beloved, YOU are the servant light in the world today. Do others see the light in you? Do others receive eternal life because YOU share it?

Be the light on this festival of lights for those around you who do not yet know Jesus Christ.

Be the light also for those who, though they have eternal life, are not following in discipleship. They have hidden their light.





# The Forerunner of the Messiah

## John the Baptist (John the Baptizer)

**Luke 1:17** (NASB) "It is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous, so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

The word "forerunner" is also translated as one who will "go before" the Messiah in this announcement to John's father. John the Baptist is to be the one who comes onto the scene of the nation of Israel to go before the Messiah, to prepare the way for His coming, and to announce His arrival.

**Matthew 11:11a** (NASB) "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!

This amazing tribute of John the Baptist was given by Messiah Jesus near the end of John's life. Sadly, few believers know much about John the Baptist; if this man was so praised by the Lord we should know at least some things about who he was and what he did so that we will better understand the greatness of this man in the eyes of the Messiah.

Each of the following seven points must be covered briefly which means much material will have to be left out.

## His Parents: Zacharias (Zechariah) and Elizabeth.

"Zachariah means 'Jehovah remembers'" and "Elizabeth means 'the Oath of God.'" Put the two together and you have: 'God remembers His oath.'" (Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *Life of the Messiah* Teacher's Electronic Edition, p. 43)

**Luke 1:5-23**

v. 5: this is Herod the Great who was given the title of king by the Romans in 40 B.C.



Zacharias was a common priest, not a High Priest. He was from the hill country of Judea (Judah); in other words, he was a country man and not a man of the big cities like Jerusalem. The hill country rises some three thousand feet above the Mediterranean.

Today this area is the southern part of what is incorrectly called the "West Bank" to avoid the connections with the nation of Israel. The northern part is ancient Samaria.

v.5: He was a priest and Elizabeth was from a priestly family in the line of Aaron, the first High Priest of the Tabernacle (in about 1440 B.C.) who was the older brother of Moses. "of the course of Abijah": According to the Jewish historian Josephus the priesthood, under King David and then King Solomon, had been divided into 24 "courses" of service (1 Chronicles 23:6, 24:7-18.)

v.6: Zacharias and Elizabeth were not sinless. What this means is that they offered the required sacrifices and lived in obedience to the commandments and ordinances of the Mosaic Law and thus their sins were covered.

v.7: they were childless and now well advanced in age beyond the years of childbearing (see v.18). This was considered a great tragedy in these times and some even considered it a judgment of God for sin. They had prayed for years and years for a child and it must have seen as if God was not going to answer. Yet, this failure of a positive answer to their prayers in their timing did not stop them from being faithful to the Lord (v.6).

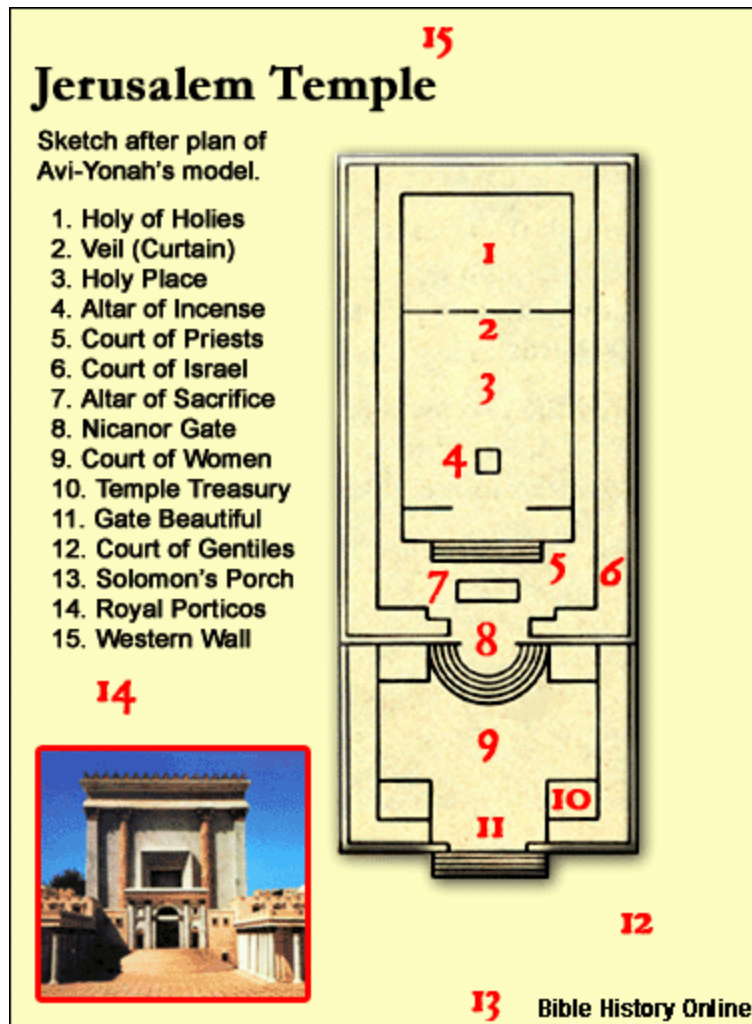
I doubt seriously if they were still asking the Lord for this as we will see in the response of Zacharias to the angel. They probably had erroneously come to the conclusion that it was no longer possible: but the God of the impossible was about to answer their prayers (see Luke 1:37). Part of preparing the way for the Messiah was this conception of John by the intervention of God for it came six months before the miraculous conception of Messiah Jesus.

Vv.8-10: There were so many priests that a man would serve in his order only two weeks a year, one week at a time. To go into the Holy Place and serve before the Altar of Incense was something that a man did only once in a lifetime. It was by the providence of God that Zacharias was chosen to perform the service on this particular day in history!

I am confident that a priest would practice this action of burning incense on the Altar many times, but one can well imagine his nervousness for it had to be performed in exact compliance with the Mosaic Law.

## His Prenatal Prophecy

Luke 1:11-17



v.11-12: According to Jewish beliefs, if an angel appeared on the *right side* of the Altar of Incense it meant the priest had done something wrong and that the angel was the angel of death. In other words, he thought he was going to die (A. Fruchtenbaum, *ibid.* p.44). Little wonder that "fear gripped (or suddenly fell on him, wrapping around him) him"!

v.13-14: these are the first spoken words from God in over 400 years; the first after the close of Malachi.

"your petition has been heard": what prayer petition? One for a child: "your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son." That son's name was to be John (in Hebrew *Yochanan* meaning "Jehovah is gracious" or "the Lord has shown favor"). Perhaps it can be said too that Zacharias was also praying for the coming of the Messiah and he is told his son is to be the one who goes before to prepare the way for the coming Messiah.

F. B. Meyer in *John the Baptist* writes this to us:

We can believe in the wonder-working power of God on the distant horizon of the past, or on the equally distant horizon of the future; but that He should have a definite and particular care for our life, that our prayers should touch Him, that He should give us the desire of our heart—this staggers us, and we feel it is too good to be true.

(Meyer, F. B. (Frederick Brotherton) (2012-05-12). *John the Baptist* (p. 27). Kindle Edition.)

There is another lesson here we do not want to miss: God always is perfect in His timing and plans. We may not understand delays but remember: God's delays are not always His denials!

15: John would have special requirements from birth. The prohibition on alcohol connects John with being a Nazarite (see Numbers 6:1-4).

Zacharias prophesied many things about his son John in this passage. This passage reveals how much the father of John knew his Scriptures for he refers to them over and over either directly or indirectly. The most significant for John is verses 76-77.

## His Position

v.17: He was the one who was to go before the Messiah to “make ready a people prepared for the Lord.” That is, to prepare the people to accept the long-promised the Messiah.

He is the one predicted in **Isaiah 40:3-11** over 700 years before his birth! John is the last of the Old Testament Prophets although he appears in the New Testament.

See **John 1:6-8**

Arnold Fruchtenbaum summarizes the position (or role) of John the Baptist:

John’s roles were:

1. To go in the spirit and power of Elijah to bring repentance to the people
2. To restore the fathers’ hearts to their children and the children’s hearts to their fathers (Malachi 4:6)
3. To prepare a people to receive Christ  
(ibid. p. 44)

## His Pilgrimage (his life to the beginning of his ministry)

Given the command in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 about the training of children, and given their carefulness to follow God’s Word, as well as their obvious knowledge, you can be sure that John was taught the Scriptures very well in this godly home.

Given the understanding that his father had of John’s position in the plan of God as the forerunner of the Messiah, this was a central part of John’s home training. From the earliest age John knew his mission in life and, even more importantly, he freely accepted it.

**Luke 1:80**

This one verse probably covers about 27-28 years of the life of John the Baptist. There is no information about this time in his life except this one short verse.

“so became strong in spirit”: that is, spiritual strength. He advanced to spiritual maturity at a young age under the training of his parents and his own personal studies.

“he lived in the deserts”: Given the age of his parents, it seems probable that they died when John was still a young person, perhaps an older teenager at best. It is important to note that being a Levite would prevent John from touching the bodies of his parents when they died. Others would have to do the necessary work and burial for him.

When did he go to the wilderness? It is impossible to know, but G. Campbell Morgan writes this which is worth considering:

I think, without any question, John went to the deserts when he was twenty years old. He was a priest; his father was a priest; he was in the priestly line; and in the Hebrew economy the sons of the priests had to take up their courses in the priesthood when they were twenty years of age. I think that he then broke with the priesthood and Temple, under Divine command, and went into the deserts.

(The Gospel According to Luke, Fleming H. Revel, 1994, p.33)

**Matthew 3:1, 4; Mark 1:4, 6** - go back to page 9 to see the desert (wilderness) region of Judea where John lived and worked.

John did not live an easy life in the wilderness. He dressed in the simplest, cheapest, and roughest of clothing. His clothing was like that of the prophet Elijah (2 Kings 1:8); the food he ate would not make it on the top favorites list of foods! He would have lived in a cave for his home, water from the few streams for survival, and he would have been very much alone.

But he knew his purpose and that God was preparing him for his future usefulness. Do we know this about ourselves? John was satisfied with what God had provided. Are we?

**Luke 3:1-2:** after all the years of waiting in the wilderness (probably about 10 years), the Lord spoke to John and let him know that the time was right to begin his ministry. See **Malachi 3:1, 4:5.**

The word of the Lord did not come to the rich and the powerful, it came to a man of humble means who was prepared for the task.

## His Proclamation

**Matthew 3:5-6:** John had a popular ministry which attracted many people and much attention by the Jewish leadership. He became so popular that some even thought that maybe he was the Messiah: **John 3:25-30.**

**Luke 7:30:** the Jewish leadership rejected John the Baptist and his message just as later they would reject Messiah Jesus and His message.

**Mark 1:7-8; Luke 3:1-18; John 1:19-36, 3:22-36**

Once again let me borrow from Arnold Fruchtenbaum's *Life of the Messiah*:

These passages tell the general content of John's message.

1. Repentance is the main theme; turn back to God.
2. The Kingdom of God is announced. Its arrival is at hand. This message has messianic overtones.
3. The multitude who respond to John's message undergo a baptism of repentance.

(ibid. p.74)



NOTE: This call to repentance is *not* a call for individuals to receive eternal life. Rather, it is a call for the nation to return to God in preparation for the offer of the Kingdom that Messiah Jesus would make to the nation. Repentance is *never* something an unbeliever has to do to receive the free gift of eternal life either in the Old Testament or the New Testament.

Robert Wilkin writes:

John the Baptist did not say that the kingdom would have come if the nation had merely repented. He said that the nation should repent since the kingdom of God was at hand. In reality John also called for faith in the Messiah as a second condition for the kingdom to come for that generation of (cf. John 1:7; Acts 19:4). In order for the Lord Jesus to give the kingdom to that first century generation of Jews, the nation had to repent of her sins and believe in Him.

(The Ten Most Misunderstood Words, Grace Evangelical Society, 2012, p.112)

**John 3:36:** John the Baptist is speaking and he is very clear that the only condition to receive eternal life individually is to believe in the Son.

**Note:** NASB uses the word “obey” which is fine if it connected to **John 6:29** where Jesus tells people that the only thing necessary is to believe in Him for eternal life. However, the “believe” is in the best manuscripts and should be here in this verse.

**John 1:29-34:** John had the honor of identifying Jesus as the Passover Lamb of God who, through His sacrifice, would take away the sins of the world!

**Matthew 3:13-17:** John had the highest honor of all to be the one who would baptize the Messiah even though he protested that he was unworthy to do this baptism. The baptism of the Messiah by John was His identification with the purpose of God the Father for Him in time. It was here that the public ministry of Jesus began with the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:16). The voice of God the Father is heard speaking in approval of His Son Jesus (Matthew 3:17).

### His Problem (doubts)

**John 3:30:** John knew and accepted that when the ministry of Jesus began that his ministry would necessarily be coming to an end. That was not a problem for him.

Though the timeline is difficult to know and there are various opinions, it seems that John's public ministry before the baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22; John 1:32-33) was about six months long. His ministry after the baptism of Jesus was also about six months long. John was imprisoned by Herod the tetrarch where he sat for at least another six months up to a year (Matthew 14:1-12; Mark 6:14-29; Luke 3:19-20; John 3:24) before he was beheaded.



**Luke 3:19-20:** admonished Herod Antipas for his sinful behavior in his marriage to his brother's wife, Herodias (see below). John was imprisoned at Machaerus, a fortress about 9 miles (15 kilometers) east of the Dead Sea.

Left: Aerial view of the ruins of Machaerus with the Dead Sea in the background. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, the fortress of Machaerus was the place in which John the Baptist was beheaded (Bellum VII.6.1-2). The fortress was remote enough to keep dissidents like John the Baptist - out of the public eye where they could be executed quietly if the need arose. It had a tragic and cruel history. ([www.bible-architecture.info](http://www.bible-architecture.info))

### Matthew 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23

You can imagine the challenge to John's thinking when this event happened! He had been preparing all his life for his predicted ministry of being the forerunner of the Messiah and now he is sitting in the lonely and dangerous prison. He has been there for several months and the Messianic Kingdom is not coming.

"the Expected One" (literally, "the One who is to come") is a title of the Messiah. John's doubts and questions have come because the Jewish leadership is rejecting Jesus' teaching and the people are not responding in fully accepting Him as the Messiah. Things are not going forward as John thought they would!

Should John look for another? That is, "Is it possible that you, Jesus, are not the Messiah and the true Messiah is yet to come?" Even though John had been the one to correctly identify the Messiah and he had witnessed the affirmation of God the Father and the descent of the Holy Spirit at the baptism of Jesus, still now he becomes unsure.

The major part of the problem was that neither John nor his disciples understand the fact of the two comings of the Messiah: one as the Suffering Messiah and one as King Messiah.

Beloved, this points out that even spiritually advanced believers can get discouraged and have doubts about many issues. In the Lord's response to John in **Matthew 11:5** He simply pointed out some facts to him.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum says this:

The point of his question is did he accidentally miss and point out the wrong messiah. Now when the disciples of Yochanan arrive in Luke verse 21 Yeshua is healing people of diseases, plagues, blindness, and casting out of demons. Yeshua's answer to them is not yes or no, but in verse 22 Yeshua said go and tell Yochanan what you have seen and heard. They are to report back to Yochanan what they have seen, heard taught, the claims of Yeshua to be the messiah, because the purpose of all His works and teachings are to authenticate His messianic claims. Notice in verse 22b what Yeshua says:

"the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,

the dead are raised up, the poor have good tidings preached to them."

The miracles that Yeshua did for Yochanan's disciples shows that Yeshua has the power to bring in the Kingdom. According to the prophets, in the Kingdom there will be not blind, lame, deaf, or death as well as no lepers for the curse will be lifted. Yeshua has the power as He gives these miracles to the nation of Israel to show them that He is the Messiah of Israel and the God/man.

(Arnold Fruchtenbaum, *The Life of the Messiah* transcribed by John B. Metzger in partial fulfillment for his course work for Tyndale Theological Seminary, 2008, p.106 - personal copy, not published)

## His Perishing

Matthew 14:3-12; Mark 6:17-29



The  
Beheading of  
Saint John  
the Baptist

Artist  
Caravaggio

Year  
1608

Source  
Wikipedia

John the Baptist can be called the first martyr for the Lord Messiah Jesus. Even though John was killed by beheading because of his preaching against the sin of Herod Antipas (a son of Herod the Great) and his wife Herodias, it was his powerful preaching as the forerunner of the Messiah that brought him to the attention of Herod.

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty:

Herod had first married a daughter of the Arabian king, Aretas IV. Then he became enamored with his half-niece Herodias (daughter of his half-brother, Aristobulus) who was married to Herod's half-brother (brother means half-brother) Philip (her half-uncle; cf. Josephus *The Antiquities of the Jews* 18. 5. 1-2). They had a daughter, Salome. Herod divorced his wife in order to marry Herodias who had divorced Philip

(not the Philip of Luke 3:1). John had repeatedly denounced this marriage as unlawful (cf. Lev. 18:16; 20:21). (Word Search 10 digital edition)

Herodias wanted to see John dead and used her own daughter (from her previous marriage to Herod Phillip, her uncle) to perform sensual dances before him and the other party goes after they were, no doubt, very drunk (Matthew 14:6).

Arnold Fruchtenbaum:

Herod Antipas kept John in prison, and seems to have had respect for John and was unwilling to have him put to death. Herodias has to trick Herod Antipas into killing John the Baptist, and Salome was her tool for doing so. (*The Life of the Messiah*, Teacher's Electronic Edition, p. 199)

## Conclusion

John the Baptist lived his entire life for the Lord, Messiah Jesus. He died as a result of his proclamation of the truth. His ministry was short; yet, Jesus proclaimed him as the greatest man who ever lived.

Matthew 11:11a (NASB) "Truly I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist!

Nelson Study Bible on Matthew 11:11

As great as John was during Jesus' day, his position as forerunner was inferior to that of the least person in the kingdom of heaven, because that person will have seen and understood the finished work of Christ on the cross and through His resurrection - events that John would not live to see.

We do not know about all of John's ministry but it was far greater than we have recorded. His influence was not only with Jews in the Land of Israel but also far outside that territory (see Acts 19:1-7) where there were followers of John who had not yet heard the Messiah had come. His work as the forerunner to the Messiah was the most important ministry of any Old Testament individual.

Study the life of John the Baptist and you will learn many important lessons for your own life!



# The Birth of the Messiah

Luke 2:10-11 (NASB) But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ (Messiah) the Lord.

John 1:1-2 (NASB) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

John 1:14 (NASB) And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

John 1:10-11 (NASB) He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world (all the world of mankind) did not know Him. He came to His own, and those who were His own (Israel) did not receive Him.

Matthew 24:4-5 (NASB) And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many.

John 5:43 (NASB) "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, you will receive him.

2 Corinthians 11:4 (NASB) For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully.

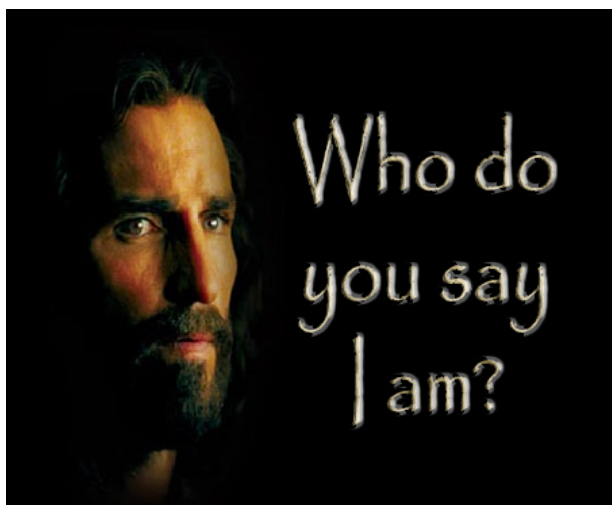
## The Many False Ideas of Jesus or Reinventing the Messiah.

1. Jesus is a myth: he never really existed. People have just made up stories about him.
2. Jesus is a man who became a god.
3. Jesus is a created angel, the first of the creation of Jehovah God.



4. Jesus is a spiritual master who realized his divine Christhood and encourages us all to realize our own innate divinity also (we can all be Christ for we are all god).
5. Jesus is one of the Masters of Wisdom who are supernaturally helping in the evolution of mankind to the next higher plane of existence.
6. Jesus is a just a prophet, but not as important as the final Prophet Mohammed.
7. Jesus is a Guru who went to India, mastered Eastern mysticism, and achieved oneness with god.
8. Jesus was a shaman (a pagan priest who used magic; a wizard or conjurer)
9. Jesus was a Zealot whose main aim was to overthrow Rome in the first century.
10. Jesus was the husband of Mary Magdalene and had children by her.
11. Jesus was a homosexual whose lover was John and perhaps others of the disciples.
12. Jesus was the first Palestinian who fought against the Jewish leadership.
13. Jesus was a counter-cultural leader fighting for social justice.
14. Jesus was a communist fighting for a classless society.
15. Jesus is the old man upstairs.
16. Jesus is the great loving and accepting one who never judges anybody.
17. Jesus was part of a patriarchal religion that only seeks to dominate women.
18. Jesus was a feminist and sought to liberate women from male domination.
19. Jesus is influenced by his mother so pray to her to get the help you need.
20. Jesus came to help you get to heaven by improving your behavior and to give you his grace through church sacraments.
21. Jesus is one of many gods.
22. Jesus was a Jewish man of the first century but he was not the Messiah of Israel.
23. Jesus has come to give believers health, wealth, and happiness
24. Jesus is the one to whom you must submit to as Lord and turn from all sin in order to receive eternal life.

Unfortunately, most people today do not really know who Jesus is. It would probably be beyond shocking to do some "man on the street" interviews and simply ask, "Who was Jesus?" Satan has done a very good job at bringing much confusion to the world today.



Matthew 16:13-15 (NASB) Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, He was asking His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; but still others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets." He \*said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Will the real Jesus please stand up???????

We will answer this question in two sessions. This first session is: The real Messiah Jesus who was born of Mary:

- Prophesied
- Proclaimed
- Presented

### Messiah Prophesied (A Few Highlights)

He is to be human, the seed of the woman: Genesis 3:15

He is to be from the seed of Abraham (thus Jewish): Genesis 22:18

He is to be a descendant of King David: 1 Chronicles 17:10b-14

He is to be born of a virgin: Isaiah 7:14 (this explains the seed of the woman in Genesis 3:15)

He will be God in human flesh: Isaiah 9:6-7 (v.6a - he is human; v.6:b the first three names are only used of God; v.7a - His eternity).

He will be born in Bethlehem Ephrathah, city of David: Micah 5:2

He will be present on earth 483 years after the decree to rebuild Jerusalem: Daniel 9:24-27

## Messiah Proclaimed

### By Angels

By the angel Gabriel to Mary: Luke 1:26-38

v.32 "Son of the Most High"; v.35 "Son of God": "He who was ever God the Son becomes in grace the Son of God as Man born of a Virgin." (Dr. Ironside's Bible: Notes and Quotes from the Margins, Word Search edition).

v.35 "The Holy Spirit will come upon you": in a special creative act the humanity of the Lord was produced. This creative act in the womb of the virgin Mary is *how* the eternal Son of God, who was always fully God and the second member of the Tri-unity of God, became fully human. See John 1:14.

"Jesus": The Greek form of the name *Iēsous*, which was translated into Latin as Jesus, is the same as the Hebrew *Yeshua* (Joshua), which means "Yahweh saves" (Yahweh is typically rendered as "Lord" in the OT).  
(NET Bible)

By an angel in a dream to Joseph: Matthew 1:18-25

v.22-23 the angel applies the Isaiah 7:14 prophecy to the Child. Isaiah 7:14: the NKJV is correct when it says "the" virgin - one specific virgin - not "a" virgin as in the NASB. The prophecy is not just about a special birth but also a special conception.

Note carefully the importance of Mary being a virgin (See Luke 1:27) to not only reassure Joseph but also to emphasize the supernatural conception of the Child (for more information on the importance of this see the study from this ministry entitled, "Behold, A Virgin Shall Conceive: The doctrinal "why" of the supernatural virgin conception rather than a natural conception"). This use of the Isaiah 7:14 passage identifies the Child as the prophesied Messiah who is Emmanuel, "God with us."

By a multitude of angels to the Shepherds: Luke 2:8-14

v.10: this proclamation was to be "for all people," not just the Jews.

v.11: the One who is born is "a Savior, who is Christ (Messiah) the Lord." This Child who has been born is the one-and-only Savior from sin as well as the promised Messiah (the Anointed One) of Israel and who is also the Lord (Yahweh or God).

Note of interest: the shepherds were probably caring for sheep that were destined to be Passover sacrifices at the Temple.

Galatians 4:4 (NASB) But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law

### By human beings

By Elizabeth: Luke 1:39-45

v.43 She identifies the baby's divine nature by calling Him "my Lord" (the Messiah is the Lord, see 2:11; the Greek word for "Lord" used here is *kurios*). By special revelation from the Holy Spirit (v.41) she recognized the unique (one-of-a-kind) Child in Mary's womb as the promised Messiah-Redeemer. At the same time she sees the distinction between the Lord who is the unborn Child and the Lord (v.45) who is God the Father. The Child was both fully God, co-equal with the Father, and yet the fully human Child of Mary.

By Mary: Luke 1:46-55

v.47: Mary was a born-again believer with a new human spirit and she recognized that this eternal life was from God her Savior. "It is used, however, to demonstrate very definitely that God coming to the Virgin Mary as Savior in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ was the cause of this joy, this exuberance" (Spiros Zodhiates, The Song of the Virgin, AMG Publishers, p.25). See Matthew 1:21. She fully knew the meaning of the name *Yeshua* (Savior) which Gabriel had told her to name the Child.

Note of interest: Mary cannot save anyone nor is she a helper in anyone's salvation! She herself was a sinner who needed a Savior and who had received eternal life by faith alone. She never called herself the "mother of God" nor does the Scripture ever refer to her as such.

By Simeon: Luke 2:25-35

This is only appearance in the Biblical record and nothing else is known about him. Yet we know the single most important thing about his life: he was faithful to the Lord, careful in his daily life, and he believed the Biblical prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. The "consolation of Israel" refers to the anticipated national deliverer, the promised Messiah. 2:29 "Lord" is the Greek word *despota* indicating his recognition of God as his rightful Owner and Master.

v.30: "Your salvation": Greek, *soterios*: Isaiah 52:10 the Hebrew word translated "salvation" is *yeshua*.

By Anna: Luke 2:36-38

As soon as she saw Messiah Jesus she began to speak to others about Him to others who also were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah, the One bringing redemption to Jerusalem. Anna was among the faithful remnant of believing Jews who were looking for the coming of the Messiah.

By the magi from the east (Gentiles): Matthew 2:1-12

v.2: These men are from the area of modern Iran (Persia back then). They state that they are seeking the one "born King of the Jews (lit. Judeans)." They knew the Messianic prophecies given, for example, in Jeremiah 23:5. It is interesting that they

seem to say it so matter-of-factly as if they were expecting the people in the Land of Israel to be rejoicing and to know exactly what had happened!

“we have come to worship Him”: Clearly they indicate their understanding that this new-born King was also God for there is no other reason why they would seek to worship Him.

## Messiah Presented

### *To God the Father by the parents*

As a baby at the Temple when He was 40 days old as stated in the Mosaic Law: Luke 2:21-24 (Leviticus 12:2, 4-6; Exodus 13:2). This was the parental presentation. He has already been circumcised on the eighth day as required (Leviticus 12:3).

Merrill F Unger:

His parents brought Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord in memory of the deliverance of Israel's firstborn from Egypt through the sprinkling of blood (Exod. 13:2). So the firstborns [sons only] were to be presented publically to the Lord as a token of His rightful claim to them and their service (Num. 3:44-47; 18:15-16; cf. Num. 3:11-38)  
(Unger's Commentary on the Gospels, AMG Publishers, p.318)

Note: in every aspect of His life in time Jesus perfectly kept the Mosaic Law. He did not obey, however, rabbinic law which He referred to as “the traditions of the elders” and “precepts of men” in Mark 7:3-13.

### *To God the Father by Jesus Himself*

At the beginning of His ministry: Matthew 3:13-15

This was His public self-presentation to God the Father to do His will. Jesus fully identified with the plan of the Father for His life as baptism is a ritual of identification. He was to fulfill “all righteousness” as the spiritual substitute for mankind by paying the death penalty for sin. The baptism by John was by immersion which portrayed the future death, burial, and resurrection of Messiah Jesus.

### *To the Jewish people*

By the Spirit of God at the beginning of Jesus' ministry: Matthew 3:16

v.16: the Spirit of God descending on Jesus was a proclamation that Jesus was the one prophesied in Isaiah 11:2 and 42:1. See Isaiah 61:1-2a and Luke 4:17-21.



By God the Father at the beginning of Jesus' ministry: Matthew 3:17

v.17: the voice of God the Father is heard declaring the reality of who Jesus truly is, the Son of God. See Psalm 2:7.

There were the disciples of John the Baptist and many other witnesses looking on.

By John the Baptist at the beginning of Jesus' ministry: John 1:29-36

Many people were again, no doubt, present when John made these statements, statements declaring who Jesus was.

"The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world": identifying Jesus as the perfect Passover Lamb who would by His sacrifice solve the complex sin problem for mankind. We know this occurred on the cross (Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; 1 Peter 2:24).

The Savior, as promised by the angels at His birth and declared by others, is now presented to Israel as such by the Forerunner, John the Baptist.

By Jesus Himself near the end of His ministry to the nation: Matthew 21:1-11 (Zechariah 9:9-10)



This was the official presentation of the Messiah as the King of Israel in fulfillment of the Zechariah prophecy.

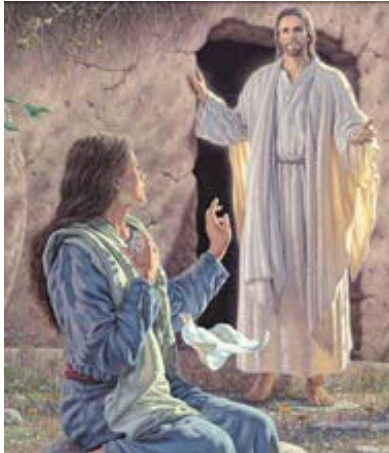
Charles Swindoll writes about this so clearly:

The religious leaders clearly understood the message this sent. It said, in effect, *I'm coming in peace as your Messiah, Israel's promised priest-king. Yield your authority to Me, and let's begin building the new kingdom.* Thousands of Jesus' followers responded to the gesture by giving Him a welcome reserved for royalty.

They lined the road leading into the city, cheered His name, and paved His path with their cloaks and cut palm branches. They shouted, "Hosanna!" which means "save us now."  
(Jesus, Thomas Nelson, p.143)

## Conclusion

Do you believe in the Jesus of the Bible or some other Jesus? The Jesus of the Bible, the unique God-man, sacrificed Himself to full pay for the sins of all mankind. It is this Jesus who alone can guarantee unconditional eternal life to all who will believe in Him alone for that life. Who is the babe in the manger to you? Is it the real Jesus?



# The Mission of the Messiah

Isaiah 61:1-2a

Jesus reads from this passage:

Luke 4:14-21

When this scene happens on the Sabbath day in the Nazareth synagogue Jesus has already become a popular teacher (v.15). It is after His baptism and wilderness temptation. This passage lays out in prediction the central mission of His ministry at His first coming.

If you compare the two passages you will see that Jesus stopped partway through verse two. Why does He do this?

The answer is simply this: Verse one and the first line of verse two refer to the first coming of Messiah Jesus; the next lines of verse two are about the Second Coming of the Messiah.

## The Two Messiahs Idea of the Ancient Jews

The idea of a first coming of the Messiah followed some time later with a second coming of *the same Messiah* was not understood by the Jews (and still is not). Scriptures such as Isaiah 53 and others show a suffering and dying Messiah while other passages, for example Isaiah 62-63, show a conquering King Messiah who would establish the Kingdom promised under the Davidic Covenant. The Messiah would die a substitutionary death for sins yet He would also establish the Kingdom.

The ancient Jews came up with a unique solution to the issue: there were to be two different Messiahs!

Arnold Fruchtenbaum wrote of this in his small book, Jesus Was A Jew:

This is the two-fold picture the Jewish prophets gave of the Messiah. For centuries past, during the formulation of the *Talmud*, our rabbis made serious studies of messianic prophecies. They came up with this conclusion: The Prophets spoke of *two different Messiahs*.

The Messiah who was to come, suffer and die was termed Messiah, Son of Joseph (*Meshiach ben Yosef*). The second Messiah who would then come following the first was termed Messiah, the Son of David (*Meshiach ben David*). This one would raise the first Messiah back to life and establish the Messianic Kingdom of peace on earth. That the Old Testament presents these two lines of messianic prophecy was something that all the early rabbis recognized. The Old Testament never clearly states that there will be two Messiahs. In fact, many of the paradoxical descriptions are found side by side in the same passages, in which it seems that only one person is meant. But for the early rabbis the two-Messiah theory seemed to be the best answer (pp.13-14).

He goes on to note that modern Judaism has almost forgotten the two-messiah idea and only focuses on the conquering Messiah, the Son of David. The Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12 are said to refer to the nation of Israel suffering under the hands of the Gentiles and not a reference to a suffering Messiah.

This is an important background to understanding the mission of the Messiah: There is only one Messiah, Jesus, and not two. The first coming was as the Suffering Messiah and His Second Coming will be as the Conquering Messiah.

## The Five-Fold Mission of the Messiah's First Coming

Drawing from the both the Old and New Scriptures we will briefly point out the five-fold mission of the Messiah when He came into this world of mankind.

1. To be the Savior of the world
2. To offer the promised Kingdom to Israel
3. To be the Second Adam
4. To resolve the angelic conflict
5. To become the Head of the Church

There are many aspects of the ministry of Messiah Jesus that could be presented, but it seems to me these five are the main parts of the mission of the Messiah and other parts could be organized under these headings. This comes to the forefront because when Jesus read the Isaiah 61:1-2a passage He said, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." His coming into the world was a fulfillment of the five things listed in the Isaiah passage as being the mission of the Messiah.

As a result, we will build this study around Isaiah 61:1-2a. I am taking some basic liberty to apply New Testament truths to this passage rather than just placing the interpretation within the understanding of the people to whom it was first written. Progressive revelation allows us to see more meaning in this passage especially since Messiah Jesus applied to Himself.

It was understood by Jewish believers that Isaiah passage was a reference to the promised Messiah and it is. After reading this passage Jesus says, in Luke 4:21, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus is claiming to be the Messiah, the one fulfilling the prophecy.

Jesus was proclaiming himself as the one who would bring this Good News to pass, but he would do so in a way that the people were not yet able to grasp (Life Application Study Bible).

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He has anointed me...." this anointing was seen at the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. It happened when the Holy Spirit descended on Messiah Jesus immediately after His baptism. The anointing was for the purpose of setting Him apart for the specific purpose of His mission and to empowering Him for it.

The Mission as given in Isaiah 61:1-2a with the topic titles built from later revelation:

1. To preach the gospel to the afflicted (poor) ones - to be the Savior of the world
2. To bind up the broken hearted - to be the Last Adam
3. To proclaim liberty to the captives - to offer the promised Kingdom to Israel
4. And freedom to the prisoners - To resolve the angelic conflict
5. To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord - to become the Head of the Church in the dispensation of grace

---

*To be the Savior of the World*

---

Isaiah 43:11 (NASB) "I, even I, am the LORD, And there is no savior besides Me.

Isaiah 61:1 "to preach the Gospel to the afflicted (poor)"

Poor /afflicted: Hebrew #6035 *anav*, humble. Jesus preached the good news, salvation, to the poor. This is not speaking of the financially poor, but those who are not spiritually arrogant ("destitute and helpless in the realm of the spirit," Wuest on Matthew 5:3), those who will hear the message of salvation or deliverance.

What salvation did Messiah Jesus bring at His first coming? There are four aspects to this:

- A. He solved the complex sin problem of mankind by the His sacrificial substitutionary penal death on the cross. Sin is no longer a barrier between God and mankind.

Matthew 1:21

John 1:29

Romans 5:8

1 Corinthians 15:3

1 Peter 2:24

1 John 2:2

- B. By His sacrifice He made it possible for those who believe in Him to legally receive imputed positive righteousness before the court room of God the Father in heaven.

**Romans 3:10** No one has any positive righteousness before God in themselves no matter how "good" they seem. All are -R: there is nothing good in anyone that God can accept.

**2 Corinthians 5:21** Because of number 2 below, believers are credited or imputed with the righteousness of Messiah Jesus. Before God the Father it is as if He had lived our life and we had lived His sinless human life. We are now declared to be +R by this imputation.

**Romans 3:21-26; 5:1** It is by this imputation of the righteousness of Messiah Jesus that we are justified (legally declared right with God the Father).

- C. To bring the free gift of spiritual life to those who are spiritually dead. This gift is given by grace alone and received by faith alone in the promise of the Messiah, the only one who is able to make and keep this promise of eternal life.

**John 3:16**

**John 5:24**

**John 6:47**

**John 11:25-26**

**Ephesians 2:1, 4-5, 8-9**

**1 Timothy 1:16** To believe in Him alone for unconditional eternal life, His promise, is what is necessary to receive that life as an absolutely free gift!

Belief simply means to be mentally convinced that something is true and that is all it means. Saving faith is simply to believe the promise of the Messiah to give eternal life to all who will believe in Him alone for that life.

- D. To bring deliverance to the material creation which has been under the consequences of the sin of Adam since the Fall.

**Genesis 3:17-18**

**Romans 8:19-22** (futility = the curse)

**Isaiah 11:6-9**

**Isaiah 29:19 (NASB)** The afflicted also will increase their gladness in the LORD, And the needy of mankind will rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.

---

*To be the Last Adam*

---

**Isaiah 57:15 (NASB)** For thus says the high and exalted One Who lives forever, whose name is Holy, "I dwell on a high and holy place, And also with the contrite and lowly of spirit In order to revive the spirit of the lowly And to revive the heart of the contrite.



**Isaiah 61:1** "To bind up the brokenhearted." Literally, "the broken of heart."

"Bind" *ḥābāš* -Hebrew #2280, *chabash*: A verb meaning to bind. This word is used primarily to describe a binding or wrapping of one object with another (The Complete Word Study Dictionary - Old Testament).

**1 Corinthians 15:45** The "last Adam" is Messiah Jesus (see verse 47). Jesus as the Last Adam (or often referred to as the Second Adam) did that which the first Adam did not do: Jesus did not succumb to temptation and He lived a sinless life as a man in time. "Sinlessness in our Lord means that He never did anything that displeased God or violated the Mosaic Law under which He lived on earth or in any way failed to show in His life at all times the glory of God (John 8:29 (Charles Ryrie, Basic Theology, Victor Books, p.263). This historical reality has enormous consequences for us who believe.

**Isaiah 61:1**: "brokenhearted" Hebrew #7665 *sabar*, to break, to smash, to destroy. Why are the people broken, smashed, or destroyed and in need of a healing spiritual wrap? Let me suggest there three things that Jesus as the Second Adam did to bring spiritual healing.

- A. He lived a sinless life and fully meet all the 613 commands of the Mosaic Law (**Matthew 5:17; John 8:46; 1 John 3:5**). Those who are not arrogant know that they cannot meet the standard of God (**Romans 3:23; 1 John 3:4**) which is the absolute perfection of His righteousness. No one could meet this standard; no could ever receive eternal life by keeping the Law because they could not keep it perfectly (**Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16**). The Law shows people just how bad they really are in the sight of God. Jesus demonstrated that there was nothing wrong with the Law (**Psalms 19:7; Romans 7:12; 1 Timothy 1:8**); rather, the problem was with man himself. **This is a crushing reality making one "brokenhearted."**
- B. Because of the life He lived in time as a sinless man as the Second Adam, Jesus can give the "healing wrap" of imputed righteousness (see 1, b, above). He "wraps" us with His righteousness! Jesus is the "life giving Spirit" because through Him alone can the believer meet the perfect standard of the righteousness of God.
- C. God created people to rule over His created order. When man was negative to the command of God and positive to the temptation of Satan, man lost the right to rule over the creation. Because of the work of Jesus as the Second Adam the right to rule has been restored to humanity

**Genesis 1:26**

**Psalms 8:3-8**

**Hebrews 2:8-10** - the glory is the destiny establish for mankind which is to rule the universe.

**Revelation 3:21**

---

### *To Offer the Promised Kingdom to Israel*

---

**Isaiah 9:6-7** For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom, To establish it and to uphold it with justice and righteousness From then on and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will accomplish this.

#### **Isaiah 61:1** to proclaim liberty to the captives

Liberty: Hebrew #1865, *deror*. A masculine noun denoting liberty, emancipation. It referred to the freedom proclaimed during the sabbatical year (Lev. 25:10; Jer. 34:8, 15, 17) (The Complete Word Study Dictionary - Old Testament.)

Captives: Hebrew #7617 *sabah*. In the OT *shābā* chiefly conveys the idea of a military or para-military force subduing a foe and then taking into their possession the men, women, children, cattle, and wealth of the defeated party. (Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament.)

- A. Jesus preaching liberty to the captives was to the spiritual need of the nation of Israel. Because of the inability to fulfill the requirements of the Law, and because of continued sin, the promised national Kingdom where the Messiah ruled had never been established. They had the promise of the Kingdom yet as a nation they were caught in one cycle of failure after another with the result that they were either out of the Land or they were under foreign domination for most of their national history.

#### **Deuteronomy 27-30**

#### **Isaiah 1:4-9**

- B. Jesus, as the descendant of King David, came offering the Kingdom to Israel. Jesus offered the Messianic Kingdom and, if they had accepted it, the cycle of failure would have been broken. The people would have had liberty to enjoy the promises of God and would be set free from the satanic influence behind their repeated failures.

This is why both John the Baptist, as the forerunner, and Jesus Himself preacher that the Kingdom of God had come near, that is, it was imminent - it was ready to come at any moment because the Messiah was present.

#### **Matthew 4:17**

**Matthew 12:24** - this rejection explains why the Messianic Kingdom did not come into reality even though the Messiah was present.

After His rejection as the Messiah by the national leaders Jesus began to speak of His suffering and death. Here in *one person, one Messiah* are both aspects of the

predicted Messiah in the Old Testament. It is not two different Messiahs, as the rabbis had thought, but two different parts of the work of the one and only Messiah.

#### **Mathew 17:22**

God has not rejected national Israel and the promise of the liberty to be had in the Kingdom still stands to this day!

#### **Romans 11:1, 26**

Eventually, at the end of the Tribulation, the Nation of Israel will accept Jesus as their Messiah and the Kingdom will be established.

#### **Revelation 19:11 - 20:5**

---

### *To Resolve the Angelic Conflict*

---

**Genesis 3:15 (NASB)** And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel."

**Isaiah 14:15** "Nevertheless you (Lucifer, Satan) will be thrust down to Sheol,  
To the recesses of the pit.

**Isaiah 14:17** Who made the world like a wilderness And overthrew its cities,  
Who did not allow his prisoners to go home?"

**Matthew 11:28-30** "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.  
"Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU  
WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

#### **Isaiah 61:1** and freedom to the prisoners

Freedom: Hebrew #6495, *peqaḥ-qôaḥ*: A masculine noun indicating an opening; a release from captivity. This phrase means literally, opening of vision as eyesight. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary - Old Testament.)

Prisoners: Hebrew #631, *'āsar*: A verb meaning to bind, obligate, imprison, hold captive. In its passive uses, it means to be bound, taken prisoner, or be imprisoned. (The Complete Word Study Dictionary - Old Testament.)

A. Those whom Satan has held as prisoners, Messiah came to set free.

**Isaiah 42:1-8** - those in spiritual blindness are those who are the prisoners held in the darkness of the dungeon of the Satanic Cosmic System under the authority of Satan. They are in the dungeon of the kingdom of darkness either because they do not have

spiritual life or as believers they are being held in false doctrine and the false thinking of the world in which they live.

**Matthew 4:16; 6:22-23**  
**Colossians 1:13-14**

The Jewish people were also held in the satanically designed prison of rabbinic Judaism which added layer upon layer of burdens on the people. In contrast to the teaching of the Scribes and Pharisees Jesus offered rest - true freedom where all one must do is to come to Him (a synonym for believing in Him).

So people today are held in the prison of false ideas about life after death and how to be with God when we die. All the world's religion are based on some form of works, human effort, or rituals to achieve a positive outcome after death. That is a prison from which the Messiah has come to offer freedom. Salvation - unconditional eternal life is an absolutely free gift and that knowledge is liberating!

- B. Jesus death on the cross was the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15. Satan is already a defeated foe even though the final part of the sentence has been delayed. Satan will be finally cast into the Lake of Fire at the end of time and humanity will be forever free from anything to do with him.

**Matthew 25:41**  
**Revelation 20:10**

- C. By Jesus' work on the cross and His resurrection, He freed both Jew and Gentile believer alike from the fear of death which Satan uses for his purposes.

**Hebrews 2:14-15**

---

*To Become the Head of the Church*

---

**Matthew 16:18** "I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock (the rock of Himself) I will build My church; and the gates of Hades will not overpower it.

**Acts 20:28b** "...the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."

**Ephesians 1:22-23** And He put all things in subjection under His feet,  
and gave Him as head over all things to the church,  
which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 1:9-10 (NKJV)** having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth--in Him.

**Isaiah 61:2a** to proclaim the favorable year of our Lord

“favorable” Hebrew #7522 *ratson* meaning pleasure, delight, desire, will, favor, acceptance. When attributed to God, the term expresses the divine goodwill which He extends to humanity as He sees fit (The Complete Word Study Dictionary - Old Testament).

The New Testament term to describe this favor of God is *grace*.

Arnold Fruchtenbaum states, “Or, it might be expressed as, ‘To proclaim the acceptable period of favor of grace’” (Messianic Christology, p.61).

- A. The dispensation of Law ended with the death of the Messiah and the new dispensation of grace began. God now was to deal with humanity on the basis of the finished work of Jesus on the cross. In the dispensation of grace human responsibility is to believe in Messiah Jesus for eternal life thus accepting the free gift of imputed righteousness. Such salvation is totally by grace through faith and this offer of eternal life is extended to all humanity.
- B. The first mention of the word “church” in the Bible is in the words of Jesus Himself:

**Matthew 16:18, 18:17.**

- C. Because of His resurrection from the dead and ascension to heaven, the Holy Spirit could be sent and the Church Age begin.

**John 16:7**

- D. On the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**) the Church was established. This was an entirely new entity that was not predicted in the Old Testament.

**Ephesians 3:6-10** the term “mystery” speaks of a truth not revealed in the Old Testament but now revealed in the New Testament.

- E. The church exists in the dispensation of grace, the “favorable year of the Lord.”
- F. Messiah Jesus is the Head of the Church and the Church is referred to as His body.

**Ephesians 1:22-23**  
**Colossians 1:18, 2:19**

## Conclusion

Under the five phrases about the Messiah from Isaiah 61:1-2a we have discovered the five-fold mission of Messiah Jesus which He fulfilled at his first coming. I believe that all other aspects about the person and work of Jesus can be properly organized under these five headings although, I quickly add, it would take much more study to make this complete.

**Romans 15:13 (NASB)** Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

# Student Study Guide

To receive the one hour FGBI credit for this four-section course the student is to complete the following questions and submit them for evaluation. The student must listen to the verbal teaching by Pastor-teacher David Pearson. The student must carefully read *all* of the Scriptures referenced in this study.

As always, the most important thing is to learn the materials and not to just rush through to receive a course credit!

## *Hanukkah and the Messiah*

1. The word Hanukkah means \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the two names by which Hanukkah is known?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Where is the only place in the Bible where this feast is mentioned?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Write true or false in the blank: The Feast of Dedication is one of the seven feasts mandated by the Mosaic Law \_\_\_\_\_
5. Define "intertestament period":
6. Daniel 8:8-14
  - A. What Empire does the he-goat represent? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Who is the "little horn"? \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. What is "the Beautiful Land"? \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. Who is the Commander of the Hosts? \_\_\_\_\_
  - E. Verse 11: What did Antiochus do? \_\_\_\_\_



7. Daniel 11:21-35

A. Who is the "despicable person"? \_\_\_\_\_

B. He set up an idol of what false god? \_\_\_\_\_

C. His sacrifice of a pig in the Jewish Temple is called  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Verses 32=35 predict what revolt? \_\_\_\_\_

E. Maccabee is a military nickname and means \_\_\_\_\_

8. In what year were the Greek Syrian forces defeated? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What happened on December 25, 164 B.C.?

10. Why does Hanukkah last for eight days?

11. What does Hanukkah actually celebrate?

12. What is the story of the "miracle of Hanukkah"?

13. Write out John 8:12:

#### 14. John 10:22-36

A. Where was Jesus at? \_\_\_\_\_

B. Why is the question in verses 24-25 not an honest question?

C. John 3:3. What is the only way to enter the Kingdom of God?

D. How is one "born again"?

E. What is important about verses 28-29? \_\_\_\_\_

F. Did the people listening to Jesus understand His claim? \_\_\_\_\_ How do you know?

15. What is the real miracle to be celebrated at Hanukkah?

16. Page 7: Of the seven things listed under "How should believers in the Messiah see Hanukkah?" write out the one most significant to you and why did you pick this one?

17. The center candle of the Hanukkah menorah is called the \_\_\_\_\_  
candle

18. Read John 8:12 and Matthew 20:28. Write out how you could present the Christian understanding about Jesus and the center candle of the Hanukkah.

19. According to Matthew 5:13-16, who is the light of the world today? \_\_\_\_\_

20. There are two aspects of being this light. List them:

A. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

21. Of the things you have studied in this lesson, what are the most significant to you and why?

## *The Forerunner of the Messiah*

1. Who was the Forerunner of the Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_
2. He was to \_\_\_\_\_ the way for the Messiah's coming and to \_\_\_\_\_ His arrival.
3. Who is speaking in Matthew about John the Baptist in Matthew 11:11?  
\_\_\_\_\_. Write below what Jesus says about Him in the first part of this verse (in your notes):
4. What were the names of the parents of John the Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
5. Luke 1:5-23
  - A. V.5: who is this Herod? \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. Write true or false in the blank: Zacharias was a common priest and not the High Priest \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. Elizabeth was from what priestly family? \_\_\_\_\_
  - D. V.6: Explain the meaning of this verse
  - E. Why was their being childless such an issue in the time frame?

- F. How often would a priest have the opportunity to go into the Holy place to burn incense? \_\_\_\_\_
6. P. 10: Draw a sketch of the Temple noting only the Holy of Holies, the Veil, the Holy Place, the Altar of Incense, and the Altar of Sacrifice.



7. Luke 1:11-17

A. Vv.11-12. What was the Jewish belief about an angel appearing on the right side of the Altar? Why does this help explain his fear?

B. Vv. 13-14. What is significant about these verses?

C. What does the name "John" mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. What can you learn from the F. B. Meyer quote?

E. Fill in the blank: God is always \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_.

F. Fill in the blank: Read Numbers 6:1-4. John the Baptist was a  
\_\_\_\_\_ from birth

G. Read Luke 1:57-79. What are some things you can learn about God from this praise given by Zacharias?

H. Why are verses 76-77 so important as far as John is concerned?

8. Read John 1:6-8. What do you think are the most important things to note about John from these verses?

9. Luke 3:19-20. Read the supplement below about this situation from The New Unger's Bible Dictionary.

**John and Antipas.** The scandalous conduct of Herod Antipas and Herodias is cited in the first three gospels in connection with the reproof administered by John the Baptist to Herod Antipas, and is treated quite at large by Josephus (Matthew 14; Mark 6; Luke 3; Ant. 18.7.1). For John had been saying to Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife" (Mark 6:18). Luke added, "But when Herod the tetrarch was reproved by him on account of Herodias, his brother's wife, and on account of all the wicked things which Herod had done, he added this also to them all, that he locked John up in prison" (Luke 3:19-20).

The first two gospels mention "the daughter of Herodias," but neither gives her name. Josephus says that her name was Salome (Ant. 18.5.4). The occasion referred to by both evangelists and historian, in which so much interest centers, was a festive party of the nobles who assembled at the tetrarch's palace to celebrate his birthday. Salome first appears in sacred history in this scene. On the mother's side she was granddaughter of Simeon, the high priest. Now the fact that a child was born to Philip and Herodias by the first marriage of the mother was a bar to her second marriage under Jewish law. Her marriage to Antipas, while her proper husband and his proper wife were still living, was aggravating to the Jews because she was a Jewess and belonged to the royal family; and their evil reputation was the more conspicuous in that Herod Antipas was the ruler of the Jews and had shamelessly defied the Jewish laws (Leviticus 18:18; Leviticus 20:21).

This anniversary was the occasion, and this daughter, Salome, was made the guilty person by whom Herodias secured revenge for the reproof given her husband for living with her unlawfully. After Salome danced before the nobles to the great fascination and gratification of Herod, he promised her anything she might ask of him, to the half of his kingdom. Herodias saw her opportunity and induced her daughter to request the head of John the Baptist, who was then in the nearby prison. "And although he was grieved, the king commanded it to be given because of his oaths, and because of his dinner guests" (Matthew 14:1-10). The executioner was sent to the prison at once, and the ghastly gift was given. John the Baptist was beheaded, the man who "among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater" (Matthew 11:11; Luke 7:28). The voice of one crying in the wilderness was at last silenced. "And his disciples came and took away the body and buried it; and they went and reported to Jesus" (Matthew 14:12).

The place of John the Baptist's prison was anciently known as Machaerus, but the modern name is Mkaur. It is located in the mountain fastnesses with a deep ravine below, on the eastern shore of the Dead Sea, between Abarim and Pisgah, not far from the northern extreme of the sea. It is said that the rock-hewn dungeon was beneath the splendid banquet hall in which the nobility were entertained when the swordsman was

sent to bring in the prisoner's head. Here in the same mountains in which Israel sought for the grave of her first prophet (Moses), the last prophet (John) was entombed.

10. Write true or false in the blank: In John 3:24 we learn that the daughter of

Herodias was Salome \_\_\_\_\_

11. **Matthew 11:1-6; Luke 7:18-23.** Why do you think John was doubting Jesus?

12. What was the purpose of Jesus' works and teachings?

13. Summarize in your own words what you have learned about the relationship between the ministry of John the Baptist and that of Messiah Jesus.

14. How did John the Baptist die? \_\_\_\_\_

15. List some important lessons for your life that you can learn from the life of John the Baptist. Please be thoughtful in your answers.

16. In what Scriptural passage are disciples of John found outside of the four Gospels?

\_\_\_\_\_

## *The Birth of the Messiah*

1. Of the 24 false ideas of Jesus listed, was there ever a time when you thought one or more of these was who Jesus was? If yes, which one (s)?
2. Luke 1:26-38. List below the things you can learn about Jesus from what the angel said.



3. Matthew 1:18-25: Imagine you are asked to teach a class on this passage. Outline the main points of the passage with a short explanation of each.

4. Choose one of the proclamations by human beings on pages 22-23 that you find the most interesting. Explain why this one is the interesting to you.

5. Under "Messiah Presented" to God the Father by His parents, what are some things you can learn about Joseph and Mary from this passage?

6. Where did Jesus come from when He came to John at the Jordan river to be baptized? \_\_\_\_\_

7. From Matthew 3:16-17 what do we learn about the relationships between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit?

8. Compare Matthew 3:16, Isaiah 11:2, 42:1, 61:1-2a and Luke 4:17-21. Summarize in your own words why it is important to compare these passages and what can be learned from them.

9. What does John the Baptist mean when he identifies Jesus as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

10. In what passage is the official presentation of Jesus to the nation of Israel as their Messiah? \_\_\_\_\_

11. What Old Testament passage does this fulfill?

\_\_\_\_\_

12. . Imagine that a friend asks you to tell them who Jesus is. From what has been presented in this lesson what would you tell them. Use some Scriptures to support your answer.

## *The Mission of the Messiah*

- [illegible]

6. List below the five-fold mission of the Messiah as presented in the notes:

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

7. List below the five-fold mission of the Messiah from Isaiah 61:1-2a

- A. \_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_
- E. \_\_\_\_\_

8. What does the word "afflicted" (or "poor") mean? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. List below the four aspects of salvation that Messiah Jesus brought at His first coming

- A. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- B. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- C. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- D. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



10. Select one of the passages listed at the bottom of p.27 that you find the most meaningful and explain why you selected this one. \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
11. What does the word "justified" mean? \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
12. According to 1 Timothy 1:16 what do we believe in Jesus for?
- \_\_\_\_\_
13. Define the word "believe": \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
14. **Isaiah 11:6-9.** List below some things you can learn about the coming Messianic Kingdom from this passage.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
15. The word "bind" in Isaiah 61:1 means \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
16. What does it mean to say Jesus is the "Last Adam"?

17. Why is it important to know that Jesus, as the Last (Second) Adam, lived a sinless life?

18. Fill in the blank: "The Law shows people just how \_\_\_\_\_ they really are in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_."

19. Why are people considered "brokenhearted"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

20. Define imputed righteousness: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is one of the Scriptures that define this? \_\_\_\_\_

21. Check which one is true (and only one is!):

\_\_\_\_\_ Imputed righteousness means the perfect eternal righteousness of God is credited to us

\_\_\_\_\_ Imputed righteousness means the perfect human life lived by Jesus in time is credited to us

22. Fill in the blank: God created mankind to \_\_\_\_\_ over all creation.
23. Consider Hebrews 2:8-10. Why is Jesus as the perfect Last Adam important to man's God-given destiny of rulership over creation?
24. List below some of the things you can learn about the Messiah from Isaiah 9:6-7:
25. What is the most exciting promise you see in this passage?

26. Read Deuteronomy chapters 27-30. Did you do this? \_\_\_\_\_
27. Imagine you were a Hebrew listening to Moses preach. Which of the promises listed in the first half of the chapter would be most meaningful to you? Why did you pick this one?
28. Now imagine listening to the warnings section in the last half. Which of these would be the most meaningful to you. Why did you pick this one?
29. Why had the promised Messianic Kingdom never happened?

30. What would have happened if the Jews had accepted Jesus as their national Messiah?

31. In what passage is Jesus rejected by the leaders of Israel? \_\_\_\_\_

32. Write yes or no in the first blank: Has God rejected Israel? \_\_\_\_\_. What Scripture passage demonstrates this? \_\_\_\_\_

33. When will the Nation of Israel and their leaders accept Messiah Jesus?

\_\_\_\_\_

34. What verse in Isaiah 42 speaks of the Messiah releasing prisoners? \_\_\_\_\_

35. What are some of the prisons people are held in by Satan?

36. Jesus death on the cross was the fulfillment of what verse in Genesis? \_\_\_\_\_

37. According to Hebrews 2:14-15 mankind is held in fear of what? \_\_\_\_\_

38. To what does "the favorable year of the Lord" refer?

\_\_\_\_\_

39. In what passage is the first mention of the Church in the Bible? \_\_\_\_\_

40. Fill in the blanks: The Church was established on the day of \_\_\_\_\_  
in Acts \_\_\_\_\_

41. What picture is Paul giving us in Ephesians 1:22-23 and Colossians 1:18, 2:19?

---

42. In what specific ways does this image help us think correctly about the Church?  
(You might find some help by reading 1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

### *Summary Questions*

1. One of the main objectives of all Bible study is to get to know God better. From these four lessons what are three things you have learned about God's character?

2. Since God has given the Bible to guide us into spiritual maturity, what needed corrections or adjustments to my thinking and/or behavior come to mind as a result of this study?

3. Write yes or no in the blank: I have read ALL of the Scriptures listed in this study.

\_\_\_\_\_