

Episode #504 How to Know God 5: Who the Christ Is

I. The “Knowing God in the Word Radio Program” is for the purpose of helping listeners to fulfill the greatest need we have as believers – to know God.

II. We have seen that to say that Jesus is the Christ is to say that He is the Messiah. It is to say that He is the One promised throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. It is to say that He is the One Anointed or designated by God. It is to say that He is the bringer of salvation. Today we will continue to consider what it means to believe that Jesus is the Christ.

III. Savior of the world.

- A. The Lord Jesus revealed Himself to the Samaritan woman. John 4:25-26. This caused her to go back into the city and make an important statement, John 4:29.
- B. God’s Christ must be able to discern the totality of the lives of every person. II Timothy 4:1. Hebrews 4:13. Isaiah 11:3,4.
- C. John 4:42. They truly understood the mission of the Christ. This is a greater work than the creation of the world, for He did not need to die to create.
- D. Some look at the sad condition of the world and conclude it cannot be saved. But the Bible presents a different picture. It never speaks of the end of the world (*kosmos*), in spite of erroneous translations. It speaks of the salvation of the world by Christ.
- E. To save the world, Christ must remove the principle of sin and all the effects that come from it. This task seems impossible, even to many professing Christians, but it is God’s promise regarding the Christ.
- F. This is spoken of in many Psalms. I Chronicles 16:30-31. Psalm 33:8. Psalm 93:1. Psalm 96:10. All this must be accomplished by Christ. John 1:29.

IV. The elect of God.

- A. Luke 23:35. Their ridicule has reference to Isaiah 42:1. Messiah is the elect (chosen One) of God. It is even as with the high priest, Hebrews 5:4.
- B. No one can fill the office of Christ save He Who is elected by God. Luke 9:35.
- C. Those who mocked Him on the cross wished to believe His suffering there demonstrated that He was rejected by God. They rejected the truth of the prophets that these sufferings were a proof of His election by God. Acts 3:18.
- D. Paul in Thessalonica had two parts to his message: first, the Christ must suffer and rise from the dead; secondly, that Jesus Whom he was proclaiming is Christ. Acts 17:3.
- E. The rulers in Israel refused to believe, but Peter and Paul knew it was necessary for the Christ to suffer. No false ideas stood in the way of their accepting Him.

V. A widespread conviction.

- A. The facts of the four gospels show that the expectation that one day one would appear who would be God’s Christ was a conviction held by all classes in Israel: Pharisees, Sadducees, scribes, priests, rulers, people, sinners and saints, and even Samaritans. Without exception, they believed that Messiah would be an individual, not the Jewish nation or people as the Jews now insist. Matthew 2:4-6.
- B. All classes in Israel looked to Messiah, or Christ in the Greek form, to bring all the glorious promises of Scripture to their fulfillment, Genesis to Malachi.

VI. Fulfiller of the Promises.

- A. The careful student of the Old Testament will become familiar with the many promises there, and realize that they have to do with one, central idea: the expectation of a Messiah-King Who will rule over a world converted to God.

- B. Genesis 3:15. The Satanic flow will be overwhelmed by His greater flow.
- C. Psalm 22:27. The remote parts of the earth will be turned to the Lord.
- D. Psalm 33:8. All the inhabitants of the world will be in awe of the Lord.
- E. Isaiah 11:9. The abundance of the Lord will be as the waters cover the sea.
- F. Isaiah 26:9. His judgments will result in earth's inhabitants learning righteousness.
- G. Isaiah 35:5,6. The blind, the deaf, and the lame will be healed.
- H. Isaiah 40:5. The glory of the Lord will be revealed to all flesh at once.
- I. Jeremiah 31:27,33. God will make a new covenant with Israel and Judah.
- J. Ezekiel 34:11-24. God will seek Israel, bring them out of the countries back to their land, and set one shepherd over them, even David.
- K. Micah 5:2. Out of Bethlehem a Ruler will come, Who will be from of old, everlasting
- L. Zechariah 14:9. The Lord will be king over all the earth.
- M. These many promises all contain the strain that they will be fulfilled by an individual designated by God. This was to be God's Christ, even the Messiah.
- N. Isaiah 9:6,7. This is the summing up of the prophecy of Messiah, the King. "His name shall be called" means "His character shall be described as being." The child born is revealed to be the everlasting Father and the mighty God.
- O. To believe Jesus is the Christ is to believe He is the One Who will bring every Divine promise to complete fulfillment.
- P. Some think otherwise. Chief Rabbi Marcus Melchoir of Denmark once declared:
"Whether Messiah is a person or an assembly is of minor importance. I believe that Messianic times would come if the United Nations were made Messiah." This might fit with Jewish theology, but not the Old Testament. The UN cannot do it!
- Q. Rabbi Melchoir wished to see Messianic times in his lifetime. I would like it, too! But if not, John 11:25-26 is gloriously true.
- R. John 11:27. Martha's statement epitomizes all that the Bible says concerning Him.
But what does it mean to say that He is the Son of the Living God?

VII. We say that Jesus is the Christ is to say that He is the Messiah. It is to say that He is the One promised throughout the Old Testament Scriptures. It is to say that He is the One Anointed or designated by God. It is to say that He is the bringer of salvation. It is to say that He is the Savior of the world. It is to say that He is the elect of God. The Christ is to be the fulfiller of the promises, and He is to be an individual, not a nation or group of nations. I pray that every one of my listeners believes this glorious truth: that Jesus is the Christ.