

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (18) **Messiah the Prince (1)**

One of the most wonderful titles of the Lord Jesus Christ in the sacred Scriptures, is found in the book of Daniel, where He is referred to as, *"Messiah the Prince"* (Dan. 9:25). This most majestic title incorporates two divine offices, or features, of His blessed person and work. The term, *"Messiah"*, refers to His station as Redeemer, while the phrase, *"the Prince"*, reminds us of His royalty.

The divine title, *"Messiah"*, or, *Messias*", means, *"The Anointed One"*, and is found four times in the Word of God; twice in the Old Testament and twice in the New Testament. In the book of Daniel, the divine title is used in reference to the person of the Lord Jesus, prophesying His coming into the world and His cutting off, or death (Dan. 9:25-26).

In the Gospel of John, Andrew approached his brother, Peter, and said, *"we have found the Messias"* (Jn. 1:41). John tells us that the name, *"Messias"*, is interpreted as, *"Christ"*. The woman at the well in Samaria, said to the Lord Jesus, not realizing who He was, *"I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things"* (Jn. 4:25). The name, or title, *"Christ"*, also means, *"The Anointed One"*, or, *"The Chosen One"*.

Throughout the sacred Scriptures, we see ample evidence that the Lord Jesus Christ is the Anointed One of God. In the town of Nazareth, where He had been brought up, He walked into the synagogue and read from the Scriptures a prophecy concerning Himself from the prophecy of Isaiah, *"the Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me ... to preach the acceptable year of the Lord"* (Luke 4:16:21; Isa. 61:1-3).

Isaiah also wrote concerning the Lord Jesus, *"Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles"* (Isa. 42:1).

Those that crucified the Lord Jesus did not recognize or acknowledge Him, as the Messiah, the chosen, anointed one. Luke records, *"And the people stood beholding. And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God"* (Luke 23:35). They anointed Him with their filthy spittle to show their contempt and disdain for God's beloved Son (Isa. 50:6; Matt, 27:30; Mk. 15:19; Luke 18:32).

Against the background then of such scorn and disgust, how wonderfully touching and moving to read the words of Peter concerning Him, *"To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious"* (1st Pet. 2:4).

The early disciples, facing opposition and persecution for the sake of the Lord Jesus, prayed, *"for of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together"* (Acts 4:27).

Peter explained To Cornelius and his household the publishing of the Word of God concerning the person of the Lord Jesus and the message of the Gospel, *"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him"* (Acts 10:38). Mary of Bethany, in her deep affection and devotion, took a pound of ointment of spikenard, very costly, and anointed the feet of Jesus (Jn. 12:3).

Thus, we see that the Lord Jesus was anointed prior to His public ministry and anointed prior to His death. His life and teaching between these two occasions, manifested clearly to all, that He was indeed the Messiah, the chosen of God.

Quoting from Psalm 145, which describes the majesty of the King and the glory of His kingdom, the writer of the epistle to the Hebrews wrote, *"Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows"* (Heb. 1:9).

The term, *"Messiah"*, also refers to *"The Deliverer"*. The name, *"The Deliverer"*, is another divine title of the Lord Jesus. The apostle Paul used this expression in reference to the future restoration of Israel, *"there shall come out of Sion, the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob"* (Rom. 11:26). It is interesting to note that Paul quoted from the prophecy of Isaiah (59:20-21), where the word, *"Redeemer"* is used, rather than *"Deliverer"*, to describe the Lord Jesus Christ.

The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews described the reason why the Lord Jesus took upon Himself humanity in wondrous incarnation, *"Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage"* (Heb. 2:14-15).

The apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the church at Colossae, concerning what God the Father has done thorough the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus, *"Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son"* (Col. 1:13). He wrote in the book of Galatians regarding the atoning death of the Lord Jesus on the cross, *"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father"* (Gal. 1:4).

While the nation of Israel waits for their *"Deliverer, Messiah"*, we too, who have been redeemed by His precious blood, wait for our *"Deliverer"*, who soon shall come to rapture us home to be forever with Himself. Paul wrote how we should be occupied until that blessed moment, *"to serve the living and the true God, And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"* (1st Thess. 1:10).

*Messiah, Christ by God appointed,
From heaven to earth come down;
By the Holy Ghost anointed,
Ascribe Him glory and renown.*

*Ever tender in His teaching,
Tidings of good news He brought;
Fallen man in mercy reaching,
Lost and helpless those He sought.*

*Death destroyed through act of dying,
When for sin He shed His blood;
Guilty sinners sanctifying,
Reconciling men to God.*

*All redeemed wait His returning,
Christ, Deliverer and King;
In anticipation yearning,
Ransomed souls His praises sing.*
Bernie Payne