

# **Challenge To Know Christ**

**12 Lessons**

**Prepared by:  
PAUL E. CANTRELL**

**2010**



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277 Deitch Lane  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17050**

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## Lesson One

**"Christ in Prophecy"**

The Historical books of the Old Testament begin in Genesis 3:15 to emphasize that *"Someone is Coming!"* We believe, from combining the information of both the Old Testament Scriptures and the New Testament Scriptures, that that someone is the *"Messiah"* or the *"Christ!"* The New Testament Scriptures begin in Matthew 1:21 to state that that *"Someone has come!"* The purpose of this lesson is to give an overview of the Prophecies that foretold of the *"Messiah's"* coming as found primarily in the New Testament Scriptures.

**THOSE WHO FORETOLD OF HIS COMING****1. Abraham prophesied of Christ:**

Jn. 8:56-58 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 3:25 \_\_\_\_\_  
Gal. 3:8 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Moses prophesied of Christ:**

Jn. 5:46 \_\_\_\_\_  
Deut. 18:5 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 3:22 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 26:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lk. 24:47 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Samuel prophesied of Christ:**

Acts 3:24 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. David prophesied of Christ:**

Ps. 34:20 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jn. 19:36 \_\_\_\_\_  
Ps. 16:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 2:25-28 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Isaiah prophesied of Christ:**

Jn. 12:41 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 8:32-34 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isa. 53 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Zechariah prophesied of Christ:**

Zech. 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zech. 13:7 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 26:31 \_\_\_\_\_  
Jn. 19:37 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. All Prophets foretold of the coming of the Messiah:**

Acts 3:18, 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 10:43 \_\_\_\_\_

**8. All Prophets desired to see the days of Christ:**

Matt. 13:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Pet. 1:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

**THESE PROPHECIES WERE ALL FULFILLED**

The New Testament writers expressly state that Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy. The following record is left stating such:

**1. Jesus so stated:**

Lk. 18:31-33 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lk. 22:37 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lk. 24:27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Lk. 24:44, 46 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. John the Baptist so stated:**

Jn. 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Philip, the Apostle so stated:**

Jn. 1:45 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Peter so stated:**

Acts 2:25-28 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 3:18, 24 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 10:43 \_\_\_\_\_  
1 Pet. 1:10-12 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Paul so stated:**

Acts 13:27-29 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 17:2-3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 26:22-23 \_\_\_\_\_  
Acts 28:23 \_\_\_\_\_

These prophecies were fulfilled in detail concerning Jesus' life:

**1. His Birth:**

Micah 5:2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 2:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_  
Isa. 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_  
Matt. 1:18-25 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. His Genealogy:**

- Gen. 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gal. 4:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 12:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 22:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gal. 3:8, 16 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 21:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Rom. 9:7 \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb. 11:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 28:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Rom. 9:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Gen. 49:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb. 7:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 5:8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2 Sam. 7:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 89:3-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 7:42 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 22:41 \_\_\_\_\_

**3. His Divinity in the Flesh:**

- Isa. 9:6 \_\_\_\_\_

**4. The "Offices" He would hold:**

- Deut. 18:15-18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 3:22; 7:37 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 110:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Zech. 6:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb. 5:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Heb. 7:24-28; 8:4 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 2:5-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Dan. 7:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Zech. 6:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 2:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 18:36-37 \_\_\_\_\_
- Rev. 1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

**5. His Public Ministry:**

- Ps. 78:2 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 13:10-13, 34-35 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isa. 35:3-5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 11:4-6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 20:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Activities connected with His Death:**

- Isa. 53 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 8:32-35 \_\_\_\_\_

- Ps. 41:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 13:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Zech. 11:12 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 26:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Zech. 11:13 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 27:3-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isa. 50:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 26:27 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isa. 53:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Lk. 23:32-33 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 22:7-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 27:39-43 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 22:1 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 27:46 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 69:21 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 27:34 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 19:39 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 22:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matt. 27:35 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 34:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 19:31-36 \_\_\_\_\_
- Zech. 12:10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Jn. 19:34-37 \_\_\_\_\_

**7. His Resurrection from the Dead:**

- Ps. 16:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 2:24-29 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 13:32-37 \_\_\_\_\_

**8. His Ascension back on High:**

- Ps. 68:18 \_\_\_\_\_
- Eph. 4:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Ps. 24:7-10 \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 1:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Some of these prophecies go back to the beginning, but were not recorded until the time of Moses in about 1500 B.C. These were not just lucky guesses, but rather foretold events that would and did take place in the life of Jesus on earth. Not only were these actual events, but many of them very unusual events. These prophecies serve as one of the greatest witnesses to His Deity and His becoming human flesh to bring about redemption for mankind. There are well over 100 prophecies listed in this Lesson alone. What more proof should be necessary to give surety to one's faith in Him. And yet, there is much, much more evidences for His person.

## Lesson Two

## "Descriptions of Christ By the Prophets"

The inspired Prophets not only described the coming, life, and death of the Messiah; but, as well, gave special terms to identify Him as the Messiah (The Anointed One of God). In this Lesson we will look briefly at 17 different "*Titles*" given to Jesus that shows the great significance of His personage. Each "*Title*" helps us to get a better view of who this Messiah would be!

### 1. The Seed (Descendant—His Ancestry).

Gen. 3:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 12:1-3; 22:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 21:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 28:14 \_\_\_\_\_

Gen. 49:10 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Sam. 7:12-14 \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Shiloh (Gen. 49:10):The Word means "giver of rest or peace."

Matt. 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Jn. 14:27 \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. Star....Scepter (to give light, guidance, or leadership).

Jn. 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:34-35 \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. Prophet (A spokesman for God).

Acts 3:22; 7:37 \_\_\_\_\_

Jn. 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

Heb. 1:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. Redeemer (One who buys back a slave in order to set him free).

Eph. 1:7 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Pet. 1:18-19 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

### 6. Immanuel (Isa. 7:14; 8:8). Deity come in the flesh to identify with humanity.

Matt. 1:23 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 1:18-23 \_\_\_\_\_

### 7. Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace" (Isa. 9:6).

Jn. 1:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

Jn. 16:33 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph. 2:14 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Ensign (Isa. 11:10). A standard bearer. The One we follow after.

Matt. 11:28-30 \_\_\_\_\_

9. Sufferer for Mankind (Isa. 53:1-12). The one who takes our place and dies in our stead.

Isa. 53:3-9 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa. 53:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa. 53:11 \_\_\_\_\_

Isa. 53:11-12 \_\_\_\_\_

10. Righteousness (Jere. 51:10). He lived perfectly to give us the benefit of his righteousness.

1 Cor. 1:30-31 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Cor. 5:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Rom. 4:1-6 \_\_\_\_\_

11. King (Ezek. 37:24; Jere. 30:9). A Ruler, but the ideal ruler.

Matt. 22:42 \_\_\_\_\_

1 Tim. 6:15 \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. 1:5 \_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 2:6-7 \_\_\_\_\_

12. Messiah (The anointed One). Dan. 9:25.

Matt. 16:16 \_\_\_\_\_

13. Plumbline (Amos 7:8). That which gives a measurement.

Jn. 1:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

14. Ruler (Micah 5:2). Not just any kind, but a righteous ruler.

Matt. 2:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 28:18 \_\_\_\_\_

15. The Desire of all Nations. (The One longed for because the need is so great).

Haggai 2:7 \_\_\_\_\_

16. A Fountain (Zech. 13:1). From which to drink desirable water.

1 Jn. 1:7-9 \_\_\_\_\_

John 7:37-38 \_\_\_\_\_

17. Sun of Righteousness (Mal. 4:2). He brings light to all.

Jn. 14:6 \_\_\_\_\_

Jn. 8:12 \_\_\_\_\_

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

As you can see, giving special terms to a person can help to illustrate the great value of that person. All of these terms are Inspirations way to let us see the great value of Jesus for our lives—here as well as hereafter.

*Lesson Three***"The Advent of Christ"**

The Old Testament Scriptures begin very early to foretell of the coming of a special personage into our world (Genesis 3:15). Our first lesson emphasized the Scriptures that prophesied of One to come and then showed the fulfillment of those prophecies as described in the New Testament Scriptures. The second lesson gave about seventeen different descriptions of the special Person that was to come. In this third lesson, we will be looking at the actual coming of the Messiah: His Birth and the significance of such—what His coming means to us.

**I. Events connected with Christ's Birth**1) Before His Birth

- a) Foretold. Isa. 7:14; Micah 5:2; Matt. 1:18-23; 2:1-6
- b) Announced to Mary. Luke 1:26-38
- c) Announced to Elizabeth. Luke 1:39-45
- d) Mary's song of praise. Luke 1:46-56
- e) Announced to Joseph. Matt. 1:18-25
- f) Joseph and Mary go to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Luke 2:1-7

2) After His Birth

- a) Angels announce to Shepherds. Luke 2:8-14
- b) Shepherds visit Jesus at Bethlehem. Luke 2:15-20
- c) Visit of the Wise Men. Matt. 2:1-12
- d) Christ's presentation. Lk. 2:21-39
- e) Jesus' flight into Egypt. Matt. 2:13-18
- f) Jesus' return from Egypt. Matt. 2:19-23

**II. The Significance of Christ's Birth**1) It proves His Incarnation

- a) He became our "Immanuel." Matt. 1:23
- b) The Word was made flesh. Jn. 1:1-2, 14
- c) A man born of woman, yet the Son of God. Rom. 1:3-4

2) It demonstrates His Deity

- a) The One born to Mary was to be "the Son of God." Lk. 1:35
- b) "God sent forth His son, born of woman...." Gal. 4:4-5
- c) This Divine "Word" that "was God" was "made flesh." Jn. 1:1-2, 14

3) It makes possible His Saviorhood

- a) Jesus "came into the world to save sinners." 1 Tim. 1:15
- b) His Saviorhood was emphasized in connection with His Birth. Matt. 1:18-21
- c) When born, Christ was announced as "a Savior." Lk. 2:11

4) It brings great joy to the world

- a) When born, the Angels announced that Jesus had brought "good tidings of great joy....to all people." Lk. 2:10
- b) At His birth, all worshipped and adored Christ. Lk. 2:13-14
- c) We are happy when Christ saves us.

**III. Why was Christ Born?**

1) To reveal the Nature of God to the world. Jn. 1:18

- a) God is infinitely holy and will put away sin. 1 Pet. 1:16
- b) God is just and will punish sin. Rom. 2:6-9
- c) God is merciful and will forgive sin. 1 Jn. 1:7
- d) God is love and is benevolent toward the sinner. 1 Jn. 4:8

2) To reveal the Will of God.

- a) It is God's Will that all men be saved. 2 Pet. 3:9
- b) The Gospel (Will of God) is God's power to save. Rom. 1:16

3) To save the world from sin.

- a) Christ came to save sinners. Matt. 1:21; 9:10-13; Lk. 9:56; Jn. 10:10; Lk. 19:10; Jn. 12:47; 1 Tim. 1:15
- b) Christ was to save the world by:
  - ◇ Atoning for sin. Heb. 2:5-10; Matt. 20:28
  - ◇ Giving the Gospel to save. Mk. 16:15-16
  - ◇ Demanding faith and obedience. Jn. 3:16; Rom. 6:17

4) To conquer Death. Heb. 2:14-16

- a) Why conquer Death? Death holds the human race in its grip. Heb. 2:14-16
- b) How to conquer Death? By a Resurrection. 1 Cor. 15:20-26, 50-57; Jn. 14:19

5) To qualify as our High Priest. Heb. 2:17-18

- a) As High Priest, Christ intercedes for us. Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25; 9:24
- b) As High Priest, Christ sympathizes with us. Heb. 4:15; 2:17-18

6) To set a perfect example.

- a) Jesus has set an example. Jn. 13:35; 1 Pet. 2:21
- b) We should follow Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Pet. 2:21

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

The announcement of the coming of Christ brought great joy to the people who heard. It has brought great JOY to millions through the years who have heard of the coming of Jesus. It is vital that the message of Jesus' coming will continue until His final coming in glory.

## Lesson Four

**"The Anointing of Jesus"**

The announcement of the arrival of the Messiah was made on a limited basis to certain people. It was not broadcast world-wide, but only to a few people in Judea. Those that we know about from Scriptures were: Elizabeth and John, Mary and Joseph, The Shepherds, Just & Devout Simeon, and Anna, a Prophetess. While it is possible that some of these people may have told others, the Scriptures actually do not tell us so. Jesus was allowed to grow up as a child into manhood. We know very little about his growing up years. At age twelve, we went into the Temple area and discussed the Scriptures with the religious leaders (Luke 2:41-52). This incident ends with the general statement about Jesus' growing up hears: *"And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man."*

**I. Jesus' Anointing took place at His Baptism by John.**

1. Christ considered his baptism important. (Matt. 3:13-17)
  - a) He walked about 80 miles from Galilee to the Jordan in order to be baptized.
  - b) When John sought to dissuade Him, He insisted that he baptize Him. Christ realized the necessity and importance of baptism.
2. John's Baptism was for the Remission of sins. (Mk. 1:4)
  - a) John's reluctance to baptize Christ (who had no sin) is proof that baptism related to remission of sins. (Matt. 3:14-15)
  - b) The baptism of Christ was an exception to the general rule, for he had no sins to remit.
  - c) Christ was baptized *"to fulfill all righteousness"* and not to have his sins remitted. (Matt. 3:14-15)
  - d) Everything Christ commanded us to do, he has done with the exception of repentance. He has set the example of obedience in all things.
3. John's baptism was an immersion.
  - a) John's baptism was administered where there was "much water." (Jn. 3:23)
  - b) Jesus was baptized "in Jordan." (Mk. 1:9)
  - c) When baptized, Jesus came up "out of the water." (Mk. 1:10; Matt. 3:16)
4. The results of Jesus' baptism.
  - a) God publicly acknowledged Christ as His Son—*"This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."* (Matt. 3:17; Mk. 1:11)
  - b) He received the anointing of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 3:16; Mk. 1:10; Lk. 3:22)
  - c) His public ministry had its formal beginning.
  - d) He immediately was confronted with temptation. (Matt. 4:1; Mk. 1:11-13)

## II. Lessons for us today!

1. We, too, need to submit to baptism.
  - a) Jesus commanded baptism. (Matt. 28:19; Mk. 16:16)
  - b) The Apostles commanded baptism. (Acts 2:38; 10:48; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-4; Gal. 3:27)
  - c) To refuse baptism is to disobey Christ's command and reject the teaching of the inspired Apostles.
  - d) To refuse to receive baptism is a refusal to follow Christ's example and show our lack of love for Him. (Jn. 14:15)
  
2. We, too, are to be baptized for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38)
  - a) Baptism is necessary to salvation. (Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21)
  - b) Baptism is "for the remission of sins." (Acts 2:38)
  - c) Baptism is for the washing away of sins. (Acts 22:16)
  - d) Baptism puts us into the death of Christ. (Rom. 6:3-4)
  - e) Baptism puts us into Christ. (Gal. 3:26-27)
  
3. We, too, are to be immersed.
  - a) "Baptizo" is a word in Greek which means, "to dip, to plunge, to submerge."
  - b) Baptism is a "burial." (Col. 2:12)
  - c) Baptism is to picture a death, burial and resurrection. (Rom. 6:3-4, 17-18)
  - d) When baptized, the Ethiopian Eunuch went "down into the water" and "came up out of the water." (Acts 8:38-39)
  
4. The results of our baptism:
  - a) God acknowledges us as His children. (Gal. 3:26-27)
  - b) We receive the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38; 5:32; Gal. 4:6)
  - c) Our ministry in Christ and the church has its formal beginning.
  - d) We are immediately confronted with temptation.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Again, it is obvious that only a limited number of people knew about Jesus' anointing when he was baptized by John. But this was a very significant event in Jesus' life and enabled Him to have the full powers of the Holy Spirit in His life. He not only could perform miracles on others, but could do the same in His own life as we see in the choosing of His disciples.

## Lesson Five

**"The Testing of Jesus"**

The purpose of testing is to see if a person can stand up under the tribulations, trials, or challenges of life. Christians are told to *"count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* (Jas. 1:2-4). So, it would only to be expected that Jesus would go through testing so that He would be approved. Jesus was tested through the things He had to suffer (Heb. 2:18). And the emphasis is—He was tempted in all points like as we are (Heb. 4:15). J. W. McGarvey made this observation about Jesus' being tempted shortly after His baptism:

- ◇ *"Just after his baptism, with the glow of the descended Spirit still upon Him, and the commending voice of the Father still ringing in his ears, Jesus is rushed into the suffering of temptation. Thus abrupt and violent are the changes of life. The spiritually exalted may expect these sharp contrasts. After being in the third heaven, Paul had a messenger of Satan to buffet him."*

The purpose of God's testing of us is not for the purpose of leading us into Sin, but to provide an opportunity to show our resistance to sin. Temptations provide battles for life that will either leave us stronger or weaker depending upon our actions.

**I. Jesus is Tempted by Satan.**

1. He appealed to Jesus' supposed weaknesses.
  - a) After fasting for 40 days, Jesus was hungry (Matt. 4:1-2).
  - b) *"Command that these stones me made bread."* (Matt. 4:3)
  - c) Satan attacks us today in our weak places. He probes until he finds our besetting sin and tempts us there (Heb. 12:1)
2. He endeavored to plant doubt and suspicion in Jesus' mind.
  - a) *"If you be the son of God...."* (Matt. 4:3)
  - b) If Satan could persuade Christ to doubt, even momentarily, that He was Divine, he would win the victory over Him.
  - c) Satan tempts us today by trying to raise doubts in our minds:
    - By getting us to doubt that we are Christians.
    - By getting us to doubt the goodness and mercy of God.
    - By getting us to doubt the reality of His providence.
3. He pretended to be Jesus' benefactor (2 Cor. 11:14).
  - a) Satan offered Christ bread when He was hungry; protection from danger; and power over the whole world.
  - b) Satan tempts us today by appearing to be our helper.
4. He was persistent with Christ.
  - a) The first temptation was to distrust God—not to have confidence in God.

- b) The second temptation was to over-trust God—to be overconfident in God.
- c) The third temptation was to lead to an abandoning of God and join up with Satan.

5. He quoted Scripture to entice Jesus.

- a) Satan knows and quotes Scripture (Matt. 4:6; Ps. 91:11-12).
- b) Satan, however, misapplies Scripture.
- c) Satan tempts us today by quoting and misapplying Scripture.

**II. How Christ met and conquered Temptation.**

1. He answered Satan by quoting the Word of God.

- a) *"It is written"* (Matt. 4:4, 7, 10; Lk. 4:4, 8, 12)
- b) Christ routed Satan with the Word of God. The Devil hates and fears nothing so much as the Word of God.
- c) We today can answer Satan's attacks by quoting the Word of God. We should have it in our hearts to keep us from sin (Ps. 119:11).

2. He resisted Satan.

- a) *"Get thee hence, Satan...."* (Matt. 4:10)
- b) Christ refused to consider, much less, yield to temptation.
- c) We today must resist the Devil. (Jas. 4:7; 1 Pet. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:11).

3. He put to flight Satan.

- a) *"Then the Devil left Him."* (Matt. 4:11)
- b) He left Christ, however, only "for a season." (Lk. 4:13)
- c) When we resist temptation, Satan will leave us. (Jas. 4:7)
- d) However, Satan will leave us only "for a season." He will return.

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

When victorious, Christ was comforted by angels. *"Angels came and ministered unto Him."* (Matt. 4:11; Lk. 22:43). When we resist temptation, we shall be comforted and strengthened. Christ is our example in overcoming temptation. (Heb. 2:18; 4:15) Let us, as Christ, overcome temptation (Jas. 1:12-15). God has made it possible for us to overcome (1 Cor. 10:13; 2 Pet. 2:9) The trying of our faith in God is important in our spiritual maturing.

## Lesson Six

## **"THE MINISTRY OF JESUS: His Great Teaching"**

Jesus was referred to by people as "Rabbi"; which means teacher! (Jn. 3:1-2). He was always teaching people:

*"He taught daily in the temple"* (Lk. 19:47)

*"And Jesus went about all Galilee teaching...."* (Matt. 4:23)

*"Never man spake like this man."* (Jn. 8:46)

*"You are a teacher come from God."* (Jn. 3:2)

Jesus taught in all kinds of places: A Well (Jn. 4); Mountain side (Matt. 5:1-2); In a grain field (Mk. 2:23-28); In a Desert place (Mk. 6:34; Lk. 9:10-11); In the Temple (Lk. 19:47); In the Synagogues (Matt. 4:23; Lk. 4:16); In private homes (Jn. 3:1-2); and in a boat (Matt. 8:23). Christ taught wherever and whenever He could and to any and all who would listen. He was always looking for opportunity to teach people the Word of God.

### **I. Jesus Taught using every known method of teaching in His day.**

1. He taught by Sermon. (Matt. 5-7)
2. He taught by Lecture. (Lk. 6:20-49)
3. He taught by Parable. (Matt. 13:34-35)
4. He taught by asking questions. (Matt. 22:41-46; 21:15-22)
5. He taught by posing problems. (Lk. 7:40-42)
6. He taught by answering questions. (Matt. 21:23-27; 22:15-22)
7. He taught by telling stories. (Lk. 15:11-24)
8. He taught by illustration. (Matt. 18:1-3)
9. He taught by alluding to contemporary events. (Lk. 13:1-5)
10. He taught by reference to familiar things. (Matt. 13:4)
11. He taught by reference to people's tradition. (Mk. 7:1-13)
12. He taught by allusions to history. (Matt. 11:20-24; 12:40-42)

### **II. Jesus adapted His method of teaching to the individual.**

1. He condemned, exposed, and denounced hypocrites. (Matt. 23:1-33)
2. He used ridicule. (Lk. 31-32)
3. He used kindness and compassion. (Mk. 6:34)
4. He taught as people were able to learn. (Mk. 4:33; Jn. 16:12)
5. He taught with great tact. (Jn. 4:16-18)
6. He taught by comparison. (Lk. 8:44-46)
7. To the thirsty, He talked of the Water of Life. (Jn. 4:7-15)
8. To the hungry, He talked of the Bread of Life. (Jn. 6:35)
9. To a good moral man, He talked on the New Birth. (Jn. 3:1-89)
10. To the Pharisees, He talked on hypocrisy. (Lk. 14:1-5; 15:1-9)
11. To the Publicans, He talked on penitence and mercy. (Lk. 18:9-14)
12. To the covetous, He talked on the danger of riches. (Lk. 12:13-21)

In teaching, Christ always told people what they needed to hear and know and not what they wanted to hear. He always told the truth in a way most appropriate to the person and the occasion.

### **III. The Nature of Christ's Teaching.**

1. His teaching was simple.

- a) He made his points each to see.. (Matt. 21:45; Lk. 20:19)
- b) He used simple words, short sentences, and familiar illustrations to help them understand.
- c) Christ's teaching was different. (Matt. 7:28)

2. His teaching was with authority.

- a) He spoke with authority. (Matt. 7:28-29; Mk. 1:22)
- b) His word was with authority. (Lk. 4:32)

### **IV. The effect of Christ's teaching.**

1. It astonished the people.

- a) Matt. 7:29; Mk. 1:22; Matt. 22:33
- b) *"They marveled at His answer."* (Lk. 20:26)

2. It held their attention

- a) *"All the people were very attentive to hear Him."* (Lk. 19:48)

3. It silenced his critics.

- a) *"He had put the Sadducees to silence."* (Matt. 22:34)
- b) *"They could not take hold of His words."* (Lk. 20:26)
- c) *"No man was able to answer Him."* (Matt. 22:46)
- d) *"They asked no more questions."* (Lk. 20:40; Matt. 22:46)

4. It drew reluctant praise from His critics.

- a) *"Master, thou hast well said..."* (Lk. 20:39)
- b) *"He had answered them well."* (Mk. 12:28)
- c) *"Whence hath this man this wisdom?"* (Matt. 13:54)
- d) *"How knoweth this man letters, having never learned."* (Jn. 7:15)

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

Jesus truly was the "Master" Teacher! Even though He is not here in person to do the teaching, He still teaches through His written Word....and we are still amazed at His ability to get His message across to even the humblest among us. We, as His followers, are commanded to teach, baptize, and continue to teach the new disciples *"all that Jesus taught!"* (Matt. 28:18-20).

## Lesson Seven

## **"THE MINISTRY OF JESUS: His Miracles"**

New messages or teachings usually require some backing in order to be acceptable. How quickly would you accept the message that salvation is only possible through one person—if there was no proof or evidence that would give credence to such a message? I doubt that any thinking person would be willing to accept such. However, if there was sufficient evidences of such, belief would certainly be a possibility. Jesus claims to be the *"way, the truth and the life—no man comes to the Father except through Him."* (Jn. 14:6). Upon what basis do you believe this message? Do you have sufficient backing to show others why you believe such?

The records of Jesus' life state that He performed many miracles (Jn. 20:30-31; Matt. 4:23). Even His enemies admitted as much (Jn. 11:47-48; Matt. 12:24). If Jesus did not perform any miracles:

1. His character and integrity are destroyed.
2. He would be an imposter because he claimed to perform miracles, but didn't.
3. The New Testament is discredited. It repeatedly states that Jesus performed miracles. If He did not, then He is unreliable on all that He teaches.

An honest person cannot claim to accept the teachings of Jesus and then deny His miracles. To do so is inconsistent with what has been recorded.

### **I. The Variety of Jesus' Miracles.**

1. He healed people of diseases. (Matt. 8:1-4; 9:1-6; 9:20-22).
2. He opened blind eyes. (Matt. 9:27-31; 20:30-34; Mk. 8:22-26; Jn. 9)
3. He unstopped deaf ears. (Mk. 7:31-37; Matt. 15:30-31)
4. He unloosed dumb tongues. (Mk. 7:31-37; Matt. 15:30-31)
5. He caused the lame to walk. (Matt. 11:5; 15:30-31)
6. He fed the hungry. (Matt. 14:15-21; 15:32-39)
7. He calmed the storm. (Matt. 8:23-27; Mk. 4:35-41)
8. He cast out demons. (Mk. 1:23-27; 3:10-12)
9. He healed withered hands. (Mk. 3:1-5)
10. He caused those stooped to stand erect. (Lk. 13:11-17)
11. He raised the dead. (Matt. 11:5; Jn. 11:43-44; Lk. 8:49-56; 7:11-16)

Jesus performed miracles publicly, before both friend and foe, and on many occasions. Thousands examined Him and His miracles closely and all, friend and foe alike, admitted that He performed them.

### **II. The Purpose of Christ's Miracles**

1. To prove His Deity.
  - a) His miracles were to convince people that He was the Christ, the Son of God. (Jn. 20:30-31).
  - b) His miracles did convince many people of His Deity. (Jn. 3:23; 3:2; 4:46-54; 6:14; 9:38; 11:47-48; 12:11-19; 20:8)

2. To confirm the Word of God.

- a) Jesus combined miracles with His teaching and preaching in order to convince people that what He said came from God. (Matt. 4:23)
- b) When the Apostles went out preaching, they confirmed the word by miracles. (Mk. 16:20; Heb. 2:2-4).
- c) Why did Jesus' Word need confirming?
  - The New Testament Gospel was not yet fully revealed or written down. It had to be authenticated as true to convince people that it was a Divine message from Heaven.
  - If we lived in Old Testament days, without 1,900 years of Christian teaching and history behind us; if we, like the Jews of Christ's day, were looking for the Messiah to appear; would we be convinced that a certain person was the Messiah if he had no miracles to prove His Deity and confirm His Word?

3. To reveal the Character of Christ.

- a) Even without miracles, Jesus' teachings goes to the heart of the hearer—it makes sense. But the miraculous just adds more believableness to His teachings.
- b) His teachings, along with the miracles, helps us to fully see the compassion, tenderness, concern, love, sympathy, and consideration for human need that was such a great trait of Jesus' life.
- c) In Jesus' teachings, He tells us what He was; but, in His miracles, He shows us what He was.

**CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

- a) When we see Christ cast out demons, we know He can cast the demon of sin out of our lives.
- b) When we see Christ feed the multitudes, we know He can feed our hungry souls with the Bread of life.
- c) When we see Christ open the eyes of the blind, we know He can open our spiritual eyes to the wondrous works of God.
- d) When we see Christ heal the sick, we know He is the Great Physician who can heal all of the ills of the soul.
- e) When we see Christ heal cripples, we know He can cause us, though broken and marred by sin, to be whole again.
- f) When we see Christ cleanse lepers, we know He can cleanse us from sin.
- g) When we see Christ calm the storm, we know He can calm the storms of our lives and speak peace to our souls.
- h) When we see Christ raising the dead, we know He can and will raise us from the grave.

Christ's miracles, to Christians, constitute more than a proof of His Deity and power; they are pledges of what He can do in our lives.

## Lesson Eight

## **"THE MINISTRY OF JESUS: His Sinless Life"**

The Scriptures reveal that Jesus lived a perfect life while on earth! He asked the question of His enemies: *"Which of you convinces me of sin?"* (Jn. 8:46). Christ never confessed a sin, nor asked for pardon. He never shed a tear of repentance nor showed concerned for the salvation of His soul. He exempted Himself from the common faults of humanity. He never would have made such a claim to sinlessness unless He was absolutely sure of it.

This claim to sinlessness was recognized by Jesus' enemies:

1. The Pharisees. For three years they tried to find fault with Jesus. They could find no flaw in His character, no sin in His life. They resorted to lying and perjury to convict and crucify Him.
2. Pilate's wife. She referred to Jesus as *"that righteous man."* (Matt. 27:19).
3. Pilate. He asked and stated three times concerning His life:
  - ◇ *"Why, what evil has He done?"* (Matt. 27:23)
  - ◇ *"I am innocent of the blood of this just person."* (Matt. 27:24)
  - ◇ *"I, having examined Him before you, have found no fault in this man."* (Lk. 23:14)
4. Herod. *"I have found no fault in this Man concerning those things of which you accuse Him; no, neither did Herod."* (Lk. 23:14-15)
5. Judas. *"I have betrayed innocent blood."* (Matt. 27:4)
6. The Centurion.
  - ◇ *"Truly this was the Son of God."* (Matt. 27:54)
  - ◇ *"Certainly this was a righteous man."* (Lk. 23:47)

This claim to sinlessness was recognized by Jesus' Disciples:

1. John the Baptist. *"I need to be baptized by You, and are You coming to me?"* (Matt. 3:14)
2. Peter. *"Who did no sin."* (1 Pet. 2:22)
3. John. *"and in Him is no sin."* (1 Jn. 3:5)
4. Paul. *"He has made Him to be sin...who knew no sin."* (2 Cor. 5:21)
5. Hebrew writer. *"Tempted in all points....yet without sin."* (Heb. 4:15).

### **I. The Necessity of Christ's Sinless Life.**

1. To prove His Deity.
  - a) Divinity is sinless. Had Christ sinned, He would have shown Himself to be only human, not Divine.
  - b) Since Christianity rests on the Divinity of Christ, it stands if He is sinless, and falls if He is not.
2. To atone for sin.
  - a) The Law required an unblemished sacrifice. (Exo. 12:5)
  - b) Christ, in His offering on Calvary, was *"without spot."* (Heb. 9:14)

- ◇ The innocent must suffer for the guilty.
- ◇ Therefore, being innocent, His death atoned for sin.
- c) If Christ had been a sinner:
  - ◇ He would have been under the condemnation of God Himself.
  - ◇ He would not have been an acceptable sacrifice to God. Since sin is offensive to God, He must have a sinless offering in order to be acceptable.
- d) If Christ had not been sinless in His life:
  - ◇ He would have violated the Old Testament types which required an unblemished sacrifice.
  - ◇ He would have violated the Old Testament prophecies which predicted a sinless Savior. (Isa. 53:1-12)
  - ◇ He would have violated the fundamental doctrine of the atonement....a vicarious suffering for sin.
  - ◇ He would have offended God's justice by His guilt, and His Holiness by His defilement.
  - ◇ He would have defeated God's purposes. Instead of saving others, He, Himself would need saving.

### CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Jesus has set the perfect example for men to follow—"***Be ye therefore perfect as Your Heavenly Father is perfect!***" (Matt. 5:48). We need a perfect example to inspire us to high heights. If we had an imperfect example, we could do no better than the one whose life inspires us. We need a perfect example to inspire us to higher heights. In His sinless life, Christ showed that it is possible for us to overcome sin and keep struggling heavenward. (Heb. 4:14-16). As Christians, we must strive to walk in the steps of the sinless Christ. (1 Pet. 1:16)

## Lesson Nine

**"Jesus as Man's Redeemer"**

Why does man need a Redeemer? Can't he redeem himself? Why does he need someone else to be involved in his redemption? Does he have any part to play in his own redemption? These and other important questions are involved in this lesson on Redemption.

What is Redemption? While the word Redemption is closely connected with the idea of Salvation, it is a more specific term—it denotes HOW a person is Saved...by Redemption or the payment of a ransom. God's deliverance of His people from Egyptian Bondage is spoken of as a Redemption (Exo. 6:6; 15:13). The same term is used of Israel's release from Babylonian Captivity (Jer. 31:11; 50:33-34). Redemption from Israel's sins is also mentioned in the Old Testament and quoted in the New. (Ps. 130:8; Isa. 59:20; Rom. 11:26).

Jesus came to be a Redeemer for mankind! The Apostle combines three terms in Rom. 3:24 that enlarges on the concept of redemption: ***"being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*** The redemption price to be paid for man's justification was the shedding of His innocent blood. (Eph. 1:7).

**I. The Announced coming of a Redeemer.**1. Announcement at His birth.

- a) To Joseph. (Matt. 1:21)
- b) Through Zacharias. (Lk. 1:67-74)
- c) Through the Angels. (Lk. 2:10-11)
- d) Through Simeon. (Lk. 2:30)
- e) Through Anna. (Lk. 2:38)

2. Announcement by others:

- a) By John the Baptist. (Jn. 1:29)
- b) By Caiaphas, the High Priest. (Jn. 11:51)

3. Announcement by Jesus Himself:

- a) To Nicodemus. (Jn. 3:16-17)
- b) To the multitude of followers. (Jn. 6:27, 38-40, 51, 54)
- c) To Jewish Leaders. (Jn. 8:34-36; 10:9-10; Matt. 9:12-13)
- d) To people at the raising of Lazarus. (Jn. 11:25)
- e) To people in General. (Jn. 12:32-33)
- f) His 12 Disciples. (Jn. 14:1-4; Matt. 26:28; 18:11; 20:28)
- g) To Pilate. (Jn. 18:37)

**II. Redemption accomplished through the Death of Christ.**

1. Stated by Jesus. (Matt. 20:28; 26:28)
2. Stated by Paul. (Rom. 5:8-9; 3:25; Col. 1:13-14; Eph. 1:7; Gal. 3:13; 4:5; Tit. 2:14)

3. Stated by the Hebrew Writer. (Heb. 9:12-15)
4. Stated by Peter. (1 Pet. 1:18-19; 3:18)
5. Stated by John. (Rev. 1:6; 7:14; 5:9)

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

There is no word that should be more meaningful to Christians than the word "**Redemption.**" It is a continual reminder that our salvation has been purchased at a great and personal cost—because the Lord has given Himself for our sins in order to deliver us from them. But it is also important that we remember that we can only be redeemed by Christ if we are willing to submit to His requirements in our lives. Jesus, Himself, said:

*"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." (Jn. 3:16)*

*"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (Jn. 3:5)*

*"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned." (Mk. 16:15-16)*

*"Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish." (Lk. 13:3)*

Redemption has been made possible by the great sacrifice of Christ, but man must want it and be willing to submit to the Will of Christ in order to receive the benefits of His sacrifice for us.

## Lesson Ten

**"Jesus as God's Prophet to Man"**

A Prophet is one who speaks for or from God to man. He is like a go-between. A Prophet is not one who tells God what to do, but God tells the Prophet what to do and say. The word Prophet is closely tied in with the word "inspiration." God "inspires" or gives the message to the Prophet so he can in turn speak God's message to the people. The Prophet is to speak exactly what he receives—no more or no less. The Bible indicates that God puts His Word into the mouth of the Prophet. (Deut. 18:18; Jer. 1:9; Gal. 1:11-2; 1 Cor. 15:1-4; 1 Thess. 2:13; 4:8).

Christ is pictured as the greatest prophet of all, even above Moses (Deut. 18:15-18). He was Divinely appointed a Prophet (Acts 3:22; 7:37). The following New Testament passages picture Jesus as a Prophet:

1. Matt. 16:14
2. Matt. 21:11
3. Matt. 21:46
4. Luke 7:16
5. Luke 9:8
6. Luke 24:19
7. John 4:19
8. John 6:14
9. John 7:40
10. John 9:17
11. Acts 2:30
12. Acts 3:22

**I. As a Prophet, Christ is God's exclusive Spokesman today!**

1. God now speaks only through Christ. (Heb. 1:1-2)
  - a) In Old Testament times, God spoke through the prophets.
  - b) God now speaks **"by His Son."**
2. As a Prophet, Christ is inspired.
  - a) Old Testament teaches this. (Deut. 18:18-19)
    - ◇ **"words be put in his mouth"** (Deut. 18:18)
    - ◇ **"He shall speak unto them all that I shall command Him."** (Deut. 18:18)
    - ◇ **"He shall speak in my name."** (Deut. 18:19)
  - b) New Testament teaches this. He speaks only God's Word.
    - ◇ **"What he has seen and heard, that he testifies"** (Jn. 3:32).
    - ◇ **"For He whom God hath sent speaks the words of God."** (Jn. 3:34)
    - ◇ **"My teaching is not mine, but His that sent Me."** (Jn. 7:16)
    - ◇ **"I speak....those things which I have heard of Him."** (Jn. 8:26)
    - ◇ **"As My Father has taught Me, I speak these things."** (Jn. 8:38)

- ◇ *"The truth which I have heard of God."* (Jn. 8:40)
- ◇ *"For I have not spoken of Myself; but the Father which sent Me, He gave Me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."* (Jn. 8:49)
- ◇ *"The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself."* (Jn. 14:10)
- ◇ *"The word which you hear is not mine, but the Father's"* (Jn. 14:24)
- ◇ *"For all things that I have heard of My Father, I have made known to you."* (Jn. 15:15)
- ◇ *"For I have given them the words which You gave Me."* (Jn. 17:8)
- ◇ *"I have given them Your word."* (Jn. 17:14)

## II. As God's Prophet today, we are to hear Christ in all things.

### 1. We are to hearken unto Christ.

- a) *"Unto Him shall you hearken."* (Deut. 18:15)
- b) *"This is My beloved Son....hear You Him."* (Matt. 17:5)
- c) *"Him shall you hear in all things, whatsoever He shall say unto you."* (Acts 3:22)

### 2. God condemns those who refuse to hear Christ!

- a) *"Whosoever will not hearken unto My words which he shall speak in My Name, I will require it of him."*(Deut. 18:19)
- b) *"Every soul, which will not hear that Prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."* (Acts 3:23)

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

### 1. To reject Christ is to reject God!

- a) *"He that rejects Me rejects Him that sent Me."* (Lk. 10:16)
- b) *"Whosoever denies the Son, the same does not have the Father."* (1 Jn. 2:23)

### 2. To accept Christ is to accept God!

- a) *"Whosoever shall receive Me receives Him that sent Me."* (Lk. 9:48)
- b) *"No man comes unto the Father except by Me."*
- c) We should hear all that Christ has said on:
  - ◇ How to be saved. (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-49)
  - ◇ How to live the Christian Life. (Matt. 24:13)
  - ◇ How to get to Heaven. (Jn. 14:1-6)

## Lesson Eleven

**"Jesus as Man's Great High Priest"**

In Patriarchal times (before Israel became a Nation under God), priestly functions were fulfilled by heads of families or tribes. (Gen. 8:20; 22:13; 26:25; 33:20). When Israel became a special nation separated off to itself, it had its own priestly arrangements. Aaron was the first High Priest for the Jewish Nation and the descendants of Levi were to serve as Priest among the people. Priests were mediators between God and man and ministered in holy things on man's behalf, especially in atonement. Naturally, Priest were separated unto God. Their consecration to priesthood was a very elaborate piece of ritual (Exo. 29; Lev. 8). They also wore special vestments (Exo. 28). The High Priest's main function was to officiate at the Day of Atonement ceremonies (Lev. 16). He also offered sin offerings (Lev. 4:13-21) and the daily meal offering (Lev. 6:19ff). The ordinary Priest officiated at all sacrifices (Lev. 1-6), declared the unclean clean after examination (Lev. 13-14), and performed other minor duties (Num. 10:10; Lev. 23:24; 25:9). They were supported by the tithes, first fruits, firstlings, and the various sacrifices (Num. 18).

**1. Christ's Qualifications as our High Priest.**

1. He has been Divinely appointed by God.
  - a) Christ did not assume this office. (Heb. 5:5)
  - b) God appointed Christ as Priest. (Heb. 5:5-6; Ps. 119:4)
  - c) He was "**Called (appointed) of God as High Priest.**" (Heb. 5:10)
  - d) God set Christ in as Priest "**with an oath.**" (Heb. 7:20-21)
  
2. He Officiates in Heaven.
  - a) He could not be a Priest while on earth. (Heb. 8:4)
  - b) Jesus has passed into the Heavens. (Heb. 4:14; 7:26; 9:24)
  - c) Our Priest is at God's right hand. (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 8:1)
  
3. He is a Permanent Priest.
  - a) Under the Law, there was a succession of Priests. (Heb. 7:23)
  - b) Christ has a Priesthood with no succession. (Heb. 7:24)
  - c) Christ "**ever lives**" as Priest; doesn't die. (Heb. 7:25)
  - d) Christ is a Priest "**forever.**" (Ps. 110:4; Heb. 5:6; 7:21)
  
4. He is a Compassionate Priest.
  - a) Jewish Priests were to show compassion. (Heb. 5:2-3)
  - b) Christ, by His earthly life, became like man. (Heb. 2:17)
  - c) Christ is a "**merciful and faithful**" Priest. (Heb. 2:17)
  - d) Since He has been tempted, He is able to succor the tempted. (Heb. 2:17)
  - e) Christ is touched with the feeling of our infirmities. (Heb. 4:15)
  
5. He is a Sinless Priest.
  - a) Jewish Priests had sin. (Heb. 5:2-3; 7:27; 9:7)
  - b) Christ is "**without sin.**" (Heb. 4:15)

- c) As Priest, Christ is *"holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners."* (Heb. 7:26)
- d) Christ had no sins for which offerings had to be made. (Heb. 7:27)

## II. Christ's Work as Priest:

### 1. To offer sacrifice for sins.

- a) Jewish Priests offered sacrifice for sins. (Heb. 5:1; 7:27; 8:3)
- b) It was necessary that Christ have an offering to make. (Heb. 8:3)
- c) Christ offered (not the blood of animals, but) Himself.
  - ◇ *"He offered up Himself."* (Heb. 7:27)
  - ◇ *"Christ offered Himself without spot to God."* (Heb. 9:14)
- d) He made but one offering for sins on the Cross.
  - ◇ *"This He did once, when He offered up Himself."* (Heb. 7:27)
  - ◇ Christ made but one sacrifice for sins and did not need, like the Jewish Priests, to offer himself often. (Heb. 9:25-28)
  - ◇ Christ entered the *"Holy place"* but *"once."* (Heb. 9:11-14)
  - ◇ Christ's sacrifice for sin was adequate for all men and for all time. (**Heb. 10:10-14**)

### 2. To make Intercession for Christians.

- a) Christ *"makes intercession for us."* (Rom. 8:34)
- b) Christ appears in God's presence for us. (Heb. 9:24)
- c) Christ ever lives *"to make intercession"* for us. (Heb. 7:25)
- d) Christ *"is able to succor"* us when tempted. (Heb. 2:17)
- e) Christ is touched with our sins and weaknesses. (Heb. 4:15)
- f) Christ's intercession encourages us to pray. (Heb. 4:16)

## CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

When we sin, we have an Advocate in Christ. As our Attorney (Advocate), Christ looks after our interests before the throne of Heaven. When sinful, our only hope of forgiveness lies in going to God through our priest, Jesus Christ. As Priest, Christ knows and understands us; He feels for us and desires to help us at all times. He is constantly pleading for mercy on our behalf. He never tires of making intercession for us before the face of God.

## Lesson Twelve

**"Jesus as King"**

Various terms have contexts in which they have special meanings. Jesus as King emphasizes not only his greatness and power as ruler, but His right of rulership. As a King (Ps. 2:6 Isa. 9:6-7; 11:1-9), He rules for God the Father! There is a three-fold emphasis upon Jesus—He is Prophet, Priest, and King! As in the first two terms, Kingship is also a carry over from the Jewish System; but, Jesus takes the place of all three under this new System called Christianity.

The Scriptures indicate that Jesus was to come and be a King (Ps. 2:6-7; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14; Zech. 6:13). King Herod, who ruled over Palestine, feared Jesus as a rival king and sought His death (Matt. 2:1-3). Enemies of Jesus made light of Jesus' Kingship (Lk. 23:2; Jn. 19:3). Even Pilate spoke of Jesus as being a King. (Jn. 19:12-15, 19). And Jesus affirmed that He was a King! (Jn. 18:37). Jesus came preaching that the kingdom was at hand (about ready to be set up) (Matt. 4:17). He preached the *"gospel of the kingdom."* (Matt. 4:23; 9:35)

**I. The nature of Christ's Kingship.**1. Christ's Kingdom is not material nor political.

- a) *"My kingdom is not of this world."* (Jn. 18:36)
- b) The Jews expected an earthly kingdom, but Christ refused to be crowned in this manner. (Jn. 6:15).
- c) Kingdom is not *"eating and drinking"* (Material), but *"righteousness, and joy, and peace."* (Spiritual). (Rom. 14:17).

2. Christ's Kingdom is Spiritual.

- a) It is called *"the kingdom of heaven."* (Matt. 3:2; 4:17; 10:7). This emphasizes the reign of heaven, not earth.
- b) It is called *"the kingdom of God."* (Mk. 1:15; Matt. 6:33; Lk. 4:43). This emphasizes the reign of God, not man.
- c) Christ came to reign in the hearts and lives of men, not over them in a political and material manner.
- d) Christ's kingdom is His church. (Matt. 16:18-19; Lk. 22:29-30)
- e) Christ is King now. (Rev. 17:14—*"He is King of kings..."*)
- f) When He comes again, Christ will terminate His reign and deliver the kingdom up to God, the Father. (1 Cor. 15:23-27)
- g) Pre-Millennialism, which looks for Christ to establish a material kingdom here on earth is false.

**2. The Demands of Christ's Kingship.**1. We must recognize Christ's absolute Authority.

- a) Christ as *"all authority in heaven and on earth."* (Matt. 28:18)
  - ◇ He is absolute monarch in His kingdom.
  - ◇ He is absolute legislator. No one else makes laws.

- ◇ He alone has the right to command.
- ◇ He has power (Omnipotence) to enforce His demands.
- b) As subjects, we must recognize the Lordship of Christ.
  - ◇ Christ is our "Lord" (Ruler) only as we allow Him to rule in our lives.
  - ◇ He has the right to rule, command, and lead. It is ours to recognize His right to do this.

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS**

When we are "born" into the Kingdom of God, we become the "subjects" of Christ our King. This means that we must, in all things, be in complete submission to Him. Also as His subjects, we must:

1. Promote His glory and honor.
2. Faithfully carry out His orders.
3. Diligently obey all His commands.
4. Continually seek His Will, not ours.
5. Conform our lives to His life.

When we obey the gospel and are thus born again (Jn. 3:5), we come into the kingdom of Christ and He becomes our King, Lord, and Ruler. By faithful Christian living, we recognize Christ as the King of our lives.



