

IS JESUS CHRIST THE MESSIAH?

By Henry T. Mahan

John 6:66-69;

“From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. Then said Jesus unto the twelve, will ye also go away? Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.”

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I’m going to read a passage of scripture from the **Book of John, the sixth chapter**. I wish we had time to read the entire 70 verses of this chapter; but I’m just going to read a part of it. It’s one of the most glorious chapters in all the Word of God; it contains this message by our Lord Jesus Christ. I’ll be speaking to you today on this subject (now listen carefully): **“IS JESUS OF NAZARETH THE MESSIAH?”** Is Jesus of Nazareth the Christ? Is He the Messiah?

In **John Chapter 6:66**, right at the end of this chapter, after He had brought this sermon, people started leaving, and deserting Him, it says, *“From that time, many of His followers went back; (they left Him). “They walked no more with Him.”* After He said those words, many people who had been following Him for a long time, listening to Him preach, observing the miracles; they went back and walked no more with Him; they would have nothing to do with Him.

Then Jesus said to those twelve disciples who were around Him (Peter, James, John, Nathaniel and Phillip). He said, *“Will you also go away?”* Will you? Then, Simon Peter answered and said to Him, *“Lord, to whom shall we go, thou hast the Word of eternal life, and we believe and are sure that thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”* They believed Him to be the Messiah and the Son of God.

That’s my question, do you believe that Jesus Christ, Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ? Do you believe Jesus who was born of Mary, born in Bethlehem, walked in Jerusalem and Capernaum, Bethesda and all of these cities, who came out of Galilee, who was called a carpenter, who died on the cross? Do you believe that He is the Messiah? Do you believe

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that He is the Christ that God promised from the very beginning and all the way through the Old Testament, that someone's coming?

In **Genesis 3:15**, He is the, "*the seed of woman.*" Throughout the word He is called the seed of Abraham, the Priest like Melchisedec, the prophet like Moses, the King like David, and that He is the Messiah.

When John the Baptist was in prison and he sent two of his followers to Jesus of Nazareth. The Lord Jesus Christ was out there preaching. I call Him the Lord Jesus Christ because I believe and am sure that He is the Lord, He is the Christ. Jesus of Nazareth was out there preaching and John the Baptist sent two of his followers to Jesus of Nazareth and this is what they asked, "*Are you the Messiah? Are you the Christ, or do we look for another?*"

When the woman at the well, (do you remember the woman at the well)? Of course you do. Our Lord spoke to her in that whole fourth chapter of John; He deals with this woman. She finally realized that she is talking to a man that is no ordinary man. He knows too much about her and about all things; "*He spake as no man ever spake.*" She realized this man to whom she is speaking is no ordinary man, she said, "*I perceive that you are a prophet.*" Then, she added, "*We know that the Messiah is coming, (that Christ is coming) and when He's come He will tell us all things.*" He's coming from God; the Messiah.

You see, the Jews, Samaritans and all looked for the Messiah. They looked for the Christ and expected Him to come. They were expecting Him to come a lot differently from the way He did come, but they were looking for Him. Even this woman, said the Messiah's coming and when He comes, He will tell us everything. That is when Jesus of Nazareth said to her; "*I that speak to thee, am the Messiah,*" I am the Christ.

You see, the Old Testament writers, in so many, many ways, describe the Messiah. If I were to start telling you the different ways in which He is described in the Old Testament, the whole program would be nothing but names of the Messiah. He's described as the anointed of God, as the prophet, priest and king. He's described in this way, "*His name is Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*" He's called "*Emanuel.*" He's called the virgin's Son. He's called a, "*Man of Sorrows, acquainted with grief.*" He's called, "*the Lord our Righteousness.*" He's called, "*the Branch, the Son of David, and the root of Jesse.*" He's called, "*the Lion of the tribe of Judah.*" He's called, "*the Messenger of the covenant and the Desire of all nations.*"

There are just names after names after names given to the Messiah in the Old Testament. In fact, that is what the Old Testament is all about from Genesis to Malachi; (someone's coming) God is sending a Messiah. God is sending the Branch, the King, the Redeemer, the Christ; He's coming.

Now, I believe He has come and the disciples said, "*We believe that you are the Christ; you are the Messiah, the Son of God.*" Can I show you from the scriptures that Jesus Christ of

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Nazareth is indeed the Messiah, that He indeed is the Christ, that He indeed is the redeemer? Let me show you.

If you would like to take these down, there are several of them. Let me just point out a few reasons for believing, and like Peter said, *“We believe and are sure that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ.”*

First of all, when Israel was in Egypt and Jacob was about to die, He called His 12 sons and was blessing these 12 sons, each by name. Finally He came to Judah, and He says in **Genesis 49:10**, *“But, the scepter shall not depart from Judah till Shiloh comes; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.”*

My friends, when Jesus Christ was born, the tribe of Judah was still known. Mary and Joseph were of the tribe of Judah. Shortly thereafter, they were dispersed; there was no tribe of Judah. Several years after Jesus Christ died on the cross you couldn’t find the tribe of Judah or the descendents of the tribe of Judah. The Messiah had to come then, when the tribe of Judah was still there and the scepter was in the tribe of Judah. They didn’t even have a nation after that; they were dispersed. They didn’t have a king.

Then, in **Malachi Chapter 3:1**, God says this, *“I will send my messenger (He’s talking about John the Baptist). He said, “He’ll go before me and then the Lord shall suddenly come to His temple;”* the Lord whom you seek shall come suddenly to His temple. What temple? That was the second, the rebuilding of the temple and in **Haggai 2:9** our Lord said to the builders of the second temple that the Messiah would come while that temple stood. They were rebuilding the temple and God said, *“That the messenger of the covenant is coming to this temple and the latter glory shall be greater than the first.”* When Christ came to Jerusalem and stood in the temple, He made a whip and drove out the moneychangers. He said, *“My House shall be called the House of Prayer.”* Our Lord went to the temple and there He preached and drove out the moneychangers; He came to the temple and the glory He brought to that temple was far greater than the glory of Solomon’s temple.

They had an ark and a mercy seat. Jesus Christ is the ark and the mercy seat; He stood in the temple. After He died, the temple was destroyed. Titus, the Roman Emperor came into Jerusalem and tore down the temple, tore down the city; there’s no more temple, there hasn’t been for almost 2000 years. So, Jesus of Nazareth has to be the Messiah. There’s no temple or messenger of the covenant to which He can come. There’s no temple for the Messiah to stand in. That’s right, the temple was destroyed, and so was Jerusalem. At the time He came, He had to be the Messiah.

All right, **secondly**, where was the place the Messiah was to be born? Where was the Messiah to be born, “the Christ?” The Old Testament tells us in **Micah 5:2**, it says, *“But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been*

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from of old, from everlasting.” This one is to be the ruler in Israel, (my Messenger, my Redeemer and my Christ). He’ll be the ruler in Israel. He’ll be the King of Kings and Lord of Lords and this Lion of the tribe of Judah; born in Bethlehem; His goings forth have been from everlasting. Where’s Bethlehem? Where was it just a few years after Christ came and died on the cross? Where is Judah, where’s the temple, where’s Bethlehem? It’s gone.

In **Matthew 2:1-6**, King Herod inquired of the scribes and priests where the Christ should be born. He said, “When the wise men came through wanting to know where He was to be born, it bothered Herod.” He said, “*This king of the Jews, where is He going to be born?*” All the scribes and the Sadducees came around and the priests and they said, “Bethlehem; He’s to be born in Bethlehem.” Christ is the Messiah; He’s Shiloh, Lion of the tribe of Judah, Messenger of the covenant. The Lord came to His temple; it was destroyed. He was born in Bethlehem whose goings forth are forever more.

Listen, **thirdly**, the Old Testament Scriptures insist and declare plainly that the Christ must be the Son of David. He must be of the house and the family tree, the lineage of David. David has to be His great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather. His house and lineage has to be traced through His mother, right back to David. His mother is in the line of David and an heir to the throne.

Now then, what about Jesus of Nazareth? He’ll be from Judah, David’s tribe, He’ll be the root of Jesse, David’s father, and He’ll be the Son of David, of David’s house and lineage. If you will look in your Bible in **chapter one of Matthew**, the **first 15 verses**, you’ll find there the house of David; you’ll find the family tree; you’ll find it listed right through Solomon. You’ll find David, who begat Solomon, who begat this one, and this one and this one, who begat Joseph who was thought to be the father of Jesus; He was the foster father of Jesus. In other words, Joseph, the foster father of Jesus of Nazareth, (the carpenter), was a prince. He was a descendant of David, a direct descendant of David through Solomon, named (Joseph).

If you will turn to **Luke** you will find the house of David, the descendants of David are traced through his son, Nathan. David’s son, Solomon, begat different ones; Joseph came through Solomon from David. If you take **Luke 3**, Nathan, David’s other son and do you know who was born through Nathan, it was Mary? Someone says over in **Luke 3**, it says, “*Heli was the father of Joseph*,” the (father in law), because no woman had her genealogy traced in the Bible. It was always traced through the man. So, in **Chapter 1 of Matthew**, you have the house of Joseph, right through Solomon, to David. In **Luke 3**, you have under Joseph’s name, who was the son in law of Heli, (that’s Mary’s daddy) you have the house and lineage of Mary right back to David through Nathan. So, Jesus Christ, born to Mary, whose foster father was Joseph, is the heir to the throne, actually, the Son of David.

One day our Lord said to the Pharisee’s, He said, “*What think ye of Christ*,” the Christ, whose Son is the Christ? They said “*The Son of David*.” He said, “Well, how can He be David’s Lord and David’s Son?” They couldn’t answer that, can you? He’s David’s Lord in that He’s God Almighty; He’s declared to be the Son of God but He’s manifested in the

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flesh, the Son of David through Mary, (great, great, great granddaughter), King David, through Nathan. He's the Messiah.

Fourthly, now watch this. In the Old Testament, it was prophesied of the miracles that the Messiah was to come and perform. If you will look in the Word of God in **Psalms 146 and Isaiah 32 and 35**, it tells about the special miracles that He will perform. Now, I'm going back right now to that question that John the Baptist asked Jesus of Nazareth. "*Are you the Messiah, are you the Christ or do we look for another?*" What was the answer that the Lord Jesus gave him? He said, "*Go and show John how the blind see, the deaf hear, the lame walk, the dead are raised, the lepers are cleansed and the poor have the gospel preached unto them.*" The blind see; no one can give sight to the blind, but the Lord. No one can raise the dead, but the Lord. No one can make lame legs walk, but the Lord, the Messiah, the Christ.

Even His enemies acknowledge that. Nicodemus came to Him and said, "*No man can do what you do, unless God be with him.*" Nicodemus was acknowledging that there was a way in which Christ got His power from God. Nicodemus was not acknowledging that Jesus of Nazareth was God, but that's what we are saying. He is God, He is the Messiah, He is the Christ, and He is the Son of God. The works that He does bear witness that He is the Messiah.

Fifthly, notice this, the Messiah, the Christ, the King of Israel shall be distinguished, not by his loftiness and elegance and majesty, but by his lowliness. That's where so many people missed Him. "*He came unto His own and His own received Him not. He was in the world and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not.*" They didn't recognize Him because of His humility, His condescension, and His lowliness. He'll not come riding a chariot; He'll come riding an ass, a donkey. That's not the way Kings come. This King did because He has to be the Lamb and the suffering Saviour and the Substitute. He has to purchase His kingdom before He has that kingdom.

It says in **Zechariah 9:9**, this is what they missed, the whole Old Testament said this and they missed it; it says, "*Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion. Shout O daughter of Jerusalem, behold your king cometh unto thee, He's a just God and Saviour. He has salvation but He's lowly; He'll come to thee riding upon an ass, upon the colt, the foal of an ass.*" Read **Matthew 21** and tell me how the Lord rode that day into Jerusalem before His crucifixion. He told the disciples to go to a certain place and they would find a donkey tied to a tree. They got it and brought it to Him and one of them put his clothes over the donkey and set Christ on that donkey, and He, the majestic King of Kings, Lord of Lords rode into His city on a donkey, lowly and despised. Jesus Christ is the Messiah. He's the Christ.

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Sixthly, listen, **Isaiah 53**, Isaiah declared that the Christ would be lonely and humble and would suffer and die at the hands of wicked men. Isaiah wrote about the Messiah. *“Who hath believed our report? To whom is the arm of the Lord, (the might of the Lord, the power of the Lord), revealed? Behold He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, as a root out of a dry ground. He has no form, no comeliness, and no beauty that we should desire Him. He’s despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows acquainted with grief and we hid as it were, our faces from Him.”* He was lowly, riding on a donkey, like His followers, and fishermen (nobodies). Everybody that was anybody turned thumbs down on this Jesus of Nazareth. Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?

We know Him, He’s the carpenter, but *“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement of our peace was laid on Him, by His stripes we are healed.”* That’s right, all the way through the Old Testament, it told how He would be hated, despised and finally crucified.

Psalm 22 and verse 1, tells you all about it, *“My God, my God why hast thou forsaken Me? They pierced my hands and my feet. They cast lots for my garment. They plucked out my beard.”* They said, *“He trusted God, let’s see if God will have Him?”* If you will read **Psalm 22**, this is a Messianic Psalm about the Christ, and all these words were fulfilled on Calvary.

In the **seventh** place, the scriptures teach that the Messiah will die and be raised from the grave. Jesus Christ not only died an ignominious, hateful death on a cruel cross, they laid Him in a tomb, a borrowed tomb and put a stone in front of it and put the seal of the upon it for the soldiers to keep His disciples from stealing His body. Do you know what David wrote about the Messiah, many years before that? In **Psalm 16**, he said, *“Thou will not leave my soul, my body, in the grave nor suffer thy Holy One to see corruption.”* Peter, talking about that scripture at Pentecost said, *“David was not talking about himself, because David’s sepulcher is with us to this day. You can visit his tomb. That’s where his bones are.”*

This is the Messiah. He’ll die upon the cross and be buried, but He won’t stay in the grave. On the third day He rose again. My friends you can visit the graves every so-called Messiah and every so-called reformer and every so-called religious leader, they all have their tombs, but you go to the tomb where Jesus Christ once laid, if you can find it; I’ll tell you what God will say to you as you walk up to it. He’ll say, *“Why are you here, why are you seeking the living among the dead?”* Do you think God is worshipped with buildings and graves and tombs and crucifixes and statues and all this foolishness? He lives, the Messiah lives. He was raised from the tomb. He was raised from the grave; He lives evermore, He was and He is and He ever will be. Christ arose; He’s the Messiah.

He’s the only one who ever arose from the grave. He’s the only one who chose His own mother, the time He would be born, and the nation to which He would be born. He chose how He would die, when He would die, where He would die, for whom He would die and buy His own Spirit, raised Himself from the grave. He said, *“No man taketh it from me,*

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but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it.” He arose! He’s the Messiah.

Last of all the Messiah will come to Israel. He will fulfill every prophecy and pattern, picture and type given to Israel in the Old Testament, but He’ll have a people out of every nation. You read that in the **Book of Isaiah**. The Lord God promised His Messiah a people from every tribe, kindred, nation and tongue under heaven. That’s right, and He has all of those chosen people.

When our Lord spoke to the people in **John 6**, He said, *“I am the bread of life, he that eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood will never die.”* I’m the Messiah, I’m the Christ and I’m the one sent; hear Me and live. If you refuse to hear Me, you’ll perish. That’s when they started leaving. He said, “Does this offend you, wait until you see the Son of man ascend up where He was before, and then all of them left and He turned to the twelve, and said, *“Are you going away, will you go away?”* Peter spoke for me and for you and for all believers, *“To whom Lord shall we go; thou hast the Words of life?”* We believe and are assured that thou are the Christ, the Son of the living God!