

JESUS IS THE CHRIST

ACTS 2:26 • TV196B

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By

HENRY T. MAHAN

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Zebulon Baptist Church

6088 Zebulon Highway

Pikeville, KY 41501

Acts 2:36

“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

I don't know whether I will ever bring a message of greater importance than the one I plan to bring to you today.

The title of the message is: **“JESUS IS THE CHRIST.”**

I want you to turn to **the Book of Acts, chapter 2**. I want you to look at Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost. I am not going to read the whole sermon; I'm just going to read one of the last verses of this chapter, **verse 36**.

It says in **Acts 2:36** (Peter is speaking here); *“therefore, (here is the summary, here is the conclusion of my message, therefore, since all has been done and said, this is the conclusion), “... let all the house of Israel know assuredly, (without doubt), that God hath made that same Jesus whom you have crucified both Lord and Christ.”*

Let everybody know this, assuredly, without doubt, that God hath made *“that same Jesus of Nazareth, whom you crucified,”* both Lord, Almighty God, Sovereign, with complete authority and Christ.

Listen to me; the people of the Lord throughout the Old Testament knew, positively and without doubt, knew these three things to be so:

First of all: They knew beyond doubt that God is holy. I didn't say that God was holy but that God is holy. *“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of His glory.”*

Isaiah said, *“I saw the Lord high and lifted up and His glory filled the temple and around His throne were the seraphim's and they cried; holy, holy, holy, Lord God of hosts.”*

Psalm 99 said, *“Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his holy hill for the Lord our God is holy.”* He calls himself the *“holy God.”*

The first time this word is used in the Bible is when God spoke to Moses on top of the mountain and He said, *“Take off your shoes, you are on holy ground.”*

Secondly: These people knew that God is holy and secondly, they knew that they all were sinners.

Isaiah said when he saw the Lord, *“I'm undone.”* Do you know what that word means? It means I'm cut off, I'm without hope. *“I am a man of unclean lips and I dwell among a people of unclean lips.”*

Listen to David; *“My sins are ever before me; against thee and thee only have I sinned.”* David wrote in **Psalm 14**; *“the Lord God looked down from heaven to see if there was one that did do good and he found that they were altogether gone aside, that there is none good no not one. There is none righteous, no not one.”*

Psalm 39 says, *“Every man at his best state is altogether vanity.”* Isaiah wrote, *“From the soul of the feet to the top of the head, there is no soundness in us. Our whole head, (that's our thought and our minds); is sick. Our whole heart (that's our affections); our whole heart is faint.”*

Job said, *“I hate myself, (I just hate myself). I abhor myself; I repent in sackcloth and ashes.”* Job said, *“We drink iniquity like the water.”* Isaiah said, *“Even our righteousness's are filthy rags in God's sight.”*

So, these people knew that God is holy. These people knew that they were sinners. They mourned and grieved over the fact that they were sinners. David said, *“God is justified and clear when He damns me, when He judges me.”*

Thirdly: They knew, beyond a shadow of a doubt that according to God's prophecies, according to God's promises, according to God's Word, that He would someday send the Messiah to this earth, to the people of God. Now they knew that.

They called Him the “*Prophet*”; they called Him “*the Redeemer*”; they called Him “*the Branch*” and they called Him many names but He was called throughout the Bible, *the Christ*.”

In **Acts Chapter 10:43** the writer of the Book of Acts said this; “*to him give all the prophets witness.*”

Now, the people of the Old Testament, the people of God, knew three things; that is not hard to learn. It’s not hard to remember. They knew that God was Holy. We better learn that too.

Secondly: They knew that they were sinners. We need to learn that too.

Thirdly: They knew that God would someday send a Messiah, that He would send a Redeemer, and that He would send the Christ.

He is promised throughout the Old Testament. That is what the Old Testament is all about, someone is coming. The four Gospels say that someone has come. Christ has come. The epistles say that someone is coming again.

Now, do not be misled into thinking that these people in the Old Testament, although their knowledge of the Messiah was limited, their knowledge was limited and I know that. It was limited to prophecies, promises and pictures.

Don’t you be misled into thinking that they did not know what God was going to do, that they didn’t know what God was going to do in and through this Christ. They expected this Christ, they expected this Messiah and they looked for this Deliver and they looked for this Redeemer.

Job said, “I know that my redeemer liveth. He is going to stand on this earth. Though worms destroy this body, and I’m going to be buried in the ground and go back to the dust. I am going to rise and I am going to see my redeemer with these eyes, not another. I am going to be redeemed, restored, and resurrected by that Christ.”

Now they knew some things. Let me show you some of the things that they knew:

First of all: They knew that this Christ, this Messiah, would come from the Lord.

Now, they knew that. Moses wrote in **Deuteronomy 18:15**; “*The Lord thy God shall raise up unto thee a prophet like unto me. Him you shall hear, unto him shall you hearken.*”

Now, they knew He was coming from the Lord because the “*Lord will raise him up from among the brethren like unto me.*”

Secondly: They knew that He would be born of a woman.

They knew that He wouldn't come down here on a white horse. They knew he wouldn't just appear in the clouds. They knew that He was coming through the womb of a woman because God said, "*He will be the seed of woman.*"

In fact, Eve, when her first child was born, if you will read and check with the Hebrew language, you will find that when Eve looked upon that boy Cain, her first born, do you know what she said? She said, "*I have gotten that man from the Lord Jehovah.*"

She thought that the Messiah had been born. That first child that came forth from her womb, she thought it was the Messiah because God, after Adam and Eve had fallen into darkness, death, disease and sin, God said; "*I am going to bruise the serpent's head.*"

The serpent is the one that tested him, tempted him, and tried him. God dealt with the serpent. They were witnesses. They heard what He said.

God said to the serpent; "*I am going to bruise your head and destroy your power with the seed of that woman.*" When that woman gave birth to that first man-child she said; "*I have gotten that redeemer,*" but she was wrong.

She was right in this; he came from a woman. Isaiah said, "*Behold the Lord himself will give you a sign, a virgin shall bring forth a child and call His name Jesus, call His name Immanuel, (God with us).*"

Isaiah 9:6 said, "*Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders and he shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*" They knew that God had sent Him.

Thirdly: They knew that He would be a man and stand on this earth. That is what Job said, "*My redeemer is going to stand on this earth.*"

Then, they knew that He would be Abraham's seed.

They finally knew that He would come through Abraham because God told Abraham "*in thy seed,*" and you will find in Galatians that this seed is just not Isaac, this seed is Christ. It will be through Isaac but this seed is Christ (**Gal. 3:8-9**).

He said to Abraham, "*In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*" Our Lord Jesus had a people, and has a people "*out of every tribe, kindred, nation, and tongue under heaven.*" All nations are blessed through Abraham's seed.

Then, they knew that He would be of the tribe of Judah. When Jacob was dying and he called in his twelve sons and was blessing each one individually, he came to Judah, which is the kingly tribe, Judah. And he said this; "*Judah, the scepter shall not depart from Judah until Shiloh, (that's the one King of Kings, the Prince of Peace), until Shiloh comes.*"

“And unto Him shall the gathering of the people be.” That is way back in **Genesis 49**. That is way back in the first book of the Bible. When this man Jacob was dying down in Egypt he called his boys around him and blessed those 12 boys and prophesied of their future, he talked about the coming of Christ, the coming Messiah.

He said, *“He’s coming through Abraham’s seed and He is coming through Judah”* and he did. He was born in Judah. They knew that he would be born of the house of David through the family of Jesse, the tribe of Judah, down in Bethlehem.

In **Micah 5:2**, it says; *“But thou Bethlehem, Ephrata, though thou be little among the thousands;”* this is written back hundreds of years before our Lord Jesus Christ was born. They are talking about the Messiah, this Christ.

And it said that He would be born in Bethlehem; *“out of thee shall He come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”* We are talking about the Messiah, the Christ, the Redeemer, the God-man, the one sent from God, the woman’s seed, the body inhabited by God, whose goings forth have been from of old and from everlasting.

He is going to make His appearance under that star in a little town, little among the thousands, a little insignificant town, in a little insignificant stable, in a small manger. God would become a man and dwell among us. They knew He was going to be born in Bethlehem.

Then, they knew that the Christ would protect His people before God, by His life, obedience and righteousness. That’s right! Listen to this now in **Jeremiah 23:5**:

Jeremiah is writing about the Branch. He is writing about Jehovah-Tsidkenu, Jehovah Nissi, Jehovah-Rapha. He is talking about the Lord Jehovah, our righteousness. He says, *“Behold the days come, saith the Lord that I will raise up.”*

And I will tell you that they knew God would raise Him up and send Him that *“I will raise up unto David, from the house of David, the throne of David, a righteous branch. In His days, Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell safely. And His name shall be called the Lord our righteousness, Jehovah, our righteousness.”*

My friend, these people knew some things, they weren’t dumb. They didn’t see the full realization, the full revelation of His coming, of His redemptive work on Calvary but they knew that He would be a man; they knew that He would come from God. They knew He would stand on this earth. They knew that He would have a perfect life and a perfect righteousness.

Then they knew this; they knew that He would also be for a sin-offering. He would bring a perfect atonement before the Lord.

From the time Abel offered that blood sacrifice, these men of Old Testament days knew that nobody could approach the Lord God without a sacrifice, without a slain lamb, without the blood. God said, *“I have given you the blood upon the altar to make atonement for your souls.”*

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Now, I know today, that we are going around burning candles, throwing water in people's faces and doing little signs like this. But I will still tell you; the life of the flesh is in the blood; *"I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls. Without the shedding of blood there is no remission."*

"The blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanseth us from all sin." God said, *"When I see the blood I will pass over you."* That is where you must find yourself, under the blood of Christ.

You can go down all the aisles, you can shed tears, and you can beat on mourner's benches and throw water around. You can burn candles and you can march around with little, silly-looking uniforms, you can make all those signs like that. But I am telling you this, *"you are not redeemed with corruptible things such as silver and gold, (or Sabbath Days, tithing's, and all the rituals and ceremonies), but with the precious blood of Jesus Christ as a lamb without spot or blemish who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was revealed by the Father in these last days. When I see the blood I will pass over you."*

These fellows knew that, they knew that. One time Abraham was instructed by God to take his son Isaac to the top of Mount Moriah and offer him there as a sacrifice. He didn't tell Isaac about it and he didn't tell the men with him about it, the servants.

They journeyed for three days and came to Mount Moriah and Abraham and the boy Isaac got ready to go upon the mountain. Now Abraham knew he was going up there to worship God. He was going up there for a sacrifice. He was going up there to approach God.

Isaac knew they were going up there to worship God and these men with him knew that. So, Abraham turned to these men and said, *"You fellows stay here; the lad and I are going up there and worship God and then we are coming back."*

So, they started up the hill and Isaac, being a pretty good-sized boy, handed him the wood and he carried the fire on a stick, you know, a torch or something. They didn't have safety matches then but he is carrying the fire.

They got to walking up that hill and Isaac turned to his father and said, "father." He said *"here am I, son."* Isaac said, *"Here is the fire and here is the wood and you said that we were going to worship God the Father; where is the lamb? We can't come before God without blood."* That is when Abraham said, *"My son, God will provide himself a lamb for a burnt offering."*

Our Lord Jesus, talking about that very hour, said; *"Abraham saw my day. Abraham rejoiced to see my day. He saw it and he was glad."*

Isaiah talked about it, he said; *"He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was laid upon him and by his stripes we are healed."*

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They knew something. They knew that the Christ, the Messiah, the Redeemer, would be a sin-offering, the atonement and a sacrificial lamb. That is when John saw the Lord Jesus, he said; *“behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.”*

A bloodless religion is a salvation-less religion; it is a hopeless religion, and a helpless religion. *“It is the blood that maketh atonement for the soul.”*

They knew that He would be a *“prophet like Moses.”* They knew that He would be a *“Priest after the order of Melchisedek.”* They knew He would be a King with authority like David.

And let me tell you something, all the way from Genesis to Malachi, through the promises and prophecies, types, and shadows, these men knew that God would send a Messiah. They knew that He would be a Redeemer and they called Him *“the Christ.”*

Now, if you start in the New Testament you will find these different things occurring. When John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord Jesus Christ. When he appeared and he preached mightily, mightily preached, people went out to hear him from everywhere.

The priests and the Pharisees came running out there and they said to John; *“are you the Christ, are you the Christ?”* John said, *“I am not the Christ.”* They said, *“Who are you? Are you Elijah? No, I am not Elijah; I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord.”* He is coming.

All right, then the woman at the well, when our Lord Jesus was talking to her; I am saying that these people expected a Redeemer, a Christ, a Messiah. When our Lord Jesus talked to the woman at the well, He said; *“you don’t know what you worship.”* She said, *“Our fathers worship in this mountain; your fathers worship in Jerusalem.”*

He said, *“You don’t know what you worship. They that worship God must worship him in the spirit and truth. God is a Spirit.”* She said, *“Well; when the Christ, when the Messiah comes who is called the Christ, he will tell us everything.”*

That is when Jesus of Nazareth looked at her and said, *“I that speak to thee am he.”* That is when the whole Old Testament was fulfilled in those three words; *“I am he.”* Someone’s coming; every prophecy says it, every promise declares it and every picture declares it, someone’s coming. Our Lord Jesus looked at that woman and said, *“I am he, I am he.”*

John was in prison, (John the Baptist), and he inquired of Jesus. He sent two men over there and said; *“are you the Christ; are you he that should come or should we look for another? Are you the Christ?”*

The Jews asked in **John 10**, they asked the Master; *“If you be the Christ tell us plainly.”* He said, *“I told you but you didn’t believe me. The works that I do bear witness of me but you didn’t believe me because you are not of my sheep.”*

Then, when He said, when He stood there on the temple steps, that last, great, day of the Feast of the Tabernacle and He cried; *“If any man thirst, let him come to me. Out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”*

Many people said, *“Is not this the Christ? Is not this the Christ of a truth, this is the Christ.”* Yes He is; *“Jesus is the Christ.”*

If I could get anything across to you today, it would be this one point, and that would be the unity of the Scriptures. The Bible, my friend, is not just a Book of poetry, proverbs and quaint sayings. It is not just a Book full of history, love, and all of these different things.

It's not just a place that when you get in trouble, you can turn to page so-and-so and if you get depressed you can turn to page so-and-so, or if you get down in the mouth, you turn to so-and-so or to find airplanes you turn over here you find submarines if you turn over there.

Whoever invented the stupidity of that stuff ought to be banned from the public. They say, *“Where do you find helicopters in the Bible? Where do you find Hitler in the Bible?”*

Who cares? You will find yourself on every page. *“Christ died for the ungodly.”* When we were sinners, *“Christ died.”* Find out yourself that you are a sinner. Find God that He is holy. Find Christ who is the Messiah; He is the Redeemer.

If I can get across to you one thing it would be this, the unity of the Scriptures, in reference to redemption, through the person of Jesus Christ, He is the Messiah. That is what Peter is declaring on Pentecost when he goes back over the whole history of the Jewish nation.

He said, *“Therefore, (let me tell you folks something); let all the house of Israel know that God has promised a Messiah, the Christ; (God has prophesied of the coming Christ, (the Prophet, the Priest, and the King).”*

“Let all the house of Israel know that this same Jesus (who was born of Mary in Bethlehem's manger and walked on this earth 33 ½ years and went about doing good); this same Jesus (who was despised and rejected of men); this same Jesus, (in whom you found no good; this same Jesus whom you rejected and resisted and nailed to a cross); this same Jesus; God hath made him whom you crucified to be Lord and Christ.”

That is what Simeon declared when he took up the child Jesus in his arms. In **Luke 22:26** it says, *“There was a man called Simeon who dwelt in Jerusalem and it was revealed to him; (listen to this in **Luke 2:26**); it was revealed to him by the Holy Ghost, that he would not die until He had seen the Lord's Christ.”*

Abraham looked for Him. Moses wrote of Him. Isaiah prophesied of Him. Jeremiah talked about Him. It finally came down to a man called Simeon in the temple at Jerusalem. The Holy Ghost said to him; *“You won't die until you see the Lord's Christ, the Christ.”*

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He was waiting. Mary and Joseph brought that infant Jesus of Nazareth into the temple and Simeon took Him up in his arms, this man who God anointed with special understanding and said, *“Lord; now let your servant depart in peace; mine eyes have seen thy salvation.”*

This is what John is saying in **John 20:31**; listen, *“these things are written; this whole book is written that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and believing you might have life through His name.”*

“He is the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth.” That is what the Scripture says. He is just not an example or a martyr or a reformer or a sweet, little, Jesus boy or a poor little infant; He is the Son of God.

He is the Christ, that Prophet Moses talked about, that priest Melchisedek pictured, that Wonderful, Counselor, that Mighty God Isaiah spoke about. Listen to **1 John 4**; this is so important, will you listen in **1 John 4: verses 1 through 3**:

“Beloved; (I am reading from the amplified now); “beloved, put not faith in every spirit but prove and test the spirits or preachers to discover whether they come from God.” Are you listening? “For many false preachers are gone about into the world. By this ye shall know and recognize the Spirit of God.”

Do you hear that? *“By this, try the spirit; by this you shall know and recognize the Spirit of God.”* Every spirit, every preacher, that acknowledges and confesses the fact that Jesus Christ the Messiah, Jesus Christ the Lord of glory, (Jesus, His name of humiliation and humanity, Christ the anointed, the Messiah) actually has become a man and has come into the flesh, that Spirit is of God.

Now listen; *“And every spirit, every preacher, that does not acknowledge and confess that Jesus the Christ has come in the flesh, is not of God and is the spirit of the anti-Christ.”*

Now you read that in your own Bible; let me give it to you in **1 John 4: 1 through 3**, the whole text whether or not God is speaking through a man or a man is speaking for God or whether he is an anti-Christ.

Does he preach and believe that the Christ, the Messiah, the Redeemer, of whom God prophesied, pictured and promised in the Old Testament, is none other than Jesus of Nazareth who is verily the Son of God from heaven, God in human flesh.

Yes He is! *“God became a man and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. He thought it not robbery to be equal with God. He took upon Himself the form of a servant and became a man.”*

In **1 John 5:20**, listen to the Word in **1 John 5:20**; *“And we and known (have seen positively) that the Son of God has actually come to this world and has given us an understanding, (an insight, to recognize and come to know more clearly), him who is true and we are in him who is true and in his Son Jesus the Christ, (Jesus the Messiah); this is the true God; this is life eternal.”*

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Saul of Tarsus was on his road to Damascus. He believed that the Messiah was coming and he believed the Christ was coming. He believed that the Lord was going to send a deliverer but he didn't believe that Jesus of Nazareth was that Christ.

He sought to wipe His name off the earth. God struck him down on the road to Damascus. A bright light shined from heaven and a voice said; "*Saul, why persecutest thou me?*" He said, "*Who are you Lord?*" That voice from heaven said, "*I am Jesus whom thou persecuted.*"

He went forth to declare to the whole earth from that moment on, "*Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ;*" now you believe that in **John 20:31; 1 John 4:1 through 3 and 1 John 5:20**; you read those Scriptures for they declare that Jesus is the Christ.