

**“Tell Me the Story of Jesus” #3
What were Jesus’ claims, #2**

Intro: Last week we noted that John’s method and purpose was to lead his readers to a definite conclusion about who Jesus was:

but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:31)

But again tonight we raise the question, “what made John reach these conclusions about Jesus?” I submit that just as John believed that Jesus was “the Word who was God” because Jesus claimed to be God, so John believed that Jesus was the Christ because Jesus claimed to be the Christ! Let’s consider tonight the second part of our lesson, “What were Jesus’ claims?”

The OT Prophets said that the Christ or the Messiah was coming!

Throughout the OT God had used anointing to designate leaders of His choice including priests and kings. Those chosen could be called “God’s anointed”. But throughout God’s OT revelation, we see the ongoing development of the concept of a single great “anointed one”.

Moses spoke of the Christ as a prophet.

I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. (Deuteronomy 18:18)

David spoke of the Christ as a king.

Thy throne, O God, is forever and ever; a scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated wickedness; therefore God, Thy God, has anointed Thee with the oil of joy above Thy fellows. (Psalm 45:6-7)

Micah spoke of the Christ as a shepherd.

But as for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you One will go forth for Me to be ruler in Israel. His goings forth are from long ago, from the days of eternity. Therefore, He will give them up until the time when she who is in labor has borne a child. Then the remainder of His brethren will return to the sons of Israel. And He will arise and shepherd His flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord His God. And they will remain, because at that time He will be great to the ends of the earth. (Micah 5:2-4)

Zechariah spoke of the Christ as mediator or priest.

Then say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch, for He will branch out from where He is; and He will build the temple of the Lord. Yes, it is He who will build the temple of the Lord, and He who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His throne. Thus, He will be a priest on His throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.”’ (Zechariah 6:12-13)

The people of Israel were still living in great expectation for the fulfillment of these prophetic promises! They were not always certain as to whether they were fulfilled in one person or more than one; but clearly they believed that they hadn't been fulfilled!

*The woman *said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us." (John 4:25)*

Jesus claimed to be the Christ of the OT

He identified with Moses' promise of a prophet

I have many things to speak and to judge concerning you, but He who sent Me is true; and the things which I heard from Him, these I speak to the world." (John 8:26)

Jesus' identified with David's promise of a king

Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." Pilate therefore said to Him, "So You are a king?" Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." (John 18:36-37)

Jesus identified with Micah's promise of a shepherd

I am the good shepherd; and I know My own, and My own know Me, even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life for the sheep. (John 10:14-15)

Jesus identified with Zechariah's promise of a mediator or priest

*Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. (John 14:6)*

Not only did Jesus claim to fulfill all of the roles of the Christ, He explicitly revealed himself to be the Christ.

Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven." (Mark 14:61-62)

That confession was to seal his death!

Conclusion: So, in view of Jesus' claim it is clear why John stated his purpose so clearly: ***"These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ!"*** We could, of course, make the same argument concerning this claim that we made concerning Jesus' claims to be God. Either Jesus is Lord, liar, or lunatic. But perhaps it might also be helpful not only to make a faith application, but to also make a practical application.

Do we demonstrate by our lives that we really believe Jesus is our Messiah?

As our Prophet...to whom we are to listen as God's spokesman and obey?

As our King...to whom we grant absolute authority and rule in our lives?

As our Shepherd...in whom we place our complete trust and find our greatest source of comfort?

As our Priest...through whom we approach our Heavenly Father in prayer and through whose sacrifice we have confidence to enter heaven?

Unless we allow Jesus to be all these things in our lives, can we really say that we believe Him to be the Christ, the Messiah, God's anointed one? (Mark Copeland)