



Week 20: Understanding the New Testament: Jesus the Messiah

MV: *"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:15-16)*

God has been working His plan since before Day 1.

ASK: What did God promise His people?

- He would send His Messiah
- He would establish a new covenant

How could they be God's people if they could not worship in the temple and offer sacrifices for sin?

Rome ruled now but Herod had built a new temple and allowed them to worship and offer sacrifices

Pharisees believed radical obedience to the law would cause the Messiah to come and remove Rome from power.

Sadducees forged an alliance with Rome so they could gain status and control the temple

Zealots hoped for a revolutionary Messiah who would come as a warrior

Essenes thought them all so corrupt that they retreated to the desert so they could please God in isolation

There is a link between the OT and NT

"See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. 6 He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction." (Mal 4:5-6 NIV)

"He will bring back many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. 17 And he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the parents to their children and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous--to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." (Luke 1:16-17)

ASK: Who was this Elijah? John the Baptist

- He was to point the way to Jesus
- The entire NT points to Jesus

"But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" 16 Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (Matt 16:15-16)

Christ is the Greek translation for the Hebrew word for Messiah

Jesus is the culmination of all human history.

"But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship." (Gal 4:4-5)

"But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:31)

Jesus was a man but He was more:

- He was doing the impossible
- He was a real man with a genealogy (Matt & Luke)
 - Matthew traces it back to Abraham
 - Luke traces it back to Adam
- * He got hungry, tired, and wept
- * He suffered excruciating death on the cross; real blood; real pain

But Jesus was FULLY man and FULLY God

John begins Jesus' genealogy with His pre-existence

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made." (John 1:1-3)

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through 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." (Col 1:15-20)

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit

He calmed the storms. (Matt 8:26)

He forgave sins. (Mark 2:5)

He had knowledge of the future. (Luke 21)

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)

Jesus is the only person to ever live in sinless obedience to the Father

He is unique...one and only...only begotten (positional, not biological)

Fully human and Fully divine

All the religious leaders rejected Jesus as Messiah

"He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."" (Luke 24:44)

WOW!!! The Law of Moses, the Prophets, and Psalms ALL speak of Jesus

When the OT writers wrote about the hope God was preparing for His people, they were talking about Jesus

When God covenanted with Abraham, he was talking about Jesus

When God covenanted with Moses, it would be fulfilled in Jesus

When God gave them the tent and temple he was pointing to when He would come in the person of Jesus

When God covenanted with David that a descendent would be on the throne forever, He was talking about Jesus

John the Baptist and Jesus both preached "The Kingdom of God has arrived"

Many Jews expected it. The Spirit's power in Jesus' life proved God's rule was present:

- He cast out demons;
- He healed the sick;
- He commanded nature;
- He raised the dead.

Jesus came to re-establish the rule of God over His creation

But there is still more to come.

"We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." (2 Cor 5:20)

ASK: Why is it so hard for Jews to believe in Jesus as Messiah?

He was executed as a criminal

Prophecies about Messiah talked about a victorious King; it was said He would save people from sins.

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." (Matt 1:21)

"The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29)

In order for God's people to be in right relationship, sin had to be atoned for.

Jesus was the true Passover Lamb

"Get rid of the old yeast, so that you may be a new unleavened batch--as you really are. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed." (1 Cor 5:7)

Jesus sacrificed Himself so we could live

"In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." (Luke 22:20)

Jesus was the coming King in the line of David

Thru His death he established a new covenant that would heal and re-create people

Many claimed to be the Messiah, but only Jesus rose from the dead.

The Resurrection is crucial to our faith and fulfillment of God's saving purposes

Without the Resurrection, we have NO hope.

Understanding the story is NOT enough

To know ABOUT something is NOT enough

Jesus calls people to Himself—to live and follow Him and it costs us everything!