

Article Jesus is God's Anointed, the Messiah, the Christ

In an elaborate ceremony, God had Moses ordain Aaron and his sons as priests in Israel (Lev 7:35-36). They were to serve before the Lord in the worship at the tabernacle. When Aaron was about to die, his garments were placed on his son, Eleazar, who was set aside to take his place (Num. 20:28). Only the appointed priests were to serve before the Lord. Only they were set aside and equipped by God for that service.

Every prophet, priest, and king who was anointed in the Old Testament was a picture of the Messiah, the Christ, the one God anointed, or set aside and equipped, to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. As the psalmist had foretold, *"Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever. The sceptre of Your Kingdom is a sceptre of uprightness. You love righteousness and hate wickedness. Therefore, God, Your God, has anointed You more than Your companions, with the Oil of Joy"* (Psalm 45:6-7). The writer to the Hebrews tells us that this prophecy was fulfilled in Christ (Heb. 1:8-9).

God set Jesus aside to be our Prophet, Priest, and King. Jesus indicated this when he quoted Isaiah's prophecy, *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is on Me because the LORD has anointed Me to tell good news to poor people. He has sent Me to bandage up broken-hearted people, to announce freedom to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to announce the year of the favour of the LORD"* (Is. 61:1-2; Luke 4:18-19). Then Jesus said, *"Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing"* (Luke 4:21). Peter declared that Jesus is God's anointed (Acts 4:27; 10:38). The name the Christ, which Jesus received, indicates He is God's anointed.

God also equipped Jesus, according to His human nature, with every gift the Holy Spirit had to give. Jesus did not receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in a limited way, as did others. He received them without measure (Is. 11:2; John 3:34). A public certification of this took place at Jesus' baptism. There the Holy Spirit descended on him like a dove and sat on him. God the Father said from heaven, *"...This is My Son, whom I love; with Him I am well pleased"* (Matt. 3:17). This fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah: *"Here is My Servant, whom I support, My Chosen One, in whom I delight! I have put My Spirit on Him. He will bring righteousness to the nations"* (Is. 42:1).

Jesus is God's anointed, the Messiah, the Christ. The Old Testament prophecies indicated that Jesus of Nazareth was the Messiah. When Jesus said and did what the Old Testament foretold of Him, it was the Scriptures themselves that confirmed Jesus as God's anointed (Matt. 11:1-6).