

Introduction: Lesson One

Have you ever longed to walk, talk, and just be with Jesus? Would you like to see Him do miracles, hear Him teach, and know His heart? Would you like to know what Jesus – not Paul or Peter – taught Himself, about God the Father, the Holy Spirit, sin, the Christian life, salvation, eternal life, and the future? That is what this study is all about. It is about Jesus! It is about His life and His heart!

This is the start of a study that will weave together all four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will see Jesus in ways we never could by reading just one of the gospels or by reading them one at a time. In this study we will look at topics such as The Pre-existent Christ, The Prophetic Christ, The Christ of Obscurity, The Ministering Christ, The Suffering Saviour, The Risen Saviour and The Glorified Saviour.

I. The Pre-Existent Christ

1. Eternally the Same – Hebrews 13:8
2. Has no Beginning – Hebrews 7:3
3. His activities are eternal – Micah 5:2
4. He existed before the creation of the world – John 1:1; 17:5; 2 Peter 2:20
5. He existed before Abraham – John 8:58

II. The Prophetic Christ

How was Christ pictured in the Old Testament? We know it foretells His coming, but there is a lot more than that. We need to realize; Jesus is the Supreme Subject of the entire Bible. Many of the references contained in the Old Testament were never understood by the people of that time.

Studying the life of Christ is not just the four Gospels, it really is a study of the Bible itself as a whole.

1. Genesis 3:15 – The Seed Plot – ***“And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.”*** According to Romans 16:20 – The bruising of the Serpents head is still yet to Come.
 - a. Who is the enmity between? It is between thee, the serpent and the woman.
 - b. Notice Satan has seed, who is Satan’s seed? Judas Iscariot? (John 6:70-71; 17:12), Cain who was said to be of the wicked one (1 John 3:12). Antichrist would be another, the dragon and the false prophet are all of Satan’s seed. So, Satan has seed!
 - c. The Woman – Who is her seed? Today we know that the woman’s seed is Jesus Christ.
 - d. Notice Satan’s seed is going to bruise the heel of the woman’s seed, this would be Christ’s death on the cross. The nails were driven through Christ’s heel.

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- e. Next, the woman's seed is going to bruise Satan's head; Question, has this happened yet? Look at Romans 16:20. Satan will have head damage, but it is still yet future. A couple of good cross references for this are Psalm 110:5-6; Habakkuk 3:13). When does Satan's head get damaged, probably after the Battle of Armageddon when Satan is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10).
2. Genesis 22:18 – *“And in thy seed shall all the earth be blessed;....”*
3. Genesis 49:10 – *“The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, now a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be.”*
4. Deuteronomy 18:15, 18 – This *“Prophet”* is non other than Jesus Christ. (Acts 3:20-23).
5. Psalm 2 – Second Advent.
6. Psalm 16:10 – Compare to Acts 2:27. As a man, Jesus Christ had a human body, a human soul, and a human spirit. At his death, His spirit went back to the Father (Luke 23:46); His body went into the grave (the tomb of Joseph of Arimathea, Luke 23:51-55); and His soul went straight down into the center of the earth through Hell and came out leading the *“captivity captive”* (Ephesians 4:8-10).
7. Psalm 68:18
8. Psalm 69:21 – Fulfilled John 19:28-29.
9. Psalm 110:1 – This verse is quoted six times in the New Testament (Matthew 22:44; Mark12:36; Luke 20:42-43; Acts 2:33-34; Hebrews 1:13, 10:12-13).
10. Psalm 118:22 – This verse is quoted five times in the New Testament (Matthew 21:42; Mark 12:10; Luke 20:17; Acts 4:11; 1 Peter 2:7). *“The stone”* is the crushing stone of Daniel 2:34, which takes place at the Second Advent. Yet at the First Advent, that stone is a *“stumbling stone”* for the Nation of Israel (Isaiah 8:13-14; Matthew 21:44; Romans 9:32-33).
11. Psalm 132:11
12. Isaiah 2:4 – *“And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”* Speaking of the Millennium – Micah 4:1-2; Isaiah 12:6, 26:9, 42:4. 37:20).

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13. Isaiah 7:14 – Notice how Matthew 1:23 defines the Hebrew word for “*Virgin*.” Many Bible Versions change the word “*virgin*” to young maiden. A young maiden is not necessarily a virgin. If Jesus was born of anything else but a virgin, He was a farce.
14. Isaiah 9:6 – According to the Koran, this is the greatest blasphemy in the Bible: believing that Jesus Christ is “*God...manifest in the flesh*” (! Timothy 3:16) makes you a polytheist. But according to “*the Holy Scriptures*” (Romans 1:2), the “*child*” who “*is born*” is the “*Son of man*” born to Mary (Matthew 1:20-33) who was the promised the earthly throne of David (Isiah 9:7) by Gabriel (Luke 1:30-34). At the same time, the “*son*” who “*is given*” is the Son of God (John 3:16), and as such, He is ascribed the titles of Deity.
15. Isaiah 11:1
16. Isaiah 28:16, 18 – Tribulation period (Revelation 6:8).
17. Isaiah 42:1
18. Isaiah 53 – The Suffering Servant
19. Isaiah 59:16
20. Isaiah 61:1
21. Isaiah 63:1
22. Jeremiah 23:5; Daniel 9:25
23. Micah 5:2 – Obviously this verse is a prophetic reference to Christ’s birth in Bethlehem (Matthew 2:1) and was well known to the Pharisees of Christ’s day (John 7:42), though they misquote it in Matthew 2:6. Notice that the verse also identifies Messiah as God (“*from everlasting*” cf. Psalm 41:13).
24. Haggai 2:7
25. Zechariah 3:8 – There are six occurrences of this “*Branch*” in the Old Testament, and no Jewish Rabbi can identify who He is because they have rejected the New Testament revelation. Four of the references match one of the themes of each of the four Gospel accounts of Christ. Jeremiah 23:5 presents Jesus Christ as the “*King*” (Matthew); Zechariah 6:12 presents Him as a man (Luke); and Isaiah 4:2 connects Him to God (John). Zechariah 3:8 calls Him God’s “*servant*,” which is the theme of the Gospel of Mark.
26. Zechariah 6:12 – Second Advent (Ezekiel 40-46).

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27. Zechariah 9:9-10 – These verses are devastating to all Amillennialists and Post - millennialists, for the passage gives both Advents together. Verse 9 was fulfilled during the **“Triumphal Entry”** of Christ at the First Advent (Matthew 21:4-5; John 12:14-15), but verse 10 won’t be fulfilled until the Second Advent (Hosea 2:18). Many try to spiritualize verse 10 to make it take place in A.D. 30, but it didn’t happen spiritually or physically then.
28. Zechariah 11:12 cf. Mark 13:19.
29. Zechariah 12:10 – Day of the Lord (Second Advent) Revelation 1:7.
30. Zechariah 13:7 – First Advent (Matthew 26:31).
31. Malachi 3:1 – The verse contains both Advents, note the two messengers. The first is John the Baptist at the First Advent (Mark 1:1-4); the second is the Lord Jesus Christ at the Second Advent (Haggai 2:9). Every corrupt **“Bible”** on the market attacks the integrity of Scripture by attributing Malachi’s quotation in Mark 1:2 to Isaiah alone.

The King James Version, being much more honest and sensible than the new **“Versions”** Says, **“Prophets”** (plural), indicating two authors: Malachi (Mark 1:2) and Isaiah (Mark 1:3 cf. Isaiah 40:3) When the Bible revisers hit the quotation of the verse in Mark 1:3, they pretended that Malachi had nothing to do with the quotation of Mark 1:2-3 to Isaiah.

Moreover, the corrupt **“Versions”** attack the Deity of Christ in the quote of Malachi in Mark 1:2. Notice the phrase **“before me,”** meaning that the **“messenger”** will **“prepare the way”** before **“the Lord”** (Jehovah). Now go to Mark 1:2 and observe that the quotation says **“before thee.”**

Before moving on to the next section something else needs to be discovered. It is the importance of Jesus name. When you look at the name of Christ it should be noted that Jesus has two names. He has the name “Jesus” which is like any other human name. That Name Jesus links our Lord to the ordinary human race as coming through the “chosen people.”

But Jesus also has the name “Christ” which is entirely different. It is interesting as you define the name Christ it means: “The Anointed One” and it also means “The Appointed One.” Look at Matthew 16:15-17 and compare it with Matthew 16:20, now it doesn’t say a whole lot until you compare it with Luke 4:16-21.

What was just said in Luke is that Jesus is the Christ and He was anointed. Christ is Jesus title, and what is being said here is that this man Jesus, was appointed for a specific task or service. The next question might be, what was the task. Turn to John 1:40-41.

Notice in John 1:40-41, the term “the Christ” which means the “Messiah.” Now look at John 4:25, we see the same thing the only difference is that it is a woman and she says, “I know that the Messiah cometh....”

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So, the Anointed One who is also the Appointed One; because the Messiah was appointed; the Messiah was the Appointed King and the Deliverer of the Jews who would once and for all free them from bondage and make them a tremendously great nation, ruling over the whole world. So Jesus of Nazareth, the man who was also the Messiah, the Christ, or the Anointed One was promised to the Jews way back in the Time of Abraham.

There are many names in scripture for Jesus Christ, such as: Wonderful, Counselor, The Prince of Peace. But there is one name that stands out in Isaiah 7:14. This name is ***“Immanuel”*** Which means, “God is with us.” What is the importance of this name? It is simply this, the Jews were looking for the Anointed One also known as the appointed one, and to them Christ with us.

Now, interestingly, if you turn back to Revelation 22:21 you see Jesus Christ has one more Title. This is the final Crowning of the Anointed One, who is the Appointed One as the Lord Jesus Christ. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords in Revelation.

III. Important Questions that need answered.

- Why did God have to appoint a Messiah?
- Why was it necessary to have a Christ?
- What was really the purpose of it all?
- Why was Christ really necessary?

Until you answer these questions, you really aren't going to get the full purpose and reason for Jesus coming to the earth. Look back at Genesis 2:15-17, ***“And the LORD God took man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”***

Pretty simple, man was to dress the garden, he could eat of every tree, just don't eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Now look at Genesis 3:1, what does it say in the first sentence? ***“Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made.”*** Question, is this a snake? Can you imagine, any woman walking up to a snake? Probably not. So, is this a snake? Look at Revelation 20:2. The Serpent could be a snake, but in Revelation it says he is the devil. Now taking Genesis 3:1 and breaking it down further we not only see that what ever form the serpent was in, it made Eve flutter her eyes at it and so on. So, as we read further in Genesis 3:1 it says, ***“And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden.”***

Note, Genesis 3:1 contains the very first question in the Bible and it is not a positive question. Satan is questioning God's Word.

Note next Genesis 3:2-3, ***“And the woman said unto the serpent, we may freely eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:”*** (Note she leaves off ***“freely.”***) ***“³But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”*** So not only did she subtract from the Word of God, but she added to the Word of God. This is the crime of every modern Bible Translator. Notice how she changed it though, God did not say, ***“Lest ye die”*** He said, ***“thou shalt surely die.”***

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One Lie begets another lie, the Devil one ups Eve with another lie, verse 4, ***“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:”*** (Once again a bold faced lie!) ***“⁵For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”***

There is a truth in what Satan is saying here, but it has a twist to it. Remember Satan is very cunning. Genesis 3:6, ***“And the Woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired”*** Note you see three things here:

1. The tree was good for food – In other words its good for the belly.
2. It is pleasant to the eyes.
3. A tree to be desired to make one wise - that is for the mind and the will.

What happens next is the final straw, ***“...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also to unto her husband with her; and he did eat.”*** Note Adam was with her, he is the head of the household, he should have known better. Adam was obviously present for the whole conversation with the Serpent and what happens next is the reason for The Saviour, Messiah, the Anointed One. The next few verses cause a hereditary sin problem for all of mankind (Genesis 3:7-21).

Now not only is mankind punished but also the animal kingdom. Note in Genesis 3:21 you see for the first time a picture of the shedding of blood and it was God who made these coats of skins for Adam and Eve – therefore some animal had to die for man’s covering.

Verse 22, ***“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us”*** (you see that little word ***“us,”*** it is a reference to the Trinity; otherwise it would be singular ***“me”***). ***“to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life”*** (not only was there a tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but there is another tree, called the tree of life. What is the danger of this tree). ***“Lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever:”*** (Which would be terrible because he would live forever in a sinful state).

Verses 23-24, ***“Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. ²⁴So he drove out the man: and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.”*** What a terrible calamity we have just read about! As the result of Adam’s disobedience, his Sin; man and God were separated. Adam and Eve are driven out of the Garden, and they are homeless, distanced from the creator, they were taken from the very presence of God.

It wasn’t just Adam and Eve who were affected, it was the human race as a whole that was affected. Now scientifically, if you were to have been able to take a sample of their tissue, you would discover probably that their genes and chromosomes would probably have been permanently malformed and deformed. There was a change, a permanent change within Adam himself.

According to Romans 5:12 we see that this was a hereditary thing that affected every man, woman and child forever, ***“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”*** Therefore, as a result of Adam’s disobedience sin has

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infected us all, whether we acknowledge it or not. Some may say this is not fair, why do I have to suffer for one man's disobedience? I didn't eat of the tree!

It may not be fair, but God is already one step ahead of each of us in this thinking. God sent someone else who will make it all right again. We can be changed right back to the point of man in the Garden before sin entered into it. But it comes with a cost! It is going to cost Jesus Christ His life. Not only is it unfair to the human race, but, it is unfair to God's Son as well, and He does it willingly for you.

Romans 5:12, 15-21, ***“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”*** Verses 15-16, ***“But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one (that's Adam) many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.”***¹⁷ ***And not as it was by one that sinned, so is the gift: for the judgment was by one to condemnation, but the free gift is of many offences unto justification.***

Verses 17-21, ***“For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)***¹⁸ ***Therefore as by the offence of one (that's Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life.”***¹⁹ ***For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.”***²⁰ ***Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:”***²¹ ***That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord”*** (2 Corinthians 5:21).

Now, that gives us a little insight into what happened when man sinned, the changes that were made, and how the whole calamity was changed through one act by Jesus Christ. What started in the Garden with the fall, was reversed by Jesus Christ. Not only were the genes and chromosomes affected; so was man's soul and spirit as well.

The changes were so catastrophic, that unless we understand them, we will never appreciate just how daunting the work of the Lord on the cross was.

As we move forward in our study in the life of Christ, we will see that Adam was made in the image of God, and this is key. The Bible has a lot to say, but is absolutely essential that we understand it. We will discover through Adam's disobedience not only was mankind affected, but plants, animals, and the whole creation.

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