

The Prophecies of a Messiah

~ Session 1 ~

Messiah 101

GETTING STARTED
What comes to mind when
you think of the Messiah?

GETTING STARTED QUESTIONS-

1. How do you understand the Holy Spirit to work in the world?

Webster Dictionary

- 1: the expected king and deliverer of the Jews (**capitalized**)
- 2: a professed or accepted leader of some hope or cause

By definition, Messiah can refer to Jesus. However, messiah is really just a term used for any great leader of a great cause. To really be considered a messiah, you really need to be bigger than life. It is a term that is reserved for someone who is anointed with a special status.

It's all Hebrew to me...

The word messiah comes from the original Hebrew or the Old Testament. משיח
It is pronounced "mashiah". Mashiah really just means anointed one. As Jesus became known as the Messiah in the New Testament, Messiah began getting replaced by Christ.

Hmm...that surprises me.

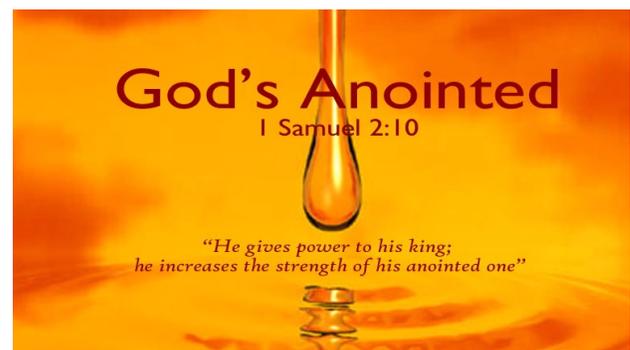
You'd be surprised to know that in the Old Testament, "mashiah" shows up about 50 times, but rarely is it used to refer to a future promised savior from God. The first time it shows up is in Leviticus 4. Go check out Leviticus.

Anointed Priest

So, yes, that is right. When it says anointed or anointed priest, the word mashiah is used. One of the ways that messiah is used in the Old Testament is to refer to priests, especially priests of importance.

Anointed King

Especially in the Psalms, mashiah ends up being used for Kings. Check out Psalm 2.



Anointed Prophet

There are also a couple of occasions that the root word of mashiah is used to refer to prophets being anointed with the Holy Spirit. Go and take a look at 1 Kings 19:16

A Savior

It is only in the later books of the Old Testament, especially in the book of Daniel, that we begin to find the word mashiah referring to an end of time savior. We can go and look at Daniel 9:25-26 for a good example.

Ok. So what does this all mean....

There is some debate about how prevalent of a theme a Messianic Savior was in the Old Testament and in Jewish teachings before Jesus. There are a handful of places in which a promised savior is referenced to in the prophets. The prophets spoke with hope for someone that would rule them with justice from the house of David. For a people who found themselves in despair, the promise of a great leader that was sent from God could bring a much needed message of hope.

Not what they expected...

However, something that they did not expect was for Jesus to be a kind that went to the cross. Of anything, they expected a king that would rule with a rule fist and conquer their enemies.

