



The Office of "Christ"

Isaiah 9:1-7 Hebrews 1:1-3 Luke 2:1-20

December 18, 2022

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This Advent season, we have been working with the idea of Jesus as the "Christ." The word "Christ" is a title for Jesus; it teaches us that He is the long promised Savior of the Old Testament times. He is the Son of God who has come into the world to do the work of salvation for us!

In our Christmas carols, we frequently refer to Jesus as the Christ. For instance ...

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
Oh come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

This, this is Christ the King,

Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING,

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,**

late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as Man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

The idea of the “**Christ**” is crucial to understanding who Jesus is and the significance of the Christmas story. St. John writes that a denial of Jesus as the “**Christ**” is a dark, satanic lie¹. Today we want to take one more look at what the title “**Christ**” means; how it describes Jesus, and how it impacts us!

Think about the title **Christ** as an “office, or a position.” In Jesus, three Old Testament *offices* come together in One Person. Jesus, the Son of God, born in Bethlehem, holds the offices of **Prophet, Priest, and King**. In the Old Testament times these were three different offices held by a variety of men over the centuries; but now, with Jesus, *He holds all three offices* as the **Christ**, the Messiah.

Jesus is the greatest **Prophet** of all; because He speaks the very words of God as God Himself! The prophecy of the Messiah as a “Prophet” goes all the way back to Moses and the Exodus:

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

In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son Hebrews 1:1-2a

The words of Jesus are the words of God. Jesus speaks with full divine power and authority. Jesus reveals who God is and what God is like. From Jesus we learn about the love, grace, and compassion of God. Jesus teaches us that God is our Father who watches over our lives; Jesus reveals the Holy Spirit who lives within us and empowers us in our spiritual lives; and Jesus' own words forgive our sins and give us life. Jesus proclaims absolution to you! Your sins are forgiven! Jesus speaks the words of eternal life! His words are **Gospel**: they are good news for us!

¹ 1 John 2:22-23: 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.

The words of Jesus are powerful; they forgive sins and give life; they are the very words of God Himself. Jesus the Messiah, the “*Christ*”, is the greatest Prophet of all! He speaks the very words of God as God Himself! That is why it is so important to hear, learn, study, memorize, and put into practice the words of Jesus, the “Prophet” from God! Jesus is the greatest *Prophet* of all, because He speaks the very words of God as God Himself!

As “*Christ*”, Jesus is also *anointed* to be our *Great High Priest*. Far superior to Aaron, the Levites, and every single priest in the Old Testament times, Jesus our *Great High Priest* laid down His life for us. He offered the perfect sacrifice that made full atonement for your sins. His death on the cross covers over your sins, extinguishes God's wrath towards you, and reconciles you with God Himself. You have peace with God because of the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus Christ, your *Great High Priest*.

Jesus the *Christ* is *anointed* to be your *Great High Priest*. In His Resurrection on the Third Day and His Ascension into heaven, He continually serves before the throne of God as our High Priest. From the Right Hand of God the Father, Jesus speaks words of absolution to you, He is continually covering over your sins, and He prays perfect prayers to the Father on your behalf. Jesus the *Christ*, the man born in Bethlehem, is the Son of God who eternally holds the Office of *High Priest* in the presence of God.

As “*Christ*”, Jesus is *anointed* to be the *King* over all things. Jesus, the Son of God, is greater than King David, King Solomon and all the kings of the earth. Jesus the *King* rules by the power of His Word. Jesus commands Creation and makes everything work for the good of His people. Jesus the *King* rules in His Church with His Means of Grace. Jesus uses His mighty, divine power and authority to forgive sins and give eternal life. The *King* uses His mighty power to set you free from your sin and rescue you from death and the grave. The King has given you the victory over the devil and

his depraved demons. Jesus is the *King* who will rule eternally in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus the *King* has an eternal Kingdom that will never end; and He has worked in your life with His mighty power so that you know and believe it. You will live forever in the **KINGdom** of God; the **KINGdom** of Jesus.

The Greek word “*Christ*” is a **title** for Jesus, it is not a name. It means “*anointed*”, and in Hebrew the same word is “Messiah.”

1. God promised to send the Messiah throughout the Old Testament times; He kept those promises, and He will keep all the promises He makes to you.
2. There is a long line of witnesses that confirm that Jesus is the Messiah. Your faith is Christ good, true, and right.
3. Any denial of Jesus as the Christ is fatal to faith; it’s a rejection of the One God sent to be our Savior.
4. The Messiah, the Christ, is our Prophet, Priest, and King. The great offices of the Old Testament all come together in **One Person: Jesus**, the son of Mary, the Son of God, who was born in Bethlehem!

Because Jesus is the *Christ*, our Prophet, Priest, and King, you can be assured that your sins are forgiven, that you have been rescued from death and the grave, and that you are set free from the power of the devil. Jesus, the Christ, is your savior! He has done everything needed, 100%, for your salvation. As the Christmas hymns proclaim:

This, this is Christ the King! WHAT CHILD IS THIS?

Christ, by highest heaven adored HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Christ, the everlasting Lord HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord. O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL

God the Father, by your powerful Holy Spirit you anointed Jesus to be the Christ, the long-awaited Messiah of the Old Testament times. We thank you for faith to know and believe that. Deepen our understanding of Jesus as our Prophet, Priest, and King. Help us to worship you in Spirit and Truth, and to celebrate Christmas with great joy and understanding. For sending your Son Jesus to be the “Christ,” we praise and thank you! Amen!

Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while[a] Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”V13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,V14 “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Hebrews 1:1-3

1 In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways,
2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe. 3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.

Isaiah 9:1-7

Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future he will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan—

2 The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

3 You have enlarged the nation
and increased their joy;
they rejoice before you
as people rejoice at the harvest,
as warriors rejoice
when dividing the plunder.

4 For as in the day of Midian's defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.

5 Every warrior's boot used in battle
and every garment rolled in blood
will be destined for burning,
will be fuel for the fire.

6 For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

7 Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty
will accomplish this.