



What Does "Christ" Mean?

OT Advent Catena, 1 John 2:21-27, John 1:1-9, 14-18

December 11, 2022

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Advent is it time when we remember and rejoice that Jesus is **the Christ**, the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament times¹. This is a crucial part of the Gospel; this is the storyline of Holy Scripture; the word "Christ" captures the Person and Work of the Son of God!

- ⇒ The entire Old Testament anticipated the arrival of the Messiah, the Christ. Generation after generation, prophet after prophet, God promised to send a Savior who would rescue us from our sins. God's Old Testament people trusted God's promises, and longed for the arrival of the Messiah!
- ⇒ God was faithful to His promises, and at just at the right time, "*in the fullness of time*²," God sent forth His Son, born of the Virgin Mary in Bethlehem, to be the Messiah, the Christ, the Savior who would bless the entire earth! The Son was given the name "Jesus", because *He will save us from our sins*.
- ⇒ Jesus was publicly "anointed" with the Holy Spirit at His Baptism, when the Spirit came down in a form of a dove and landed with Him. God the Father confirmed it with His own voice from Heaven, "*This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased*³."

¹ "Messiah" is an Old Testament Hebrew word that means "anointed." (The New Testament Greek word for "Messiah/anointed" is "Christ." Hence, "Messiah" = 'anointed' = "Christ"). This word is used to describe the One God promised to send and "anoint" with the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world. You could say that the word "Messiah" means the "Office and Work of the Savior." Jesus is this Messiah, the Christ who saves us from our sins! The entire Old Testament was anticipating His arrival on earth in fulfillment of God's Promises. Advent is a time when we rehearse this fascinating story of our salvation and remember the great promises.

² Galatians 4:4-5: "In the fullness of time, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship."

³ Matthew 3:13-17: Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to be baptized by John. But John tried to deter him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a

- ⇒ The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, teach us about the life, teaching, and work of the Christ, the One God sent for us⁴!
- ⇒ The Apostles of the New Testament teach and explain the significance of the work of Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah.
- ⇒ The Holy Christian Church proclaims to all nations that Jesus is the Messiah, the long promised Christ, the Savior of all men. The Church proclaims free salvation by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone!

The Lord Jesus is the **CORNERSTONE** of the Christian Church; He is the **SOLID ROCK** and which we stand. Faith in Jesus includes the confession that He is **the Christ**. The Christian confession includes a *clear understanding* and the *bold confession* that Jesus is **the Christ**, the One anointed by the Holy Spirit to be the Savior of the world; He is the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament times!

ANY DENIAL OF THIS IMMEDIATELY PUTS FAITH IN DANGER. The Bible has harsh words to say for a *denial* that Jesus is the Christ. For instance, here's what St. John writes:

Who is the *liar*? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the *antichrist*—denying the Father and the Son. No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 1 John 2:22-23

Liar and **Antichrist** are strong terms; John also describes those who deny that Jesus is the Christ as **hypocrites, lost, blinded, in darkness, and a stumbling block** to others. There's **no truth in them**, they **deny God's Word**, and they **make God out to be a liar**.

Faith in Jesus includes that you confess that He is the Christ, the long promised Savior of the Old Testament who has accomplished the work of salvation with His life and death.

dove and alighting on Him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased."

⁴ John 20:31: "these things are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing, you might have life in His Name!"

DENIAL OF JESUS AS THE CHRIST IS DISASTROUS:

If Jesus is not the Christ, *then all of God's promises are a lie.*

If Jesus is not the Christ, *then your faith is in vain.*

If Jesus is not the Christ, *then He is not the Son of God nor Savior of the world*

If Jesus is not the Christ, *you are still in your guilt and will die in your sins*

If Jesus is not the Christ, *then the gospels and the New Testament is a deception*

If Jesus is not the Christ, *then you might as well go home right now.*

How Sad To Even Say Those Things⁵! How Tragic and Blasphemous!

The *Good News* is that **Jesus is the Christ**, the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament times!

The *Gospel* is that God sent His Son to live a perfect life for you, and to die a sacrificial death in your place. He has done all the work of salvation for you. That is the work of the Christ; that is why He came into the world!

The *Promise of God* is that Jesus, the Christ, has rescued you from the danger of sin and saved you from the destruction of death. In Christ you live each day in peace with God; in Christ you will survive death and live forever in His Kingdom; and in Christ your body will rise from the dead on the Last Day, and be glorified.

Everything in Scripture teaches us that *Jesus is the Christ!*

1. God the Father proclaimed it!
2. God the Holy Spirit demonstrated it!
3. John the Baptist was sent specifically to announce it!

⁵ As I prepare this sermon (early November), I feel almost guilty even writing those kind of blasphemous words on paper; and I cannot even imagine saying them from the pulpit! These kind of words should make us cringe and recoil; they are dark lies and sacrilegious thoughts from the depths of hell itself!

4. Jesus confirms it with His teaching and His miracles!
5. God raised Jesus from the dead to powerfully show it!
6. The Messianic Prophecies predicted it!
7. Abraham saw it!
8. Moses wrote about it!
9. The Prophets anticipated it!
10. The Angels sang about it!
11. The Apostles preached it!
12. The Gentiles believe it!

Everything in Scripture teaches us that *Jesus is the Christ!*

St. John summarizes the purpose of Scripture at the end of his Gospel when he said that *“these things are written so that you might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and that by believing, you might have life in His Name!*

John 20:31

Jesus is the Christ!

That means God keeps His Word; He is faithful to His Promises.

God has provided a long line of witnesses to testify that Jesus is the Christ!

God the Father has sent His Son to be the Christ (Messiah), and to do the work of salvation for you!

You can have 100% confidence in your salvation.

Your sins are forgiven.

You do have peace with God.

You do have eternal life.

ALL BECAUSE JESUS IS the Christ!

Amen!

Lord Jesus,

**you are the Christ, the long
promised Messiah of the Old
Testament times!**

**We thank you for coming into the
world to save us from our sins. We
thank you for Your perfect life and
Your sacrificial death which
earned our salvation; something
we could never have done on our
own. Give us faith to believe this,
and comfort us with the sure and
certain promises of the
forgiveness of sins and eternal
life. Amen!**

Messianic Promises of Advent (catena)

And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; He will crush your head, and you will strike His heel. Genesis 3:15

The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.” Genesis 12:1-3

[The Lord said,] “I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him. Deuteronomy 18:18

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans[b] of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.” Micah 5:2

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. He will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.” Luke 1:31-33

She will give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21

1 John 2:21-27

I do not write to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it and because no lie comes from the truth. 22 Who is the liar? It is whoever denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a person is the antichrist—denying the Father and the Son. 23 No one who denies the Son has the Father; whoever acknowledges the Son has the Father also. 24 As for you, see that what you have heard from the beginning remains in you. If it does, you also will remain in the Son and in the Father. 25 And this is what he promised us—eternal life. 26 I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray. 27 As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.

John 1:-9; 14-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. 4 In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. 9 The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

14 The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth. 15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, “This is the one I spoke about when I said, ‘He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’”) 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. 18 No one has ever seen God, but the one and only Son, who is Himself God and is in closest relationship with the Father, has made Him known.