

## Jesus Christ's Personality

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### Jesus was loving

[JESUS, TO HIS DISCIPLES:] *Just as the Father has loved me, I have also loved you; remain in my love.* JOHN 15:9 NET

### Jesus was compassionate

*When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them because they were bewildered and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.* MATTHEW 9:36 NET

### Jesus was gentle and humble

[JESUS:] *Take my yoke on you and learn from me, because I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* MATTHEW 11:29 NET

### Jesus was righteous

*For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, ...* 1 PETER 3:18A ESV

## Epilogue: God Works through Jesus Christ

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### God works in all eras through Jesus Christ, impacting all things everywhere

*But now in these last days God has spoken to us through his Son. God has chosen his Son to own all things, and through him he made the world.* HEBREWS 1:2 NCV™

*Through the Son, then, God decided to bring the whole universe back to himself. God made peace through his Son's blood on the cross and so brought back to himself all things, both on earth and in heaven.* COLOSSIANS 1:20 GNT

### God fulfills his promises through Jesus Christ

*For all God's promises are "Yes" in him.* 2 CORINTHIANS 1:20A ISV

All God's promises are confirmed or "fulfilled" (NLT) in Jesus Christ.

## CHAPTER 11

# God's Promised Messiah

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### I. The Messiah's Identity

The Promise of a Messiah in OT Scripture.....	90
Prophecy of the Messiah's Death for Sins .....	91
Jesus Is the Promised Messiah .....	92
Further Testimony to Jesus Being the Messiah.....	93

### II. The Messiah's Purpose and Person

Jesus Christ's Mission from God.....	94
Jesus Christ's Humanity .....	95
Jesus Christ's Personality.....	96
Epilogue: God Works through Jesus Christ.....	96

## I. The Messiah's Identity

The OT Scriptures speak of a leader chosen and sent by God to save his people and to reign forever. This leader is known as the "Christ" or the "Messiah" – which are Greek and Hebrew terms respectively, meaning the "anointed" or the "Anointed One". In NT times the Jews looked forward to the Messiah's coming and many still do today. But the NT provides compelling evidence that this Messiah was in fact Jesus Christ.

### The Promise of a Messiah in OT Scripture

#### The OT Scriptures speak of a coming anointed one of God

[THE ARCHANGEL GABRIEL, TO DANIEL:] So know and understand: From the issuing of the command to restore and rebuild Jerusalem *until an anointed one, a prince arrives*, there will be a period of seven weeks and sixty-two weeks. [DANIEL 9:25A](#) NET

Regarding the "weeks", many scholars understand the term to denote seven years.

#### The anointed one would have God's Spirit on him

[THE MESSIAH:] *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me* to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; ... [ISAIAH 61:1](#) ESV

These words are prophetically attributed to the Messiah.

#### The Scriptures speak of the coming of a great ruler of Israel

[GOD:] As for you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, seemingly insignificant among the clans of Judah – *from you a king will emerge who will rule over Israel on my behalf, one whose origins are in the distant past*. [MICAH 5:2](#) NET

#### The ruler would bring salvation to the nations

[GOD, TO THE MESSIAH:] *I will make you as a light for the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth*. [ISAIAH 49:6B](#) ESV

## Jesus Christ's Humanity

### Jesus Christ became a human being

By *sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh* and concerning sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ... [ROMANS 8:3B](#) NET

God sent Jesus Christ "in a human body like ours" (NLT).

### Jesus was born – after being conceived through the Holy Spirit

*Now the birth of Jesus Christ happened this way. While his mother Mary was engaged to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. ...* <sup>22</sup>*This all happened so that what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet would be fulfilled:* <sup>23</sup>*"Look! The virgin will conceive and bear a son, and they will call him Emmanuel,"* which means "God with us." [MATTHEW 1:18, 22-23](#) NET

### Jesus was a descendant of David

Remember *Jesus Christ, who was raised from death, who was a descendant of David*, as is taught in the Good News I preach. [2 TIMOTHY 2:8](#) GNT

### Jesus' humanity was vital to his mission to save people

Therefore, *since the children share in flesh and blood, he* [Jesus] *likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death he could destroy the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil),* <sup>15</sup>*and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death. ...* <sup>17</sup>*Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in things relating to God, to make atonement for the sins of the people.* <sup>18</sup>*For since he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.* [HEBREWS 2:14-15, 17-18](#) NET

Jesus needed to share in the humanity of God's people and become like them so as to be identified with them, in a sense being one with them. As such he could die as a substitute and an offering for them. Partaking of their humanity would also be important for him in his ongoing role in helping God's people, as indicated in v. 18 and possibly also in v. 17.

## II. The Messiah's Purpose and Person

Arguably the fundamental assertion of the NT is that God sent the Messiah – Jesus Christ – into the world to save people from sin and its devastating consequences. For this mission, Jesus Christ was born of the Holy Spirit and became fully human – further assertions that are very significant to the Christian faith. In fulfilling the objectives of the mission, Jesus Christ lived a life which was faultless, with his character being both exemplary and inspiring. The following teaching shows the NT's testimony to these crucial matters.

### Jesus Christ's Mission from God

#### God sent Jesus Christ into the world

[JESUS, TO THE JEWS:] But I have a testimony greater than that from John. For *the deeds that the Father has assigned me to complete – the deeds I am now doing – testify about me that the Father has sent me.*

JOHN 5:36 NET

#### God sent Jesus Christ to take away sins

You know that *Christ came to take away sins.* 1 JOHN 3:5A CEV

#### God sent Jesus Christ to save the world

For *God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world should be saved through him.* JOHN 3:17 NET

#### Jesus came to bring truth

[JESUS:] *For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world – to testify to the truth.* Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice. JOHN 18:37B NET

#### Jesus came to enable us to know God

And *we know that the Son of God has come and has given us insight to know him who is true,* and we are in him who is true, in his Son Jesus Christ. 1 JOHN 5:20A NET

### The ruler would be a descendant of King David, in accordance with God's promise to David

*The LORD swore an oath to David. This is a truth he will not take back: "I will set one of your own descendants on your throne. ...<sup>17</sup>There I will make a horn sprout up for David. I will prepare a lamp for my anointed one.<sup>18</sup>I will clothe his enemies with shame, but the crown on my anointed one will shine."* PSALMS 132:11, 17-18 GW

The "horn" and "lamp" (v. 17) speak of the strength and continuation of David's dynasty, and would be embodied by the Messiah.

### Prophecy of the Messiah's Death for Sins

#### The OT Scriptures say the Messiah would suffer and die, for people's sins – but then be raised and exalted

*He was wounded for our rebellious acts. He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from his wounds.<sup>6</sup>We have all strayed like sheep. Each one of us has turned to go his own way, and the LORD has laid all our sins on him.*

ISAIAH 53:5-6 GW

But *it was the LORD who decided to crush him and make him suffer. The LORD made his life a penalty offering, but he will still see his descendants and live a long life.* He will complete the things the LORD wants him to do. <sup>11</sup>*"After his soul suffers many things, he will see life and be satisfied. My good servant will make many people right with God; he will carry away their sins.<sup>12</sup>For this reason I [God] will make him a great man among people, and he will share in all things with those who are strong. He willingly gave his life and was treated like a criminal. But he carried away the sins of many people and asked forgiveness for those who sinned."* ISAIAH 53:10-12 NCV™

These verses speak of God raising his messianic servant to life, following his death. The term "his descendants" (v. 10b) refers to the messianic servant's spiritual descendants – those who would be given life through him. Note that Isaiah 52:13-53:12 has been called "the gospel in the OT" and is quoted in the NT more than any other OT passage.

## Jesus Is the Promised Messiah

In his first coming, Jesus Christ did not come as an all-conquering ruler. The NT indicates that this aspect of messianic prophecy will be fulfilled on Christ's second coming.

### Jesus Christ is the one chosen by God

[GOD:] *"This is my Son, my Chosen One. Listen to him!"* LUKE 9:35B NET

### Jesus Christ is the one anointed by God, with the Holy Spirit . . .

[PETER:] You know that *God anointed Jesus from Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power.* ACTS 10:38A GW

The descending of the Holy Spirit onto Jesus at his baptism (cf. Matthew 3:16-17) was God's anointing of Jesus for his mission. It is also understood to mark Jesus as the Messiah – the "Anointed One" – and fulfilled OT prophecies that God would bestow his Spirit on the Messiah (cf. Isaiah 11:2; 42:1; 61:1).

### . . . Jesus is the Messiah

[PETER, TO A CROWD OF LARGELY JEWS:] Therefore repent and turn back so that your sins may be wiped out, <sup>20</sup>so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord, and so that he may send *the Messiah appointed for you – that is, Jesus.* ACTS 3:19-20 NET

### The OT Scriptures testify to Jesus being the Messiah, the Christ

For with his strong arguments he [Apollos] defeated the Jews in public debates by *proving from the Scriptures that Jesus is the Messiah.* ACTS 18:28 GNT

### For the OT Scriptures speak of the sufferings and resurrection of the Christ as fulfilled in Jesus . . .

Paul went to the Jews in the synagogue, as he customarily did, and on three Sabbath days *he addressed them from the scriptures, explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and to rise from the dead, saying, "This Jesus I am proclaiming to you is the Christ."* ACTS 17:2-3 NET

### . . . and they speak of the messianic salvation that would come through Jesus Christ

[ZECHARIAH, SPEAKING OF WHAT GOD HAD DONE:] *He has raised up a mighty Savior for us in the family of his servant David. <sup>70</sup>He made this promise through his holy prophets long ago.* LUKE 1:69-70 GW

*About him [Christ] all the prophets testify, that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.* ACTS 10:43 NET

Luke 1:69-70 (above) refers to the messianic salvation prophesied in the writings of the prophets (v. 70) as coming through Jesus, who was from the family line of David (v. 69). Acts 10:43 (immediately above) states that the prophets testify that the forgiveness of sins, a key aspect of this salvation, comes through Jesus Christ.

## Further Testimony to Jesus Being the Messiah

### Jesus' deeds showed that he is the Messiah, the Christ

*Now Jesus performed many other miraculous signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not recorded in this book. <sup>3</sup>But these are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.* JOHN 20:30-31 NET

### People acknowledged him as the Christ

*The crowds that went ahead of him [Jesus] and those following kept shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!"* MATTHEW 21:9 NET

The crowd was acknowledging Jesus as the Christ, referring to him with messianic expressions in declaring him "the Son of David" and the one "who comes in the name of the Lord".

### Note: The Christ is understood to be the Son of God

Simon Peter answered, "You are *the Christ, the Son of the living God.*" MATTHEW 16:16 NET

The understanding that the Christ would be the Son of God appears to be largely based on OT messianic passages where God speaks of the Messiah as his Son (cf. 2 Samuel 7:11b-14a; Psalms 2:6-7; 89:27).