

Jesus the Messiah

John 4:25-26 (New American Standard Bible)

²⁵ *The woman *said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”* ²⁶ *Jesus *said to her, “I am He, the One speaking to you.”*

Introduction

This morning, I invite you once again to ponder Jesus’ identity: He is the Messiah. He is the Christ. The Messiah and the Christ are the same word in two different languages: Messiah is Hebrew and Christos is Greek, from which English ‘Christ’ originated. Both mean the same: the Anointed One.

Content

One day Jesus was on the road with His disciples. He was traveling from Judea in the South to Galilee in the North on foot. Between Judea and Galilee, there was a middle region called Samaria and they had to go through it. Around noon time, they arrived at one town called Sychar. Of course, it was a hot day and close to lunch time. So, disciples went into the town to get some food while Jesus was resting by the well.

A woman came out to draw water at the well. Mind you that no one comes out at noon to draw water. Most folks would come out either early in the morning or at evening when the sun is not hot. But she chose that time. Either she was extremely shy or avoided the crowd for some reason. Jesus initiated the conversation saying, *“Give Me a drink.”* *The Samaritan woman replied, “Why You, a Jew, are asking me for a drink? Don’t you know we don’t talk to each other?”* Indeed, Jews and Samaritans didn’t interact with each other in those days. So,

¹⁰ *Jesus replied to her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who is saying to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”* ¹¹ *She *said to Him, “Sir, You have no bucket and the well is deep; where then do You get this living water?”* ¹² *You are not greater than our father Jacob, are You, who gave us the well and drank of it himself, and his sons and his cattle?”* ¹³ *Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again; ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never be thirsty; but the water that I will give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up to eternal life.”*

¹⁵ The woman *said to Him, “Sir, give me this water so that I will not be thirsty, nor come all the way here to draw water.” ¹⁶ He *said to her, “Go, call your husband and come here.” ¹⁷ The woman answered and said to Him, “I have no husband.” Jesus *said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband’; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this which you have said is true.” ¹⁹ The woman *said to Him, “Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. ²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and yet you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one must worship.” ²¹ Jesus *said to her, “Believe Me, woman, that a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, because salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But a time is coming, and even now has arrived, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ **The woman *said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”** ²⁶ **Jesus *said to her, “I am He, the One speaking to you.”**

To the woman, Jesus said, I am the Messiah whom you await. This morning, the same Jesus says to us the same thing: I am the Messiah, the One whom you long for and wait for to straighten up all the mess in the world.

The Meaning of Messiah

For your information, I looked up the word Messiah, Anointed One, in the Scriptures. Altogether, the word ‘anoint’ appears 148 times (129 in the Old Testament /19 in the New Testament).

The Hebrew Root Is ‘mashah’ (משח) which means ‘to smear or anoint.’ 1. To smear/paint with color (paint---Jeremiah 22:14). **Shield** with oil (Isaiah 21:5, 2 Samuel 1:21). **Unleavened cakes** with oil (Exodus 29:2). 2. Anoint, as consecration, solemn **setting apart to an office, always by the use of oil poured on the head: as a prophet** (1 Kings 19:16---Elisha by Elijah). Isaiah 61:1. **Of a king** (Judges 9:8, Hosea 8:3, 7:3, 1 Samuel 16:3, 12, 13, 2 Samuel 19:11) 3. Anoint, **consecrate to religious service.** a. **Aaronic priests**, Exodus 28:41, 29:7,... b. **sacred things** Genesis 31:13, tabernacle and its sacred vessels Exodus 29:36, 30:26). **Altar** (Numbers 7:10, 84, 88) (BDB, p. 602).

‘Mashiah’ (משיח) is a noun that means ‘anointed one.’ 1. **King** of Israel anointed by divine command: 2 S. 14,16. 2. Davidic dynasty with Messianic ideals attached. Ps. 2:2, 18:51, 2 S. 22:51, Ps. 89:39,52, Is. 32:10, 2 Ch. 6:42, Ps 132:17, 1 S. 2:10, 35. 3. **High priest** of Israel. Lv. 4:3,5,16, Ps. 84:10. 4. Cyrus as commissioned by the LORD. Is. 45:1 5. **Messianic prince**, Dn. 9:25 6. **Patriarchs**, regarded as anointed kings. Ps 105:15, 1 Ch. 16:22 (BDB, p. 603)

The Greek counterpart ‘Christ’ appears 525 times all in the New Testament.

Who Was Called ‘Anointed’ in the Bible? Although folks in the biblical times would anoint themselves with oil, not everyone who used oil on them was called or acknowledged as “anointed one.” Only three public figures that were called ‘anointed’: prophet, priest, and king. All of them were set apart to an office by God and publicly anointed either by priests or prophets for their mission.

Anointed Prophet: Elisha by Elijah (1 Kings 19:16)

Anointed Priests: Aaron and his sons (Exodus 28:41, 29:6-8)

Anointed Kings: King David (Psalm 28:8), King Saul (1 Samuel 24:1-6), King Solomon (2 Chronicles 6:42).

The Prophecy of the ‘Messiah’---the Anointed One

Many priests, prophets, and kings were anointed by God; each one reflected part of the Messiah’s role. However, none of them was the Messiah Himself who would come and restore the glory of Davidic kingdom as people understood and longed for. Only the Messiah could do that. Here’s the mystery: God’s vision and plan for the expected Messiah was different from that of people. People might have expected a triumphant king who would ride on the white stallion with all the spoils of war following. But God’s plan was the opposite: the meek and humble king who would be cut off by capital punishment (Daniel 9:26). Such mystery was prophesied by Prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 53:3-6):

*“**3 He was despised and abandoned by men, A man of great pain and familiar with sickness; And like one from whom people hide their faces, He was despised, and we had no regard for Him. ⁴ However, it was our sicknesses that He Himself bore, And our pains that He carried; Yet we ourselves assumed that He had been afflicted, Struck down by God, and humiliated. ⁵ But He was pierced for our offenses, He was crushed for our wrongdoings; The punishment for our well-being was laid upon Him, And by His wounds we are healed. ⁶ All of us, like sheep, have gone astray, Each of us has turned to his own way; But the Lord has caused the wrongdoing of us all To fall on Him.”***

Christ the Messiah Fits and Fulfills All Three Functions

In Jesus the Messiah, Isaiah’s prophecy was fulfilled. In Jesus, the Lord God fulfilled a three-fold mission for Messiah: prophet, high priest, and king. First, Jesus was God’s Prophet who brought God’s **truth** to set us free (John 8:32). Secondly, He is the High Priest who brings the **forgiveness** for God’s people. Thirdly, He is the King of all kings and Lord of lords who will bring **peace** to the world. Let’s check out each role of the Messiah one by one.

He is **the Prophet** who Brings God's Truth to Us.

Jesus was the Word Himself (John 1:1). He was the truth Himself (John 14:6). He came to set us free with truth (John 8:32). He came as Light and witnessed to the truth of God to the world. However, the world failed to recognize Him (John 1:10). He was the Prophet of God who was not honored by His own people (Matthew 13:57).

Christ is **the High Priest**: He was designated as High Priest not by human will but by God's will. Not according to human order but to the divine order--the order of Melchizedek, fatherless and motherless (Hebrews 5:10). He is a High Priest forever without dying (Hebrews 6:20). He is the Priest of the Most High God (Hebrews 7:1). He was anointed to fulfill God's will for Him--the High Priest who stands between God and man as mediator. Through His own sacrifice, He brought down the wall between sinful humanity and holy God: *"For He Himself is our peace, who made both groups into one and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall,"* (Ephesians 2:14).

The **Perfect** High Priest

Unlike human high priests who were imperfect, Christ was made perfect forever (Hebrews 7:28). He is *"holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens;"* (Hebrews 7:26).

The **Merciful and Faithful** High Priest

He sympathizes with our struggles and challenges. He understands our temptations and weakness. *"... in all things He had to be made like His brothers so that He might become a merciful and faithful **high priest** in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Hebrews 2:17). *"For we do not have a **high priest** who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things just as we are, yet without sin."* (Hebrews 4:14)

Our High Priest **Enters the Holy of Holies with His Own Blood for Atonement**

In the time of Jesus, the human high priest entered the Holy of Holies once a year on the day of atonement (Yom Kippur) with the blood of bull for his own atonement and the blood of goat for people's sins (Leviticus 16, Hebrews 9:7, 25, 13:11). The human high priest would repeat this atonement of sins every year. But Christ didn't have to repeat. Once and for all time, He offered up Himself for our sins: *"who has no daily need, like those high priests, to offer up sacrifices, first for His own sins and then for the sins of the people, because **He did this once for all time when He offered up Himself**"* (Hebrews 7:27).

A Better Ministry--High Priest **in Heaven as Intercessor**

After He completed the atonement, Christ our High priest has passed through the heavens and has taken His seat at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens (Hebrews 4:14, 8:1, 9:11). He is seated at the right hand of God right now and makes intercession for those who come to God through Him (Ephesians 1:20): “*Therefore He is also able to save forever those who come to God through Him, since He **always lives to make intercession for them***” (Hebrews 7:25). Finally,

He Is the King of All Kings.

When Christ returns, this time He will come to us, not as the Savior but as the Judge of all creations: He will come with those who are with Him, the called and chosen and faithful believers: “*These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them because **He is Lord of lords and King of kings**; and those who are with Him are the called and chosen and faithful.*” (Revelation 17:14). He is the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords: “*And on His robe and on His thigh He has a name written: “KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS”* (Revelation 19:16). Messiah is coming!

Conclusion

Jesus is the Messiah the Anointed One of God. 2,000 years ago, when He first came, He didn't come as a political Messiah, although that was what people had hoped for. Instead, He came as the High Priest to enter the Holy of Holies with His own blood for our atonement. He saved us from sin and death through His own death on the cross. That was a mystery of God.

He fulfilled another role of Messiah: God's Prophet who would guide us in truth. The same Messiah will come again. This time, He will come as the King of Kings and the Lord of lords to whom all knees will bow down: “*so that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,***” (Philippians 2:10). He will come again in due time. Amen.