

# Proving that Jesus is the Christ

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Acts 9:22 But Saul increased all the more in strength, and confounded the Jews who dwelt in Damascus, [by] proving that this Jesus is the Christ.

We read similar language in Acts 17:2-3, 18:4-5 and 18:28.

Can we do this today? How can we do this today? The general approach is this: we connect the dots between the Hebrew Scriptures—Law, Prophets, and Writings—and we show how Jesus matches up with so many of those writings from centuries before. We use the Torah, the Nebiim, and Kethubim (TaNaK) along with the historical records of the New Testament (the gospels) and the writings about those events in the New Testament epistles to show that Jesus is one and the same with the Christ. Jesus Himself did this with two disciples on the road to Emmaus, and with his 11 disciples later on the day of His resurrection (Luke 24:27, 32, 45).

## What or Who is the Christ?

The word *Christ* is another word for *anointed* or *Messiah*. All three mean the same thing. This is a very important concept in Hebrew religious thought because it refers to a person specially chosen by God to be Savior, Lord, and revealer of God to humankind. This was an individual, a person who was planned to be set apart by God as priest, king, and prophet. There are many references in the Hebrew Bible (Old Testament) to this person. Some passages use other descriptive words or phrases like *servant* or *holy one* or *Son of God*.

## Connecting Dots: The Birth of Messiah

Micah 5:2      But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,  
                  *Though* you are little among the thousands of Judah,  
                  *Yet* out of you shall come forth to Me  
                  The One to be Ruler in Israel,  
                  Whose goings forth *are* from of old,  
                  From everlasting.”

Matthew 2:4-6    <sup>4</sup> And when he [Herod] had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

<sup>5</sup> So they said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for thus it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
Are not the least among the rulers of Judah;  
For out of you shall come a Ruler  
Who will shepherd My people Israel.’ ”

The wise men journeyed and indeed they discovered a baby in Bethlehem.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

Matthew 1:20-23 But while he thought about these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take to you Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. 21 And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins.” 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 *“Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,”* which is translated, “God with us.”

## Connecting Dots: The Identity of Messiah

John 4:25-26 The woman said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When He comes, He will tell us all things.” 26 Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am He.”

John 1:40-41 Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ).

John 20:30-31 And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

All of these presuppose a corporate prior knowledge of a future person who would be God’s anointed one. This expectation arose from texts like this:

Deuteronomy 18:15 The LORD your God will raise up for you a **Prophet** like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear.

1 Samuel 2:35 Then I will raise up for Myself a faithful priest who shall do according to what is in My heart and in My mind. I will build him a sure house, and he shall walk before My **anointed** forever.

Speaking of Jerusalem, God said through David:

Psalms 132:17 There I will make the **horn of David** grow;  
I will prepare a lamp for **My Anointed**.

Psalms 110:4 The LORD has sworn  
And will not relent,  
“You *are* a priest forever  
According to the order of Melchizedek.”

## Connecting Dots: The Death of the Messiah

Daniel 9:26 And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself.<sup>1</sup>

Daniel 9:25 specifies more about the timing of the Messiah’s coming. Scholars have offered careful calculations starting from the time of Nehemiah forward to the time when Jesus came to Jerusalem for the last week of his life.

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<sup>1</sup> All Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.

Isaiah 53:8 He was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of My people He was stricken.

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him;  
He has put *Him* to grief.  
When You make His soul an offering for sin,  
He shall see *His* seed, He shall prolong *His* days.

Matthew 27:50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit.

There is nothing remarkable about people dying, because everyone does so eventually. But the testimony of the New Testament texts is overwhelming that this man Jesus lived a sinless life and died a very strange death with a very deep spiritual meaning.

1 Cor. 15:3-4 Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.

## Connecting Dots: The Kingly Glory of Messiah

1 Peter 1:9-10—Receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of *your* souls.<sup>10</sup> Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace *that would come* to you,<sup>11</sup> searching what, or what manner of time, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the **glories that would follow.**

Matthew 25:31 When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory.<sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before Him.

Psalms 2:6-9  
6 “Yet I have set My King  
On My holy hill of Zion.”  
7 “I will declare the decree:  
The LORD has said to Me,  
‘You are My Son,  
Today I have begotten You.  
8 Ask of Me, and I will give You  
The nations for Your inheritance,  
And the ends of the earth for Your possession.  
9 You shall break them with a rod of iron;  
You shall dash them to pieces like a potter’s vessel.’ ”

Revelation 12:5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne.

In Revelation 2, Jesus is speaking, and says:

Rev. 2:26-27 And he who overcomes, and keeps My works until the end, to him I will give power over the nations—  
<sup>27</sup> *‘He shall rule them with a rod of iron;  
They shall be dashed to pieces like the potter’s vessels’*

**Isaiah 9:6** For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given;  
And the **government will be upon His shoulder.**  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

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