



A Sure Foundation

The beliefs that we build our lives on

JESUS THE CHRIST

MONTH 3

WEEK 2

READ:

Luke 6-12

Psalms 22



The word Christ, often used as a last name for Jesus, is actually a title taken from the Greek word Christos which means the anointed one, or Messiah. The term is a bit lost on us Gentiles, but to the Jews it was rich with meaning and history. In the Old Testament, the priests, kings, and at times, prophets were ‘anointed

ones’, a sign of God’s selection and approval of the men filling these sacred offices. Superseding them all was the promised Messiah, the Prophet, Priest and King to come who would be Savior to all. Interestingly, the Jews of New Testament times saw much more of the Old Testament as prophetic of the Messiah than we do as Christians today. They were certainly not guilty of neglecting or ignoring Scripture, their error was in holding such a narrow interpretation of what Scripture said that they failed to recognize the Messiah that came to them. (Unger 839-840) I have to admit that I am not so certain that I would have either. Imagine someone coming into your church and turning everything topsy-turvy. How quickly would you discard a set of beliefs that generations have held as true? For one thing, Jews believed that they already had a relationship with God. It had been given them as a gift at Mt. Sinai, and in their mind, they had no need to be “saved”. (Why Jews Don’t Accept Jesus) Why would they want to risk losing what they already had on the preposterous claims of a rather insulting newcomer? Our Messiah Jesus was not anointed with oil in the proper manner, but by a sinful woman with perfume and her own tears. But still there were those, even among the religious leaders, who saw Jesus for the divinely anointed being that He is, the Son of God, apart from whom no one can be saved. They believed His claims to be the Son of God, who came from glory and returned to glory. In His time as man, His divine perspective turned everything we know about how things work upside down. The poor, the hungry, and the hated are blessed. The dead come back to life. The storm becomes calm, the demons become afraid, and God becomes man.



“Anyone who
does not
give up
everything
he has cannot be
my disciple.”

Luke 14:33

FULLY DIVINE

Many religions acknowledge Jesus as a real historical figure, and even as a person to be greatly admired and emulated. The most basic identifying belief of Christianity is that Jesus, the man who lived and died on earth, is truly one with God. So, how do we know that Jesus really was the Son of God and not just some severely deluded or glory seeking guy?



Jesus had to deal with that question on a continual basis throughout His ministry years. So did His disciples and so do we. In Luke 9:18 He asks the disciples “Who do the crowds say I am? The answer was a mix of speculation. Then Jesus asks the absolutely crucial question; “Who do **you** say I am?” To which Peter answered “_____.” What made Peter believe? Part of it was that great catch of fish in Luke 5. Also, he had seen so many people, including his own mother-in-law, healed. There were the wise parables and His powerful moral teaching. I’m sure those all played a part, but I think the biggest reason that Peter believed that Jesus was exactly who He claimed to be, was that He said so. As C.S. Lewis said “He produced mainly three effects-Hatred-Terror-Adoration.....You can shut Him up for a fool, you can spit at Him and kill Him as a demon; or you can fall at His feet and call Him Lord and God. But let us not come with any patronizing nonsense about His being a great human teacher.” Peter knew that Jesus was neither fool nor demon, so that left only for Him to be Lord and God. The character of Jesus was the best proof of His claim to those that knew Him. It’s impossible for Him to only be a great guy and good example, because if He’s lying to us about who He is and what He can offer us, then He’s really not such a great guy is He?

Jesus also made a habit of pointing to Hebrew Scripture, drawing attention to the ways that He was fulfilling what had been written about the Messiah. What Old Testament passage did Jesus read at the synagogue in Nazareth back in Luke 4? _____

What did He point out to the disciples in Luke 24:44? _____

Do you think He meant specific messianic prophecies, or the entire Hebrew Bible? _____

List the prophecies in Psalm 22 that Jesus fulfilled: _____

How was the crucifixion described? _____

It is interesting that crucifixion as a common mode of execution came with the Roman Empire some 300 years later. Being impaled on a pole would have been much more familiar to David’s day, but that is not what is described. There are other prophecies that place the coming of the Messiah within a certain timeframe. What is promised in Genesis 49:10? _____

Judah lost its tribal identity in 70 A.D. with the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple. They had lost their last bit of authority several years after Jesus’ birth when Herod Archelaus was replaced by a Roman Governor. When all the prophecies are taken together, we find that Jesus did indeed come at “just the right time” as had been ordained by God. According to mathematician Peter W. Stoner, the unlikely probability of one person fulfilling even just any eight of the messianic prophecies is 1 in 100,000,000,000,000,000! (Rvdelnik 1351-1353)

DIG DOWN DEEP FOR A SURE FOUNDATION Luke 6:46-49

Face it, most of us can put up a good front, at least for a little while. Many of us are more worried about looking the part of a follower of Christ than actually being one. But Jesus points out to His followers that those who merely hear His words and don't put them into practice are like a man that built his house on the surface, skipping the work of digging down and building a foundation on the rock. The house with the foundation doesn't look that much different than the house without one...until the flood waters come. It is not enough to call Jesus "Lord", we have to live and behave as if He is our Lord.

THE DIVINE PRESENCE Luke 6-12

What capability as God did Jesus demonstrate in each of these passages in Luke, and how did the witnesses react?

- 6:8 _____
- _____
- 6:10 _____
- _____
- 6:18,19 _____
- _____
- 7:14,15 _____
- _____
- 7:21,22 _____
- _____
- 7:39-40 _____
- _____
- 7:48 _____
- 8:2 _____
- 8:24 _____
- 8:27-33 _____
- _____
- 8:43-48 _____
- _____
- 9:1 _____
- 9:13-17 _____
- _____
- 9:28-32 _____
- _____
- 9:42-43 _____
- 9:47 _____
- 10:18-19 _____
- _____
- 11:14-20 _____
- _____

WANT TO READ WHAT I READ?

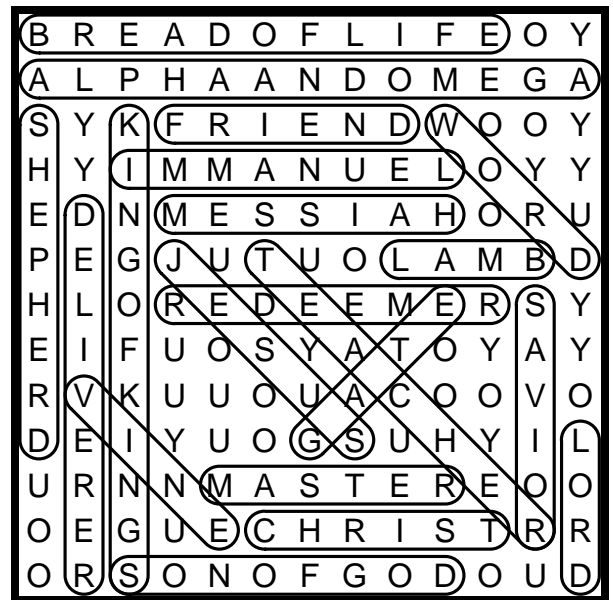
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Rydelnik, Robert. "What does the Hebrew Bible Say About the Coming Messiah?." The Apologetics Study Bible. 2007.

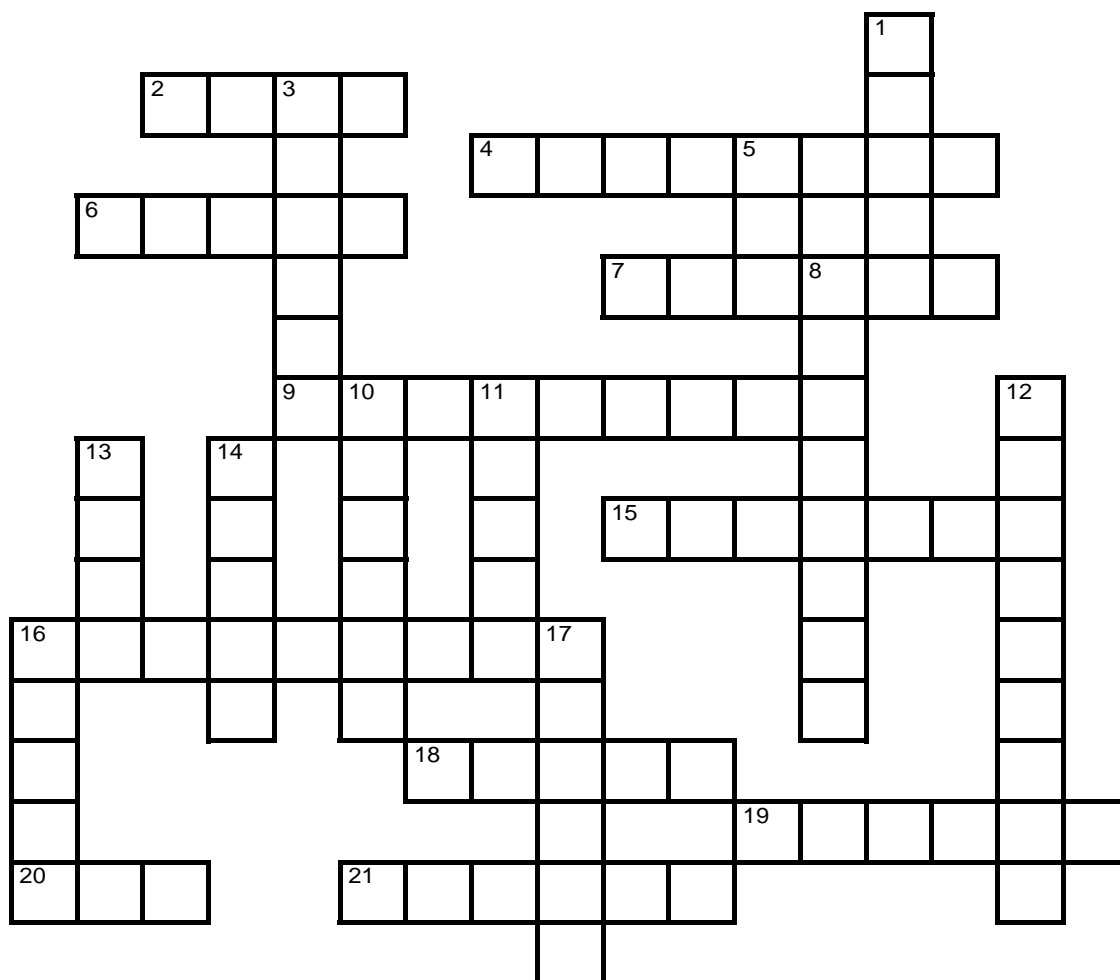


Answer to names of Jesus Puzzle - M3W1



PUZZLE PAGE

M3W2 - The Transfiguration Luke 9:28-36



Across

2. what Jesus took them along to do
4. where they went
6. the men saw this when they were awake
7. the Son was
9. they spoke about Jesus' _____
15. became bright as a flash of lightening
16. departure brought to fulfillment here
18. was talking with Jesus
19. what they were to do to the Son
20. Jesus
21. those with Jesus felt _____

Down

1. came from the cloud
3. what the men were when the cloud surrounded them
5. number of men who appeared with Jesus
8. what Peter wanted to build
10. appeared in glorious splendor
11. Jesus after the voice had spoken
12. kept what they had seen to themselves
13. the appearance of Jesus' changed
14. appeared while Peter was speaking
16. was with Jesus, Peter and John
17. how Peter addressed Jesus