

His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful (7) **Christ of God**

In the divine title, the Lord Jesus Christ, the name, “*Christ*”, means, “*the anointed one*”. Anointing in the Scriptures was a means of choosing and consecrating, or setting apart for God’s divine purposes. This was clearly understood by those who referred to the Lord Jesus using this title. When the Lord asked His disciples the question, “*whom say ye that I am*”? Peter responded, “*the Christ of God*” (Luke 9:20).

It also indicated, in relation to the Lord Jesus, that He was the Son of God. Matthew records Peter’s response to the Lord’s question, in terms of who His disciples thought He was, as, “*thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God*” (Matt. 16:13-16).

The religious rulers of Israel also understood that the title, “*Christ*”, referred to one who was the chosen of God. While the Lord Jesus was on the cross, they said of Him, “*He saved others; let him save himself, if he be Christ, the chosen of God*” (Luke 22:35). They understood, as well, that Christ was the Son of God. While they gathered around Him and falsely accused Him, the high priest asked Him, “*Art thou the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?*” (Mk. 14:61).

As “*Christ*”, the chosen of God, the Lord Jesus is also the Messiah. While the name, “*Messiah*”, is another divine title, it relates to His title as “*Christ, the anointed of God*”. In describing how Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, met the Lord Jesus, John informs us that the name, “*Messias*” (*Messiah*), is interpreted as, “*Christ*” (Jn. 1:35-41). The woman whom the Lord Jesus met at the well in Sychar, remarked to Him, “*I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things*” (Jn. 4:25).

In Luke’s account of the birth of Christ, he tells us of a devout man named Simeon, who waited for the consolation of Israel. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. Simeon took the child Jesus in his arms and blessed God (Luke 2:25-28).

The people of Israel expected that Christ would come and deliver them from the bondage of Roman oppression. They didn’t understand that He came to deliver them from the bondage of sin, by virtue of His own sacrificial, atoning death upon the cross.

Paul reminded the believers in Corinth that the message of the Gospel declared that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures (1st Cor. 15:3). The Old Testament Scriptures abound with the truth of God’s plan of redemption through the sacrifice of Christ. In the book of Romans, Paul emphasized the fact that when we were ungodly, when we were sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:6,8). Paul was determined to preach Christ crucified (1st Cor. 1:23; 2:2).

When the people of Samaria heard the Lord Jesus speak, they believed that He was Christ, the Saviour of the world (Jn. 4:42). This is indeed, the glorious purpose for which He came into this world. Peter wrote, “*For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God*” (1st Pet. 3:18).

As the “*Christ*”, the Lord Jesus is redeemer and reconciler. He is also the first to rise from the dead. As Paul spoke before King Agrippa, he informed him that he was a witness of this truth. He said, “*Christ should suffer, and that he should be the first that should rise from the dead and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles*” (Acts 26:23). He declared emphatically to the saints at Corinth, “*Now is Christ risen from the dead*” (1st Cor. 15:20).

Peter told the people of Israel, that the Jesus whom they had crucified, was raised from the dead, exalted to the throne of heaven and made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:30-36)

Christ is not only the anointed redeemer; He is the appointed ruler. God has chosen Christ to rule over the nations of the world. In the book of the Revelation, John describes a scene in which great voices announce, *“The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever”* (Rev. 11:15). In chapter 12 of the book of the Revelation a loud voice proclaims, *“Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ”* (Rev. 12:10).

*He, divinely nominated,
By eternal, sovereign will;
To His God was consecrated,
Sacred Scriptures to fulfill.*

*By the will of God selected,
In the past eternity;
In Him, every grace perfected,
Mighty Christ of God, is He.*

*All the Godhead in Him dwelling,
In God’s purposes ordained;
Pure devotion, all compelling,
By the will of God constrained.*

*Unto God a sinless offering,
For the sins of men He died;
Finished now His holy suffering,
By His blood we’re sanctified.*

*Death and hell have been defeated,
Publish loud the joyful word;
In the throne of glory seated,
Is the Sovereign, Christ, the Lord.*

*Joy we in the wondrous story,
Loud His praises now we sing;
Soon to come in regal glory,
Christ the Lord, Messiah, King.*

Bernie Payne