

Top Ten Reasons to believe Jesus Is The Christ

What do you think when you hear someone say “Jesus Christ” – are they cursing? Is Jesus Christ just Jesus’ full name like Jesus’ parents were named Joseph and Mary Christ? Why does Jesus’ name have the title Christ attached to it? What does it mean?

This lesson offers you ten reasons to believe Jesus is the only person in the entire history of the world who has the credentials to call Himself “the Christ”

Christ is a title not a name. It comes from the Latin *Christus*, from Greek *Khristos*, and ultimately from the Hebrew *māšīaḥ* ‘Messiah.’ The title Christ means the Anointed One or the Chosen One or Messiah.

So when we say, “Jesus Christ,” we are actually saying, “Jesus, the anointed one” or “Jesus, the chosen one” or “Jesus, the messiah.”

What does it mean to be the anointed one or the messiah? To answer that we have to look back thousands of years into the Old Testament. God creates perfectly and Adam and Eve live in the garden of Eden with no evil, no death, no mistrust.

The serpent, however, appears and deceives Adam and Eve. The serpent lies to them by telling them that God lied to them. They won’t die if they eat the fruit. In fact, they’ll become like God if they partake. They disobey God – they eat - they get kicked out of the garden – sin and death and evil enter the world.

But God’s not just going to let His perfect creation be permanently ruined by sin, evil and death. So God starts making promises. He speaks through His prophets. God starts making predictions.

He says he’s sending someone – a Christ or Messiah or Chosen One or Anointed One. The Christ will be from the line of Abraham ...

Genesis 26:4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed

Years later God says the line of Judah will produce a ruler :

Genesis 49:10 The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet, until tribute comes to him; and to him shall be the obedience of the peoples.

God is sending someone. And how will we know who it is? God gives us qualifications so that we will recognize the Christ when He comes. He’ll be a descendant of Abraham. He’ll be a ruler through the bloodline of Judah.

Years later God says this anointed one who is coming will be the legal heir to the throne of King David and this anointed one will be God himself:

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. **7** Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

From here things get pretty specific

The Messiah or the Christ will be born in Bethlehem:

Micah 5:2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days.

He’ll be born of a virgin:

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

He'll present Himself by riding a donkey into Jerusalem:

Zechariah 9:9 Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He'll suffer and be tortured to death (also see Ps. 22):

Isaiah 53:3 He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. **4** Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

In His death He will be punished for the sins of the world

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed. **6** All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

He'll be laid in a rich man's tomb

Isaiah 53:10 Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him; he has put him to grief; when his soul makes an offering for guilt, he shall see his offspring; he shall prolong his days; the will of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.

This Christ or Anointed One will rise from the dead

Psalms 16:10 For you will not abandon my soul to Sheol, or let your holy one see corruption.

Let's summarize – God promises and predicts His Christ or His Messiah is coming to earth for the express purpose of restoring people to Himself.

The Christ will have these credentials

- A descendant of Abraham
- He'll be a ruler from the tribe of Judah
- From the line of David with legal right to the throne
- The Christ will be born in Bethlehem
- He'll be born of a virgin
- He'll ride a donkey into Jerusalem
- He'll be tortured and die
- In His death He will be punished for the sins of the world
- He'll be laid in a rich man's tomb
- He'll rise from the dead

Can you think of any person in history that meets all these criteria?

That's right ... Jesus is the only person in the history of the world that fulfills every prediction. Jesus is the Christ! No other person in history has ever even come close to fulfilling all the Old Testament predictions about the Christ. But Jesus fulfills every prediction ... only Jesus.

Study Questions:

1) Match the Old Testament credential of the Christ with the appropriate New Testament passage

A descendant of Abraham	Luke 2:4
He'll be a ruler from the tribe of Judah	Matthew 26:28
From the line of David with legal right to the throne	Luke 3:31
The Christ will be born in Bethlehem	Matthew 1:1
He'll be born of a virgin	Luke 24:1-12
He'll ride a donkey into Jerusalem	Luke 23:50-53
He'll be tortured and die	Matthew 1:3
In His death He will be punished for the sins of the world	Matthew 1:22-23
He'll be laid in a rich man's tomb	Matthew 21:1-5
He'll rise from the dead	Matthew 27

2) If Jesus is the Christ, the following is/are true

- a. He is God.
- b. In His death, He received the punishment my sin deserves.
- c. Jesus will rule His kingdom eternally.
- d. Jesus will save me from the wrath of God if I repent and believe.
- e. All of the above

3) What verse describes the coming Christ as God

- a. Genesis 26:4
- b. Genesis 43:10
- c. Micah 5:2
- d. Isaiah 7:14
- e. Isaiah 9:6

4) In your own words, explain how you know Jesus is the Christ. How is your life different from knowing this?

5) Why did God send the Christ?

- a. To reconcile all who will believe to Himself
- b. To sacrifice the Christ as the Lamb of God
- c. To show His love for the world
- d. To ultimately defeat evil
- e. All of the above