Jesus is the Christ

The apostles as well as others, like the believing Jew, Apollos, had a purpose in their teaching. Their objective was to proclaim and show from scripture that Jesus is the Christ. Acts 18:28 says, “Apollos…vigorously refuted the Jews publicly, showing from the scriptures that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 17:2-3 reveals, “Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths, reasoned with them from the scriptures, explaining and demonstrating…this Jesus whom I preach to states, “And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.” How important is it to believe this? John stated in 1 John 2:22, “who is a liar, but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?” And 1 John 5:1 says, “Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

It seems quite important that we believe Jesus is the Christ, the prophesied Messiah to come. The book of Acts has many examples of how the followers of Jesus proclaimed the fulfillment of Old Testament scriptures proving Jesus is the Christ.

It’s important to understand the word “Christ” (Greek, “christos”; Hebrew, “mashiyach”, translated messiah) means anointed. It is used in reference to others who were anointed like kings, priests, and cherubs. David was the “anointed” of the LORD as king over Israel. The scriptures which the early church used (the Old Testament) prophesied of a Messiah, an anointed one, to come.

Peter proclaimed that Jesus is this Christ when he quoted Psalms 16:8-11 saying, “nor will You allow Your holy one to see corruption” and then said to the people, David prophesied God would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne, and therefore spoke of the resurrection of Jesus the Christ. Peter declared “this Jesus, God has raised up of which we are all witnesses.”(Acts 2:32) Peter was declaring that David’s prophesy was fulfilled through Jesus because He was the Messiah raised from the dead to be King.

The next prophecy which Peter claimed fulfilled is Psalms 110:1; David said, “The LORD said to my Lord, sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool.” David is still in his grave and did not ascend to the heavens, but as Peter stated, “let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.”(Acts 2:34-36) Jesus was the prophesied Lord and Christ through the resurrection.

Peter again spoke this gospel in Acts 3:12-26. Peter validated Jesus as the Christ by saying, “the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers glorified His servant Jesus…by raising him from the dead.” He continued saying, through faith in Jesus’ name the lame man was healed. The prophets foretold the suffering of Jesus which was fulfilled, and he quoted the prophesy in Deut. 18 which says, “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brethren. Him you shall hear in all things, whatever he says to you. And everyone who will not hear that prophet will be utterly destroyed from among the people.” He also told Abraham “in your seed all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” (Gen. 12:3) Peter stated “God, having raised up His servant Jesus, sent Him to bless you, in turning away everyone of

you from your iniquities." Jesus is the Christ, therefore we should believe Him; we are blessed through Him by turning from our sins.

Again, Peter spoke to the rulers of the people and the elders of Israel quoting Psalms 118:22, "this is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved." (Acts 4:11-12) Jesus is the "chief cornerstone" and we have salvation only because of him.

Even in prayer, Peter and his companions spoke of the fulfillment of prophesy. They proclaimed to God, "Lord, you are God, who made heaven and earth and sea and all that is in them, who spoke by the mouth of your servant David. Peter quoted Psalm 2:1, 2, "Why did the nations rage, and the people plot vain things? The kings of the earth took their stand, and the rulers were gathered together against the LORD and against his Christ." Peter continued "for truly against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together to do whatever your hand and your purpose determined before to be done." (Acts 4:24-28) Again, Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy… he is the LORD's anointed one.

When Stephen was accused and brought before the council in Acts 7, he said, "which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the just one, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it." He declared to the angry crowd, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the son of man standing at the right hand of God!" Stephen was revealing that Jesus was the prophet of whom Moses spoke, the just one whom they didn't believe, but murdered, and the son of man now resurrected. He proclaimed the gospel that Jesus is the Christ.

When Philip spoke, in Acts 8, to the eunuch he was reading Isaiah 53:7-8 which says, "He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and as a lamb before its shearer is silent, so he opened not his mouth. In his humiliation his justice was taken away, and who will declare his generation? For his life is taken from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip who the prophet was speaking about. Philip "preached Jesus to him." Jesus was the Lamb of God sacrificed for the sins of all mankind. The eunuch believed what Philip taught him about Jesus, that he was the Messiah and the son of God. (Acts 8:32-37)

In Acts 10, Peter spoke to Cornelius saying, "The word which God sent to the children of Israel, preaching peace through Jesus Christ—He is Lord of all—that word you know…God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit…God was with him…and him God raised up on the third day…it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead. To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins." (Acts 10:34-43) Peter taught that both Jew and Gentile must fear God, live righteously, and believe that Jesus is the Christ for forgiveness of sins.

Paul spoke in the synagogue in Antioch in Pisidia to the Jews and those who feared God (Acts 13). He spoke of King David and said, "from this man's seed, according to the promise, God

raised up for Israel a Savior—Jesus." From the seed of David was born the Savior of Israel and all mankind, Jesus the Christ.

Paul continued, "to you the word of this salvation has been sent. For those who dwell in Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they did not know him, nor even the voices of the Prophets which are read every Sabbath, have fulfilled them in condemning Him…now when they had fulfilled all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the tree and laid Him in a tomb…that promise which was made to the fathers, God has fulfilled this for us their children in that He has raised up Jesus." (Acts 13:26-33) Through fulfilled prophecy and the resurrection from the dead Jesus is the Christ.

Paul then stated "as it is also written in the second Psalm: 'You are My Son, today I have begotten you.'" This passage in Psalms 2 also says, "Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession. You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel." Paul revealed Jesus the Christ as the fulfillment of this Psalm. Paul stated, "He raised Him from the dead, no more to return to corruption, and He has spoken thus, 'I will give you the sure mercies of David.'"

Paul continued quoting Psalm 16:10, "You will not allow Your Holy One to see corruption." "Through this man is preached to you the forgiveness of sins, and by him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses." (Acts 13:38-39) Paul taught through Jesus we are justified, and our sins are forgiven.

Then Paul warned them, "beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you." He quoted Habakkuk 1:5, "'Behold, you despisers, marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, a work which you will by no means believe, though one were to declare it to you.'" This work is the fulfillment of the prophesied one to come, Jesus the Christ through whom they would have forgiveness of sins. (Acts 13:41)

Again, as Paul continued to travel through Macedonia, and then, on to Thessalonica "as his custom was, he went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the scriptures (the Old Testament) explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, saying, 'This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ.'" This was Paul's mission and teaching, that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah. (Acts 17:2-3)

Paul went on to Corinth, and "he reasoned in the synagogue every Sabbath, and persuaded both Jews and Greeks…and testified to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ." (Acts 18:4-5) And many of the Corinthians, hearing, believed and were baptized.

The apostles and other teachers clearly taught from the Old Testament scripture that Jesus was the prophesied Messiah to come. It is important that we recognize the fulfillment of prophesied scripture and believe that Jesus is the Christ, the anointed one of God, the King to come.

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