

Chapter Eight

Studies in the Epistle of Paul to the Romans

Jesus Christ Our Lord

“¹ Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called *to be* an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, ² (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) ³ Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; . . .” (Romans 1:1-3).

The prophecies regarding the coming of Messiah are very detailed. We looked at many of these prophecies in Chapter Six. They all concern various aspects of the ministry of the eternal Son of God revealed in His full Name used by Paul in verse three. These prophecies are concerning “Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Jesus is His personal Name revealing the purpose of His incarnation.

“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21).

Jesus is from the Greek word *Iesous* (ee-ay-sooce') and is the Greek form of the Hebrew Jehoshua. It means *Jehovah is salvation*. Jesus came to be the Savior of all mankind.

Christ is from the Greek word *Christos* (khris-tos') and is the Greek form of the Hebrew Messiah (*mashiyach*; maw-shee'-akh). This title reveals Jesus as the Anointed One. As the Anointed One, Jesus is the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies regarding His coming to fulfill the Law for us and propitiate God. The title Christ relates to the anointing of Jesus as Prophet, Priest and King.

1. Prophet

“The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken” (Deuteronomy 18:15).

“²⁰ And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: ²¹ Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began. ²² For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you” (Acts 3:20-22).

2. Priest

“¹⁸ And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he *was* the priest of the most high God. ¹⁹ And he blessed him, and said, Blessed *be* Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth: ²⁰ And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all” (Genesis 14:18-20).

“¹ For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; ² To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; ³ Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually” (Hebrews 7:1-3).

3. King

“Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there shall be* no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isaiah 9:7).

“³² He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: ³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end” (Luke 1:32-33).

“³ And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous *are* thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true *are* thy ways, thou King of saints {lit: “nations”}. ⁴ Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for *thou only art* holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest” (Revelation 15:3-4).

The word “Lord” is from the Greek word *kurios* (koo'-ree-os) and is the Greek form of the Hebrew word Jehovah (Yahweh). This name reveals the supremacy of Jesus in His sovereignty as Creator and Redeemer. The words Christ and Lord are inseparable in the identity of Jesus. Jehovah is always referred to as the One coming in the Old Testament prophecies relating to the coming of Messiah. The Christ (Messiah) is the incarnation of the Lord (Jehovah).

“The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD {*Y@hovah*; yeh-ho-vaw', the self existing One}, make straight in the desert a highway for our God” (Isaiah 40:3).

“⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS {*Y@hovah tsidqenuw*; yeh-ho-vaw' tsid-kay'-noo” (Jeremiah 23:5-6).

However another prophetic detail regarding the coming of Messiah is that He would come through a specific genetic line. He would be born of the lineage of David. “Was made” is from the Greek word *ginomai* (ghin'-om-ahee). It can mean to come into existence or to begin. It also can mean to appear in history or come upon the stage of events in time.

The Son of God exists eternally, but Jesus has a beginning in history (time). Jesus is the Name of the eternal Son of God once His deity was united with humanity. “Was made” refers to that point in history when the Son of God became man.

“The seed” is from the Greek word *sperma* (sper'-mah). In plants, it refers to the seed which contains the germ of the next generation (just as seed is kept from the harvest for the sowing). In humans it refers to the semen virile and the product of this semen in all future offspring and generations in a family. The eternal Son of God stepped into history through the “seed of David” as foretold through prophecy. Salvation would come through the nation of Israel, the tribe of Judah and the lineage of David. The prophecy concerning Jesus as the Lion of Judah of the tribe of David will ultimately be fulfilled in the Millennial Kingdom.

“And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” (Revelation 5:5).

The Lion was the ancient banner under which the tribe of Judah marched and encamped. It was their insignia because of Jacob's prophecy of Genesis 49:9-10:

“⁹Judah is a lion’s whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? ¹⁰The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him *shall* the gathering of the people *be*” (Genesis 49:9-10).

Judah bore this insignia with great pride, knowing that it was a testimony that God had chosen their tribe to be that through which Messiah (*Shiloh*) would come. This relates to the next description of Christ as “the Root of David.” David was of the tribe of Judah. Christ speaks of this as a reminder in His concluding statements to the local churches in Revelation 22:16:

“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and morning star” (Revelation 22:16).

Jesus is both the Creator (“Root,” or source) of the Davidic line of Kings and an “offspring” of it in His incarnation. This speaks clearly to both His Deity and sovereignty. This is a reminder of the coming Kingdom. The Messiah would set upon the Throne of David in the Kingdom on earth. This has yet to be fulfilled and so is used as a consistent reminder of that which is still to come. Christ has instructed Christians that a major part of their prayer life ought to be preoccupied with praying for the coming of His Kingdom on earth.

“And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth” (Luke 11:2).

“According to the flesh” refers to the fulfillment of all the prophecies as to the seed of David and all the promises to David himself.

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1. Give the three Names that make up the full title of Jesus in Romans 1:3 and discuss the significance of each giving Scripture.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

2. Give the three aspects of the title “Christ” and the significance of anointing for each with Scripture references.

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

3. Discuss the significance of the fact that the words *Christ* and *Lord* are inseparable in the identity of Jesus. Give Scripture references. _____

4. Discuss the meaning of the words “was made” (Greek: *ginomai*; ghin'-om-ahee) in Romans 1:3. Some use this to teach against the eternal pre-existence of the Son of God. Discuss the real meaning from the context of the verse and the statement regarding the “seed of David.” _____

5. Read Revelation 5:5 and Genesis 49:9-10. Discuss when the prophecy concerning Jesus as the Lion of Judah and the tribe of David will be fulfilled. _____

6. From the context of your answer to question #4, read Revelation 22:16 and discuss how Jesus can be both the “root and the offspring of David.” _____
