

Resource:

S. Lewis Johnson. <https://sljinstitute.net/christology-in-general/the-christ-the-anointed-messiah/>

God told the nation of Israel to expect and anticipate a special person. This person would be an Israelite. He would be used of God to provide deliverance for Israel. He would be used of God to be a ruler of other nations. He would be used of God to bring a peaceful kingdom for the nation of Israel. This person is what the Old Testament anticipation and expectation is all about. This person would be called the anointed one. He is known as the LORD's anointed (Ps. 2:2). The earlier kings of Israel foreshadowed the one to come. The prophets foreshadowed the one to come. The priests foreshadowed the one to come, and what we find in the New Testament is that Jesus of Nazareth is the fulfillment of the anticipated, anointed one to come.

What we will learn tonight is this:

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST IS THE MESSIAH/CHRIST/ANOINTED ONE THAT WAS ANTICIPATED AND PREDICTED IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. JESUS CAME AND FULFILLED THE ROLE OF MESSIAH OF ISRAEL.

You may ask a person if Jesus is the Messiah and that person will say yes, but what if you ask that person, "what does the word Messiah mean?"

Tonight, I would like to give us a basic understanding of the subject. I want to take us through this subject by asking and answering 7 questions.

Question #1 - What does the word Messiah mean?

The word "Messiah" means "anointed one." This word, "Messiah," is a Hebrew word. When we use it in English, we use it in a transliterated sense. That means that we don't translate the definition of the word in Hebrew and explain it in English, we take the Hebrew word and pronounce it in an English way. In Hebrew, it may be pronounced "Mashiyach," but in English we pronounce it "Messiah." So when we say it in English, we aren't defining it. That is why many people don't know what it means, but if we were to actually translate the word instead of transliterate the word, the word would be "anointed one."

The word "Messiah" in Hebrew is the same word as "Christ" in Greek. In English, we do the same thing with this word as in Hebrew. We transliterate it. The two words have the same meaning. We pronounce "Christ" as "Christ" in English, but in Greek, the word would be pronounced "Christos." The definition is the same - anointed one.

Question #2 - What does "anointed one" mean?

To anoint means to rub, to smear, to pour, or to apply. It is specifically and most often used in connection with applying oil to a person's skin or hair. That is what the term literally means. And in the Old Testament, and for the nation of Israel, this practice of applying oil to a person had a special symbolic meaning attached to it. It signified a deeper reality.

The idea of the "anointed one" refers to a specific individual who has been selected by God. I'll talk more on that later.

Question #3 - Who were the individuals in the Old Testament that were anointed with oil?

Who were the individuals in the Old Testament that God called to a particular office, and in being called to that office, were anointed with oil to show that he was being called?

There were three groups of individuals that were anointed in the Old Testament.

- (Group #1) The Prophets. **1 Kings 19:16** - Elijah, the prophet, anointed Elisha to be prophet.
- (Group #2) The Priests. **Exodus 29:5-9** - Moses, the prophet, anointed Aaron to be a priest.
- (Group #3) The Kings. **1 Samuel 16:12-13** - Samuel, the prophet, anointed David to be king.

The three offices of the Old Testament that called for anointing an individual with oil were the office of prophet, priest, and king. These are all offices that God Himself designed and instituted for the Nation of Israel. These individuals were anointed ones. They were "messiahs." They all pointed to The Messiah, but they themselves were also messiahs, because they were anointed of God. Each of these roles actually pointed to the coming anointed one, because the Old Testament teaches us that the Messiah would be a prophet, a priest, and a king. We will study that in coming weeks.

Question #4 - What did these individuals get anointed with and what did it represent?

These individuals were anointed with oil, and it represented The Holy Spirit (1 Sam. 16:13). In the Bible, there are many different symbols that represent the third person of the Trinity, the Holy Spirit.

A dove is a symbol of Him (Matt. 3:16).

Water is a symbol of Him (John 7:37-39).

Fire and wind are symbols of Him (Acts 2:31; John 3:3-8).

Wine is a symbol of Him (Eph. 5:18).

And Oil is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. **1 Samuel 16:13**

When the prophets, the priests, and the kings were anointed with oil, it was a physical picture of an invisible spiritual reality. It pictured the work of the Holy Spirit in that individual's life and office. The Holy Spirit would be his source of wisdom, authority, and dignity for performing his role in his office.

Question #5 - If each of these offices pointed to the coming Messiah who would be anointed, how does the Old Testament develop its teaching about the Messiah?

"You do not find in the Old Testament any clear beginning of the teaching concerning the Messiah - that specific term - and see that developing as you do with many other doctrines of the Old Testament. What you really see in the Old Testament is a number of different lines of evidence which have to do with different Messianic figures which finally reach their climax in a belief among the Jewish people of the coming of the Messiah after the Old Testament has reached its conclusion." - S. Lewis Johnson

Luke 3:15 - When John the Baptist came on the scene, the Jewish people were expecting the Messiah and were wondering if John was actually the Messiah.

Even though there is no clear beginning of the teaching in the Old Testament about the Messiah, the development of the Messiah came in two significant ways.

(Way #1) Messianic Figures.

There are many individuals who typified, or pictured, or foreshadowed the Messiah to come. For example, Adam was a picture or type of Christ. Joseph's life was a picture of the life of Christ. Moses' life pictured Christ. David's life typified Christ.

We also see phrases that are pictures, or figures, that pointed to the Messiah to come. For example, the Son of Man is a phrase used in Daniel 7 that pointed to Christ. The Servant of Jehovah in the later part of the book of Isaiah pictured the Messiah to come.

(Way #2 that we see the development of the Messiah) Direct Prophetic Statements.

I will give you just one example for now, and then I will expand on this in a later question.

Psalms 2:2 - We learn that there is an anointed one of God that is greater than David because this one is called the Son of God (**2:7**), while David was only called the servant of God (**2 Samuel 7:8**).

Question #6 - Is there a specific Biblical explanation of the call and work of the Messiah?

Isaiah 45:1 tells us an explanation of the call and work of one anointed by God.

In Isaiah 45, we have an unbelieving king called a messiah. He is called God's anointed, and there are 5 features about this king - Cyrus - that give us insight about the call and the work of the ultimate Messiah.

(Feature #1) He is the man of God's choice. God specifically chose to use him. **Isaiah 41:25**

- (Feature #2) He is appointed to accomplish a redemptive purpose towards the people of God. **Isaiah 45:11-13**
- (Feature #3) He is given dominion over nations. **Isaiah 45:1-3**
- (Feature #4) He is to accomplish judgment over the enemies of God. **Isaiah 47**
- (Feature #5) Yahweh Himself is the one working through Him. **Isaiah 45:2-5**

What we have in this account is God appointing a godless king to come judge the nations that have come up against Israel. God calls Cyrus His chosen, anointed king, and He will use Cyrus to do what God wills. Other than the fact that Cyrus was a godless king, we find everything that he did as God's instrument to ultimately be true of Jesus.

Question #7 - Did Jesus of Nazareth properly fit this role of Messiah?

Let me give you three reasons why Jesus did properly fit this role of Messiah.

- (Reason #1) Jesus was anointed by God the Father with the Holy Spirit at His baptism. **Matthew 3:14-17; Luke 3:21-22; Psalm 2:7; Isaiah 42:1; Acts 10:38**

- (Reason #2) Jesus Himself filled all three anointed Old Testament offices.

Jesus displayed that He was a Prophet when He gave new revelation. **Matthew 24:24-26**
Jesus was declared in the book of Hebrews to be a Priest. **Hebrews 5:6**
Jesus was declared in the Bible to be a King at His birth. **Matthew 2:1-2**

- (Reason #3) Jesus fulfilled the specific prophecies of the Messiah.

It was said of the Messiah that He would come and do God's will in **Psalm 40:6-8**. The New Testament affirms that Jesus fulfilled that Psalm in **Hebrews 10:5-9**.

The Messiah was to do miracles according to **Isaiah 42:7**. Jesus performed many sign miracles during his earthly ministry (**John 9**).

It was said that the Messiah would be called the Son of God in **Psalm 2:7**. Jesus was called the Son of God by Peter in **Matthew 16:16** and Jesus confirmed that Peter was speaking truth.

Our Conclusion:

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Messiah/Christ/Anointed One that was anticipated and predicted in the Old Testament. Jesus came and fulfilled the role of Messiah of Israel.