



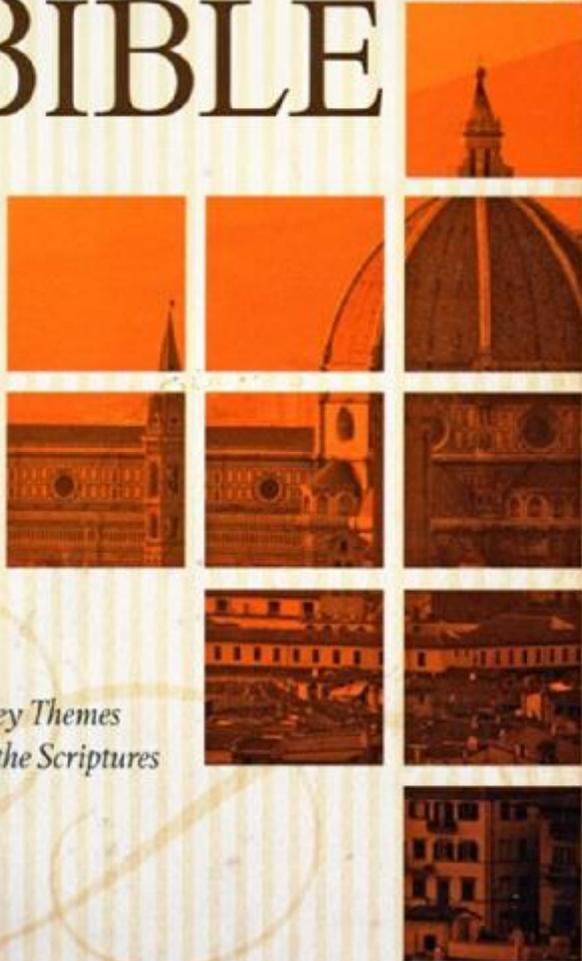
The Great Themes of Scripture

2. The Messiah. Unto Us a Child is Born

**Sunday, October 10, 2010
10 to 10:50 am, in the Parlor
Presenter: David Monyak**

St. John in the Wilderness

MAKING SENSE *of the* BIBLE



*A Study of 10 Key Themes
Traced Through the Scriptures*

H. H. Drake Williams III

Primary Reference

- **Making Sense of the Bible. A Study of 10 Key Themes Traced Through the Scriptures.** H.H. Drake Williams III, 2006. Chapter 4. “The Messiah: Unto Us a Child is Born”

W. EUGENE MARCH



VOLUME 1
**Great Themes
of the Bible**

Secondary Reference

- **Great Themes of the Bible, Volume 1,** W. Eugene March, 2007. Chapter 6 “Messiah”

Great Themes of Scripture

- **October 3:** Covenant. God's Promises are Forever
- **October 10:** The Messiah. Unto Us a Child is Born
- **October 17:** Law. Regulating the Good Life
- **October 24:** Salvation. Amazing Grace!
- **October 31:** The People of God. A Kingdom of Priests and a Holy Nation

Almighty Father, who inspired Saint Peter, first among the apostles, to confess Jesus as Messiah and Son of the living God: Keep your Church steadfast upon the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace we may proclaim the one truth and follow the one Lord, our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Collect for Feast of the Confession of Saint Peter, Book of Common Prayer, p. 238

This Week:

**2: The Messiah. Unto Us
a Child is Born**

The Messiah

This is he whom seers in old time
Chanted of with one accord,
Whom the voices of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now he shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore.

—Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348 to 405+ AD),
Roman poet and a Christian in the Roman province of
Tarraconensis (now Northern Spain)

A classical painting depicting Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a blue robe and a red sash. He is shown from the chest up, holding a large, rectangular stone tablet inscribed with Hebrew text. The background is a dramatic, cloudy sky. The text "The Meaning of Messiah" is overlaid in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font across the center of the image.

The Meaning of Messiah

Meaning of Messiah

Hebrew *mashach*

- English “**Messiah**”
 - derived from Hebrew word *mashach*, means to smear or to pour oil or ointment on something or someone.
 - Greek for *maschach* = *chrio* (to smear, to rub)
- Action being described could be:
 - *Formal*: pouring oil on the head of someone for the purpose of ritually anointing, or
 - *Informal*: simply applying ointment to the body after bathing
- **The Messiah** = the one anointed
 - In Greek *Christos* = the Christ = the Messiah = the one anointed

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- In Old Testament times, formal use of the term *mashach* described the:
 - Setting apart of space or equipment for the worship of God, or
 - The “ordaining,” of human personnel for special service as priests or kings

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- Aaron and his sons were set aside for special service before God at the sanctuary (Exodus 28:40—29:9)
 - Special oil was poured on Aaron's head as an act of consecration (Exodus 30:30; Psalm 133:2)
- Later, the “high priest” was set apart in a special ceremony much like Aaron’s.
 - Leviticus 21:10-15 describes special instructions for **“the high priest, the one among his brothers who has had the anointing oil poured on his head and who has been ordained ...”** (NIV)

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- Later, in the books of Judges, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 and 2 Kings, and Psalms, the main formal use of *mashach* was in reference to a king.
 - The person selected to be king was “anointed” with oil, usually by a prophet.
 - The king – whose authority was completely dependent upon God – was called “the Lord's anointed,” “his anointed,” and “my anointed” (e.g., 1 Samuel 2:10, 2:35; 12:3, 12:5; 24:6, 24:10; Psalm 2:2; 18:50; 132:17).

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- ~1000 B.C. God made a covenant with King David and promised that one of his offspring would occupy the throne “forever” (2 Samuel 7:8-16).
- Each “son of David,” each new king of Judah, was **anointed** (*not crowned!*) as king (1 Kings 1:39).
- Each “son of David” was “adopted” ritually as God's “son” (2 Samuel 7:14; Psalms 2:7; 89:26-27).
 - In this sense, each king in David’s line was understood to be **God’s anointed** or a **messiah**.

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- **Messiah** during this time meant being chosen and installed in obedience to God for the service of God.
 - Even a *foreign* king, the great King Cyrus of Persia, could be said to be God's messiah (see Isaiah 45:1) because Cyrus responded to God's bidding to come to Israel's relief and break the bondage of Babylon.

Meaning of Messiah

Evolution of the Meaning of Messiah

- Over the next few centuries, the monarchy of Judah declined, occupied by kings whose behavior did not seem worthy of God's anointed.
- Then in **597 B.C.** and again in **587 B.C.**, Babylonian armies ravaged the **Southern Kingdom of Judah**, seeming to end the dynasty of King David.

Meaning of Messiah

The Ultimate Hope of God's People

- Some people began to view the promise of God to David that his dynasty would last forever as a promise for a future, ideal king, an obedient **Messiah** who would establish a more Godlike kingdom.
- They found in the scriptures evidence for the promise of a **Messiah** who would be the ultimate hope of God's people.

Meaning of Messiah

The Mother Prophecy Genesis 3:15

- Genesis 3:15: the “Mother Prophecy”, the “the germ of promise which unfolds in the history of redemption”
 - Genesis 3:14-15 (NIV) ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, "Cursed are you above all the livestock and all the wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; **he [the offspring of Eve] will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.**"
- God's promise that the crushing of the enemy will take place through the offspring of Eve was taken as a reference to the coming **Messiah**.

Meaning of Messiah

From the House of David

- In 2 Samuel 7:12-16, God's promise to David that his dynasty would last forever was taken as a promise the **Messiah**, the ultimate hope of God's people, would come from the house of David, a **“throne established forever.”**

Meaning of Messiah

From the House of David

- 2 Samuel 7:12-16 ¹² When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, who will come from your own body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He is the one who will build a house for my Name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be his father, and he will be my son. When he does wrong, I will punish him with the rod of men, with floggings inflicted by men. ¹⁵ But my love will never be taken away from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. ¹⁶ Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.' (NIV)

Meaning of Messiah

Wonderful Counselor ... Prince of Peace

- That the ultimate hope of God's people will be through a **Messiah** was prophesied by many of the Prophets, most explicitly by Isaiah:
 - Isaiah 9:6-7 ⁶ **For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD Almighty will accomplish this. (NIV)**

A painting of Moses, an elderly man with a long white beard, wearing a blue robe and a red sash. He is holding a large, rectangular stone tablet with Hebrew text written on it. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The title 'The Roles of the Messiah Seen in the Old Testament' is overlaid in large, bold, yellow text across the center of the image.

The Roles of the Messiah Seen in the Old Testament

Roles of the Messiah

Three Roles

- The **Messiah**, the ultimate hope of God's people, was seen in Old Testament Scripture to have three roles:
 - **Prophet**
 - **King**
 - **Priest**

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as Prophet

- The promised **prophet** in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 was taken as a reference to the coming Messiah.
 - Setting: the Israelites have wandered in the desert for 40 years, and now the time of Moses' leadership is passing.
- Deuteronomy 18:18 [*The LORD to Moses:*] **I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers; I will put my words in his mouth, and he will tell them everything I command him. (NIV)**
- The Messiah would be a **prophet** like Moses:
 - His communication would be directly with God,
 - he would lead and deliver his people,
 - he would speak God's word authoritatively

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as King

- Two psalms, **Psalm 2** and **Psalm 110**, most clearly speak of the Messiah's reign as a **king**:
 - Psalm 2: ⁷ ... He said to me, "You are my Son; today I have become your Father. ⁸ Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. ⁹ You will rule them with an iron scepter; you will dash them to pieces like pottery." (NIV)
 - Psalm 110:1-2: The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet." ² The LORD will extend your mighty scepter from Zion; you will rule in the midst of your enemies (NIV)

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as King

- The Messiah as **king** can also be seen in the writings of the prophets.
- Isaiah 11 is representative:
 - In Isaiah 11:1-5, Isaiah prophesies a spirit of justice, counsel, and knowledge will rest upon the Messiah as he rules as **king**: **Isaiah 11:1-5**

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as King

- Isaiah 11:1-5 A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. ² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD— ³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; ⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked. ⁵ Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. (NIV)

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as King

- Isaiah 11 is representative:
 - The Messiah's rule as **king** will be powerful and peaceful.
 - Isaiah 11:6-9 **The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. ⁷ The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. ⁸ The infant will play near the hole of the cobra, and the young child put his hand into the viper's nest. ⁹ They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (NIV)**

Roles of the Messiah

Messiah as Priest

- In the book of Zechariah, the Messiah is presented as the ideal **priest**:
 - He will build the temple of the Lord.
 - He will sit and rule as not only priest, but as prophet and king
- Zechariah 6:13: **It is he who will build the temple of the LORD, and he will be clothed with majesty and will sit and rule on his throne. And he will be a priest on his throne. And there will be harmony between the two. (NIV)**

A painting of a man with a long white beard and a blue robe, holding a scroll with Hebrew text. The background is dark and cloudy. The man is looking down at the scroll with a serious expression. The scroll is held in his left hand and is partially unrolled. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew and is written in a cursive style. The man's right hand is raised, holding a book or scroll. The overall scene is dramatic and religious.

Descriptions of the Messiah Seen in the Old Testament

Descriptions of the Messiah

Three Descriptions

- Other descriptions of the Messiah, the ultimate hope of God's people, that were seen in the Old Testament Scriptures include:
 - **Servant**
 - **Son of Man**
 - **a Stone or Cornerstone**

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Servant

- The lengthiest description of the Messiah as **servant** is in Isaiah, most clearly drawn in four passages called the **Servant Songs**:
 - Isaiah 42:1-4
 - Isaiah 49:1-6
 - Isaiah 50:4-9
 - Isaiah 52:13 – 53:12
 - called by Polycarp [69-115 A.D., Bishop of the ancient Greek city of Smyrna, martyred by Rome] the “**golden *passional* of the Old Testament evangelist**,” a prophecy of Jesus’ passion

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Servant

- The Messiah as **servant** will be:
 - Gentle
 - Isaiah 42:3: **A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out (NIV)**
 - The great unifier of Israel and of all the nations:
 - Isaiah 49:6: **It is too small a thing for you to be my servant to restore the tribes of Jacob and bring back those of Israel I have kept. I will also make you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring my salvation to the ends of the earth. (NIV)**

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Servant

- The Messiah as **servant** will:
 - Suffer and die for our transgressions:
 - Isaiah 53:3: **He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. (NIV)**
 - Isaiah 53:5: **... he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. (NIV)**
 - Isaiah 53:7-9: **He was oppressed and afflicted, yet he did not open his mouth; he was led like a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is silent, so he did not open his mouth. (NIV)**

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Servant

- The Messiah as **servant** will:
 - Triumph in the end:
 - Isaiah 52:13: **See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted.**
(NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Servant

- Summary of the **Servant Songs**:
 - The **Messiah** will:
 - be unassuming, humble and gentle,
 - suffer on behalf of his people and go to great extremes for them.
 - but also:
 - The **Messiah** will triumph.
 - God will exalt him and lift up his name,
 - He will unify the Jewish nation and draw Gentiles from the ends of the earth to know him.

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Son of Man

- The term “**son of man**” comes from Daniel 7.
- In Daniel 7, the prophet **Daniel** experiences a vision. He is terrified by four great beasts: a lion, a bear, a leopard, and a ten-horned beast, each representing a different kingdom (Daniel 7:1-8).
- Fear dominates in the vision until the **Ancient of Days**, the **Lord** himself, comes and takes his seat (Daniel 7:9-12):
 - His appearance is awe inspiring —
 - clothing white as snow,
 - his throne aflame, fire pouring forth like a river, the wheels of the throne ablaze
 - thousands upon thousands attend him as he opens a set of books, the Lord of the universe rendering worldwide judgment.

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as Son of Man

- Daniel 7:13-14 ¹³ “In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a **son of man**, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.”
- People of every language worship this “one like a **son of man**,” and his dominion is proclaimed to be everlasting.
 - The extent of his rule expresses his divinity,
 - Yet his depiction as a “**son of man**” suggests his humility as well.

Descriptions of the Messiah

Messiah as a Stone or Cornerstone

- A number of passages in the Old Testament, though relatively few, describe the Messiah as a **stone** or **cornerstone**.
- The Messiah as a **cornerstone** is a sure foundation:
 - Isaiah 28:16 **So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed. (NIV)**
- The Messiah is the **capstone** of the true temple:
 - Psalm 118:22-23 **The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes. (NIV)**



Jesus as the Ultimate Hope of God's People

Jesus as Ultimate Hope

Jesus, the Promised Messiah

- We saw how late in Old Testament times, the Jews, God's chosen people, found evidence in the scriptures of a promise of a **Messiah** who would be the ultimate hope of God's people.
- The New Testament repeatedly presents **Jesus Christ** as the fulfillment of that ultimate hope.

Jesus as Ultimate Hope

In the Gospels

- The opening chapters of some of the Gospels, particularly Luke and John, portray Jesus' birth as the long anticipated event for God's people.
- For example, in Luke:
 - Luke 1:32-33 [Gabriel to Mary]: **He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.**
(NIV)

Jesus as Ultimate Hope

In the Gospels

- For example, in Luke:
 - Luke 2:29-32 [Simeon, the righteous priest, on seeing the infant Jesus brought to the temple:]: **“Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”** (NIV)
- For example, in John:
 - John 1:14: **“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”** (NIV)

Jesus as Ultimate Hope

In the Letters of Paul

- Paul also presents Jesus as the fulfillment of the longings of God's people in multiple places.
- For example:
 - Philippians 3:8: **"I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish [*skubalon*], that I may gain Christ."**
(NIV)
 - Skubalon: rubbish, dung, garbage
 - **Colossians 1:15-20:**

Jesus as Ultimate Hope

In the Letters of Paul

- Colossians 1:15-20 ¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. ¹⁷ He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. ¹⁹ For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross. (NIV)



**Jesus Fulfills the
Prophesied Roles of
the Messiah**

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus, the Promised Messiah

- In the New Testament, Jesus fulfills the **roles** expected of the promised **Messiah**:
 - **Prophet**
 - **Priest**
 - **King**

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Prophet

- The Gospels portray Jesus as a **prophet** by describing:
 - his supernatural insight
 - his pronouncements of doom on some
 - his ability to speak directly the voice of God
- Examples include:
 - Matthew 11:21-24
 - Matthew 23:13-19
 - Mark 2:5, 8
 - Mark 3:10-11
 - Luke 9:47
 - John 2:24-25

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Prophet

- Some of the people who saw Jesus's miracles or who were healed by him, and some disciples called him a **prophet**:
- Examples:
 - Luke 24:19
 - John 4:19
 - John 6:14
 - John 9:17

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Prophet

- John 6:11-15: ¹¹ Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish. ¹² When they had all had enough to eat, he said to his disciples, “Gather the pieces that are left over. Let nothing be wasted.” ¹³ So they gathered them and filled twelve baskets with the pieces of the five barley loaves left over by those who had eaten. ¹⁴ After the people saw the miraculous sign that Jesus did, they began to say, “Surely this is the **Prophet** who is to come into the world.” ¹⁵ Jesus, knowing that they intended to come and make him king by force, withdrew again to a mountain by himself. (NIV)

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Prophet

- Jesus presents himself as a **prophet**:
 - The clearest example is at the outset of his ministry in Nazareth, when Jesus went to the synagogue and was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah to read: Luke 4:18-21

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Prophet

- Luke 4:18-21: ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” ²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, ²¹ and he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” (NIV)

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Priest

- Jesus in his role as **priest** is seen most clearly in the book of Hebrews.
 - Hebrews was written to Jewish believers who were wondering whether to hold on to their Christian faith or revert to Judaism
 - In several places the writer portrays Jesus as a **high priest**.

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Priest

- For example:
 - Jesus is a merciful and faithful **high priest** (Hebrews 2:17)
 - Jesus is a **high priest** who can “**sympathize with our weaknesses**”:
 - Hebrews 4:14-15 ¹⁴ Therefore, since we have a great **high priest** who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵ For we do not have a **high priest** who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are— yet was without sin. (NIV)

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as Priest

- For example:
 - Jesus is a an eternal **high priest**, his office given not by natural descent, but by God himself (Hebrews 6:20 and 7:3)
 - Jesus is superior to any **priest** who has come before (Hebrews 8:6; Hebrews 9:11, 25-27; Hebrews 10:11-14)

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as King

- Jesus as **king** is foreshadowed in the Gospels through the many accounts of his miracles, revealing his power over sickness, blindness, demons, and death.
- The **Transfiguration** reveals his glory as superior even to that of Moses and Elijah.
- **His ride into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday** — which followed the practice of previous kings of having palms laid before them as they entered the city — also points to Jesus as a **king**.

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as King

- Paul tells us Jesus is the one to whom every knee will bow:
 - **Philippians 2:9-11 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (NIV)**

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as King

- In Ephesians 1:21-22, Paul describes Jesus as **“far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, ...”** (NIV)

The Roles of the Messiah

Jesus as King

- Jesus is “**Lord of lords** and **King of kings**”
 - Revelation 17:14 **They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is **Lord of lords** and **King of kings** – and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers. (NIV)**



**Jesus Fits Old
Testament
Descriptions of the
Messiah**

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as the Promised Messiah

- Jesus clearly associated himself with the Old Testament messianic pictures of:
 - the **Servant**
 - the **Cornerstone**,
 - The **Son of Man**.
- New Testament writers also refer to Jesus in these ways.

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Servant

- The book of Acts refers to Jesus as a **servant** four times (Acts 3:13, Acts 3:26, Acts 4:27, Acts 4:30)
- Many New Testament passages associate Jesus with the **Servant Songs** of Isaiah:
 - In Matthew 8:17, Jesus' healing ministry is explained as fulfilling Isaiah 53:4: **This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."** (NIV)
 - Isaiah 53:4a: **Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows ...** (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Servant

- Many New Testament passages associate Jesus with the **Servant Songs** of Isaiah:
 - In Matthew 12:15-21, His withdrawal from the light of public attention is understood in the light of Isaiah 42:1—4, quoted in full:

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Servant

- Matthew 12:15-21 ¹⁵ Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, ¹⁶ warning them not to tell who he was. ¹⁷ This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: ¹⁸ “Here is my servant whom I have chosen, the one I love, in whom I delight; I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations. ¹⁹ He will not quarrel or cry out; no one will hear his voice in the streets. ²⁰ A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out, till he leads justice to victory. ²¹ In his name the nations will put their hope.” (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Servant

- Many New Testament passages associate Jesus with the **Servant Songs** of Isaiah:
 - In Luke 22:37, His death among the lawless is understood in reference to Isaiah 53:12, which is quoted: *[Jesus speaking:]* **It is written: “And he was numbered with the transgressors”;** and I tell you that this must be fulfilled in me. Yes, what is written about me is reaching its fulfillment. (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Servant

- Just before this passage, in Luke 22:25-27, Jesus teaches his disciples that they must be like **one who serves**:
 - ... the greatest among you should be like the youngest, and the one who rules like the **one who serves**. ... But I am among you as **one who serves**. (NIV Luke 26b, 27b)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Cornerstone

- Speaking to the chief priests and the Pharisees in the temple, Jesus quotes **Psalm 118:22-23** in describing himself as the precious **cornerstone** that was rejected by humanity (Matthew 21:42; also Mark 12:10-11; Luke 20:17-18):
 - Matthew 21:42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: ‘The **stone** the builders rejected has become the **capstone**; the Lord has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes’”?
 - Psalm 118:22-24 The **stone** the builders rejected has become the **capstone**; the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Cornerstone

- In Acts 4:11, Peter and John witness about Jesus before the Jewish officials of the Sanhedrin: “**He is ‘the stone you builders rejected, which has become the capstone’**” (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Cornerstone

- In their letters, Paul (Romans 9:33) and Peter (1 Peter 2:6-8) both cite **Isaiah 28:16**, referring to Jesus as the precious **cornerstone**:
 - Isaiah 28:16 **So this is what the Sovereign LORD says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a tested stone, a precious cornerstone for a sure foundation; the one who trusts will never be dismayed.” (NIV)**
 - 1 Peter 2:6-8

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Cornerstone

- 1 Peter 2:6-8: ⁶ For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious **cornerstone**, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” ⁷ Now to you who believe, this **stone** is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The **stone** the builders rejected has become the **capstone**,” ⁸ and, “A **stone** that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message— which is also what they were destined for. (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- The New Testament refers to Jesus as the **Son of Man** more than eighty times.
 - The title most often used in the Gospels to refer to Jesus
- Jesus uses “**Son of Man**” in reference to his authority to forgive sins:
 - Mark 2:10 **But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins....”** He said to the paralytic, ... (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Jesus uses **“Son of Man”** in reference to his lordship of the Sabbath:
 - Mark 2:27-28 Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. So the **Son of Man** is Lord even of the Sabbath.” (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Jesus uses **“Son of Man”** in reference to his impending suffering, death, and resurrection:
 - Mark 8:31: **He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and after three days rise again. (NIV)**
 - Mark 9:9
 - Mark 9:12
 - Mark 9:31
 - Mark 10:33
 - Mark 10:45

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Jesus uses **“Son of Man”** in reference to future coming in glory, clearly reminiscent of the prophet Daniel’s vision of **“one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven”** (NIV Daniel 7:13):
 - Mark 8:38*
 - Mark 13:26*
 - Mark 14:62*
 - John 3:14
 - John 8:28
 - John 12:34

*similar passages in Matthew, Luke

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Mark 14:61-64: ⁶¹ But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?” ⁶² “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the **Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.” ⁶³ The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. ⁶⁴ “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?” They all condemned him as worthy of death. (NIV)

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Luke in Acts 7 records Stephen, the first Christian martyr, declaring that Jesus is the **Son of Man**.
 - Immediately before his stoning, Stephen looks into heaven and sees the glory of God, and “**the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God**” (v. 56).
- In Revelation, the apostle John sees someone “like a **son of man**”:
 - Revelation 1:12-18

Descriptions of the Messiah

Jesus as Son of Man

- Revelation 1:12-18 ¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone “like a **son of man**,” dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. (NIV)



Summary

Summary

- Initially the word “**messiah**” = “**anointed one**” referred to anyone chosen and installed in obedience to God for the service of God, typically priests, later kings.
- Late in the Old Testament Period, when the dynasty of King David seemed to have ended, people viewed the promise of God to David that his dynasty would last forever as a promise for a future, ideal king, an obedient **Messiah** who would establish a more Godlike kingdom.

Summary

- They found evidence in the scriptures that this **Messiah**:
 - Was promised as the **ultimate hope for God's people**,
 - Would fulfill three roles:
 - **Prophet**
 - **King**
 - **Priest**
 - Could be described as:
 - **Servant**
 - **Son of Man**
 - a **Cornerstone**

Summary

- The New Testament reveals Jesus is this **Promised Messiah**:
 - Jesus is the **ultimate hope for God's people**,
 - Jesus fulfills the three roles of the Messiah:
 - **Prophet**
 - **King**
 - **Priest**
 - Jesus is described as:
 - **Servant**
 - **Son of Man**
 - a **Cornerstone**
- **Jesus is the Messiah = Jesus is the Christ** is what we proclaim when we say: "Jesus Christ"



Next Time (October 17):
3: Law. Regulating the
Good Life