



The Gospels contain descriptions of personal encounters people had with Jesus as the Christ. No, “Christ” is not Jesus’ last name, it is, however, a title which means “messiah” or “anointed one.” The Jewish people of the Ancient Near East were looking for the Messiah. Many claimed to be the Messiah, but were put to death never to be heard from again. One, Jesus Christ of Nazareth, was reportedly put to death and rose three days later. Did he really rise from the dead? Is the record reliable? Can we encounter Jesus today?

**Explore these questions and more through the Encounters with JESUS Summer Series.**

- **The Significance of Jesus as the CHRIST :**

The disciples saw Jesus do many other miraculous signs in addition to the ones recorded in this book. 31 But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah (the Christ, the Anointed One), the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life by the power of his name.

**John 20:30&31 NLT**

*Messiah (Christ) Defined:*

Christ was not originally a name but a title derived from the Greek word *christos*, which translates the Hebrew term *meshiah* (Messiah), meaning “the anointed one.” This title indicates that Jesus' followers believed him to be the anointed son of King David, whom some Jews expected to restore the fortunes of Israel.

- **His Transcendence**

1 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. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

**John 1:1-5 NIV**

- **His Immanence**

14 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 NIV**

- **His Goodness**

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made him known.

**John 1:15-18 NIV**

“People almost invariably arrive at their beliefs not on the basis of proof but on the basis of what they find attractive.” — **Blaise Pascal**

- **Our Choice**

**12** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— **13** children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband’s will, but born of God.

**John 1:12&13 NIV**