



We have all heard of the term “Messiah” or the term “Christ.” The term “Messiah” is from the Hebrew word, “*Mashiach*,” which means “anointed one” or “chosen one,” someone with a special God-ordained purpose. The Greek term for “Mashiach” is “*Christos*,” which in English is the word “*Christ*.” Therefore, the name “Jesus Christ” literally means “Jesus the Messiah.”

Obviously, throughout the Gospel accounts we hear Jesus referred to as this “messianic” person that would come to save the Israelite people from their bondage to being held in bondage by the many rulers that had enslaved the Jewish people throughout the centuries. However, as we know, Jesus was not only Messiah but He was the Son of God who came to save everyone, not just the Jewish people.

One of the teachings which the leaders of the Jewish people, the religious leaders, had held to concerning the person of the Messiah and which the people had also been taught, was that this Messiah would perform not just miracles but actually **four specific miracles** that could not be done by just “any man.” They would be miracles that were never been done by any of the previous mighty men of God or prophets such as Moses, Elijah or Elisha. If the person did all of these four miracles than he would definitely be Messiah.

In the Old Testament, people were anointed for the positions of prophet, priest, and king. God told Elijah to anoint Elisha to succeed him as Israel’s prophet (1Kings 19:16). Aaron was anointed as the first high priest of Israel (Leviticus 8:12). Samuel anointed both Saul and David as kings of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1; 16:13). All of these men held “anointed” positions.

However, the Old Testament predicted a coming “Deliverer,” the “anointed one” chosen by God to redeem Israel from their sin. Isaiah 61:1,2 tells, “*The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD...*” This “Deliverer,” this Messiah, as we know, was Jesus.

We know that Jesus fulfilled the role of Prophet, Priest, and King. He was a prophet, because He embodied and preached the Word of God. He was a priest, but not just a priest, Jesus was the High Priest because He died to atone for all our sins and He reconciled us back to the Father. And Jesus is the King of kings because after His resurrection God gave all the authority of Heaven and Earth to Him.

However, we must realize that Jesus was also the Messiah. Jesus was that “anointed one of God.” He was that “someone” who had a special God-ordained purpose. He was the one who would be able to truly redeem, not just the Jewish people but everyone. It would be only through Jesus that we would have eternal life.

The Jewish people of Jesus’ day expected Messiah to redeem Israel by overthrowing the rule of the Romans and establishing an earthly kingdom. It wasn’t until after Jesus’ resurrection that His disciples finally began to understand that this Messiah was “anointed” to deliver people “spiritually” back unto the Father. He came to redeem man from their sinful lives.

We must realize that the Jewish people, throughout their history, have been waiting and hoping for Messiah to come. One of the principles of the Jewish faith is that one day there will arise a dynamic “Jewish leader,” a direct descendant of the David, who will, when He comes, rebuild the Temple in Jerusalem, and gather Jews from all over the world and bring them back to the Land of Israel.

All the nations of the world will recognize this Messiah to be a world leader, and will accept his dominion. In the messianic era there will be world peace, no more wars nor famine, and, in general, a high standard of living. All mankind will worship one God, and live a more spiritual and moral way of life. The Jewish nation will be preoccupied with learning Torah and fathoming its secrets. The Jewish people believe that the coming of Messiah will complete God’s purpose in creating man and bringing man back into relationship with Him.

If we look closely in the book of Revelation we will see that this is why the “Anti-christ” will be accepted so readily by the Jewish people. He will, during the first 3½ years of his rule, allow the Temple to be rebuilt and the Jewish people will be allowed to worship in their Temple. However, after the 3½ years is up, literally, “all hell will break loose.” However, that is for another essay.

As mentioned previously, the Father sent Jesus to first give man the opportunity to get back into true relationship with Him. This would come only through their acceptance of the true Messiah, Jesus. However, God is so very wonderful. He shows us throughout time itself how this true Messiah would be revealed and ultimately, reveal Himself. It would be up to each and every person to believe, and accept and then be saved by God's true "anointed one" whom we know as Jesus.

Let us now get to the four "Messianic miracles" that the Word tells us will truly reveal who the real and true Messiah would be. Ultimately, we know that it was and is Jesus.

In Jewish thought, there were four physical conditions in mankind that could only be corrected by only God Himself. It was believed that when God would send His Messiah, the **SIGNS** that would prove to the Pharisees and all the religious leaders who He was would be the performance of four specific miracles. They are known as the four Messianic Miracles:

1. The cleansing a leper
2. The casting out a deaf and dumb spirit
3. The healing of a birth defect which would be a man who was "born blind."
4. The raising the dead after three days (the fourth day)

Messianic Miracle One: Healing the Leper

There was no Biblical record of any Israelite ever having been cleansed of leprosy by being prayed for by another person. It was believed by the people that lepers were condemned by God to live in shame outside the camp of Israel (Deuteronomy 28:37).

It is interesting to note that even though a leper was thought that they could never be healed, God still gave the Israelites instructions that when a leper **was** healed that person needed to bring a "Guilt/Trespas Offering" to the priest to make atonement for his defilement.

The Jewish people believed that leprosy was inflicted by God. They referred to it as "the Finger of God." They believed that if leprosy was inflicted by God upon a person than they believed that it would only be God that would be able to cleanse that leper. This, therefore, would only be accomplished by God's "anointed one," the Messiah. We see that the Old Testament clearly taught that when the Messiah comes, it will be Him who will heal lepers.

We must take note here that there were, and still are, two types of leprosy. In today's world we name them "tuberculoid" and "lepromatous" leprosy. Without going into these diseases let's just say that the first one, "tuberculoid" was the lesser of the two types. It was still very contagious but it would affect different parts of the body and the skin would definitely deteriorate.

The second one, "lepromatus," was the disease that would get so bad that it would cause the skin to fall off and then it would cause death. This second type is the one referred to concerning the "Messianic Miracle" that would only be able to be accomplished by the Messiah.

If we read Luke 5:12-16 we see that Jesus did indeed heal a man of this advanced, fully spread leprosy. This man would not have lived much longer. The Jewish people believed that the only thing more defiling than contact with a leper was contact with a dead body. They literally had to stay at least 65 feet away from any other person. It was, and still is, a very contagious disease.

That is why it is amazing that as we read the account we see that Jesus went right up to the man. He actually touched Him. Jesus made some mud and placed it upon his eyes. The man was healed. What did Jesus tell him to do after he was healed? He told the man to go to the priest and bring the "Guilt/Trespass Offering" to the priest to make atonement for his defilement just as it was given in the Law in Leviticus 14. No one was ever healed of this type of leprosy; no one ever did this offering – no one except now.

Jesus told the man to do what was required by the Law. It was the only time in the history of the Jewish people that this was fulfilled and someone needed to go and fulfill the Law by giving this offering, in front of a priest, to the Lord. Going to the priest and the priest verifying the miracle helped to bring the former leper back into mainstream society. Obviously, word of this **Messianic Miracle** spread rapidly to many people.

Messianic Miracle Two: Casting out a Demon that stopped someone from hearing and speaking (a deaf and dumb spirit)

The religious leaders would be able to set some people free if the forces of darkness would identify themselves. However, if a person could not speak the religious leaders could not identify

to demonic spirit and therefore could not set the person free. Therefore there would be no hope for a person with this problem

The Jews could therefore, not cast out a deaf and dumb spirit because the demon could not identify itself through the person who could not hear the command nor speak the answer. This led to the belief that when the Messiah came, He would demonstrate that He would be the true Messiah by knowing the source behind the deaf and dumb spirit and then He would then be able to cast it out.

We see this in Matthew 12:22-23. This man could not speak and he could not hear. Jesus set him free. This immediately led the people to declare that Jesus was the son of David – another term for Messiah. The people knew their scriptures. They were seeing these things and therefore they were declaring that Jesus did this “messianic miracle.” Therefore, they declared that He was the true Messiah. Unfortunately, as we read in Matthew 12:24, the religious leaders did not approve and said He was of the devil!!!

Messianic Miracle Three – A person who was BORN BLIND is healed

The Hebrew sages believed that a “birth defect” or in other words, someone who was born blind, was a punishment from God for the sins of a child while in the womb or for the sins of the parents or the sin of his ancestors. This belief was based upon scriptures in the Old Testament. They, therefore, thought that since it was a punishment from God, then only God (or His Messiah) could correct this birth defect.

As we read John 9:1-12 we see that Jesus comes upon a man who was “born blind.” However, we see that Jesus does not put the blame on the man, or his parents or the man’s ancestry. We see that Jesus states that this man was born blind for this very time in history and for this very purpose. It was for the purpose of showing that Jesus was the Messiah. He was the only one who could heal a person who was “born blind.”

The disciples understood that fact. We can see this because we read in John 9:2 that the disciples had asked Jesus, “*Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?*” Jesus told them that neither the man nor his parents had sinned. In this particular case, this man was born blind so that the “sign” of Messiah that the Pharisees were looking for would be

fulfilled. Jesus told them this as He states in John 9:3, “...*that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*”

We know in the Gospel accounts that there were others in which Jesus healed that could not see and they received their sight. However, here we see it expressly declared that this man was “**born blind.**” The others that Jesus healed that were “blind” most likely went blind somehow through their lives. Jesus did heal them. However, this man was “**born blind**” and it was for the express purpose to show everyone that Jesus was truly the Messiah.

In John 9:7 we read that Jesus, after putting the mud upon the man’s eyes, sent him to wash in the pool of Siloam. The man went to the pool and washed the mud from his eyes and he came back to where he had started out but now with his sight. Jesus had left the area. They brought the man to the religious leaders but they again refused to believe, or at least they would not declare that Jesus could be the Messiah.

Messianic Miracle Four - “The Sign of Jonah;” resurrection from death after 4 days.

Just as Jonah had been rescued by God from being in the great fish for three days and three nights, so would the true Messiah raise someone from the dead after three days and three nights (on the fourth day).

In the book of Jonah we read that Jonah was miraculously rescued from the belly of the fish when the fish regurgitated him and he was found to be on dry ground. For all intents and purposes Jonah was considered to be dead. However, he miraculously was given new life.

This same “sign” would also show the people who the true Messiah would be. The “sign” would be bringing someone back to life who was dead for 3 days and 3 nights and then “revived” or brought back to life on the 4th day.

In Jewish thought, a dead person’s spirit remained with his body for three days. The dead person could, they believed, be brought back to life within that time. However, after three days, corruption of the flesh would set in which meant that the person could no longer enter back into the body because it would be defiled.

It would only be God Himself who could then raise that dead person back to life. It was believed that when Messiah would come, he would be able to raise someone from the dead after three days (on the fourth day), after his spirit would have left the body and then corruption of the flesh had begun.

We read of the account of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead in John 11. We must realize that this “death” was for the glory of God. It was to be the final sign to declare that Jesus was the true Messiah. It was so that the Son of God might be glorified. It was to show to everyone that Jesus was the Son of God, the true Messiah

As we read the account we see that Jesus waited before He went to where Lazarus was buried. He waited two days and then he left to go to the town where Lazarus was buried – that took another day. Lazarus was dead 3 days and 3 nights. It was now the fourth day...Lazarus was raised from the dead by Jesus. The fourth and final Messianic miracle was completed.

Jesus did the four miracles that only Messiah would be able to do. Yet, many still refused to believe!!! Why? It was because they wanted their own ways and refused to accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord... What about us today????!!!

Jesus is “the Resurrection and the Life.” We must believe in our heart and confess with our mouth that Jesus is who He says He is – the one who redeemed our life through His death, our Savior... and is He the absolute, supreme and final authority in our life... our Lord.

Is Jesus your Savior? Is Jesus your Lord? We pray that He is.