

FULFILLMENT OF OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECIES



Lesson 8 for
November 23,
2024

Christianity today has spread globally further than was ever thought possible. And yet, we are amazed that during His earthly existence, Jesus was not recognized as the Messiah by most of the Jews. Despite the fact that His own people had been gifted with many Messianic prophecies in the Scriptures, most did not recognize His divine nature and mission.

***Why did the Jews in
Jesus' day reject
him as the
messiah?***

The Jews in Jesus' time largely rejected him as the Messiah because his teachings and actions did not align with their understanding of what a Messiah should be, particularly regarding the expectation of a political leader who would liberate the Jewish people from Roman rule, and they did not see him fulfilling the messianic prophecies as they interpreted them; additionally, some Jewish leaders may have felt threatened by his growing popularity and teachings that challenged their authority.

Key reasons for rejection:

Misinterpretation of Messianic Prophecies

Many Jews believed the Messiah would be a powerful

military leader who would overthrow Roman rule, while

Jesus' message focused on a spiritual renewal and personal

transformation, not political action.

Lack of outward signs:

The Jewish people expected the **Messiah** to come

With visible signs of power and authority, such as

miraculous display or the rebuilding of the Temple,

Which Jesus did not manifest in a way that aligned

with their expectations.

Conflict with religious authorities:

The Jewish religious leaders, particularly the Pharisees and Sadducees, were often critical of Jesus' teachings and actions, perceiving him as a threat to their authority and established religious practices.

Social and political context:

The Roman occupation of Judea created a strong desire for a political Messiah who would bring about liberation, and Jesus' non-confrontational approach did not resonate with this yearning.



**“But I have a
greater witness
than John's; for
the works which
the Father has
given Me to
finish—the very
works that I do—
bear witness of
Me, that the
Father has sent
Me”**

John 5:36, NKJV



As the memory text points out, the greatest testimony of who Jesus was came directly from His Father through Old Testament prophecies. Jesus often pointed out those references to His own life and ministry. But their preconceived ideas and hardened hearts made it difficult to recognize that the Messiah had finally arrived and was standing in their midst, preaching and performing miracles.



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NEW APOSTOLIC REFORMATION

Today we have groups that believe that Christ can only come back if they initiate a political theocracy in America. Their ideas include bringing church and state together. What biblical basis do they have for this?



RECLAIMING **7** MOUNTAINS

Take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own. Joshua 1:11

Joshua 1:11 is a Bible verse that encourages Christians to be prepared and take action when God calls them to move forward. It teaches that believers should trust in God's faithfulness while also doing their part to prepare themselves for what God has in store.

Here are some other lessons from Joshua 1:11:

Trust in God

Christian leaders should be confident that they can trust God enough to enter every situation with confidence.

Obey God's Word

The center of all we do is God's Word, and our number one task is to be careful to obey it

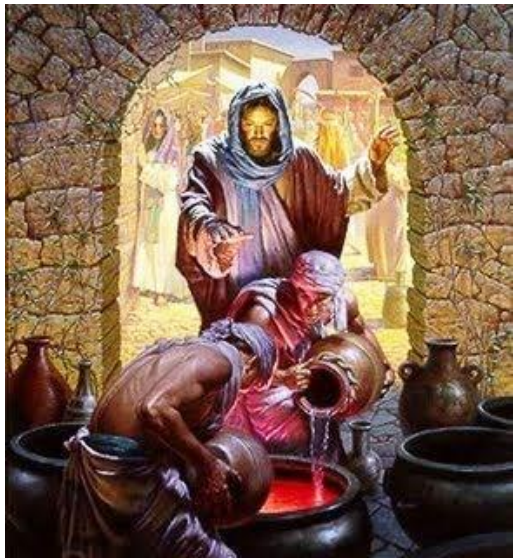
JESUS ANSWERED, "MY KINGDOM
IS NOT OF THIS WORLD; IF IT WERE,
MY SERVANTS WOULD FIGHT TO
PREVENT MY ARREST BY THE JEWS.
BUT NOW MY KINGDOM IS NOT OF
THIS REALM."

- JOHN 18:36



A central image of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a gold sash. He is standing with his right hand raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored gradient of blue, green, and yellow, with numerous bright, glowing rays emanating from behind him, creating a halo effect. The overall scene is bright and ethereal.

**REASONS TO ACCEPT JESUS
AS THE CHRIST**



SUNDAY: SIGNS, WORKS, AND WONDERS

Why was turning water
into wine, cleansing the
lepers, the deaf to hear,
the dead raised and the
poor having the Gospel
preached to them why
was this not enough?

THE BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, THE
LAME WALK, THE LEPERS ARE
CLEANSED, THE DEAF HEAR, THE
DEAD ARE RAISED, AND THE GOOD
NEWS IS PREACHED TO THE POOR.

- MATTHEW 11:5



SEVENTY WEEKS ARE DECREED FOR YOUR
PEOPLE AND YOUR HOLY CITY TO STOP
THEIR TRANSGRESSION, TO PUT AN END TO
SIN, TO MAKE ATONEMENT FOR INIQUITY,
TO BRING IN EVERLASTING
RIGHTEOUSNESS, TO SEAL UP VISION AND
PROPHECY, AND TO ANOINT THE MOST
HOLY PLACE.

- DANIEL 9:24



John 10:24 KJV

"Then came the Jews round about him, and said unto him, How long dost thou make us to doubt? If thou be the Christ, tell us plainly."

John 10:24

John 10:25 KJV

"Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye believed not: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me."

John 10:25

BUT I HAVE TESTIMONY MORE SUBSTANTIAL
THAN THAT OF JOHN. FOR THE WORKS THAT
THE FATHER HAS GIVEN ME TO
ACCOMPLISH—THE VERY WORKS I AM
DOING—TESTIFY ABOUT ME THAT THE
FATHER HAS SENT ME.

— *JOHN 5:36*



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me" (John 5:39 NIV)

Can you think of Old testament verses that testify of Jesus as the messiah?

ISAIAH 53:6 KJV

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”



And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn. - Zechariah 12:10 KJV

THEN AFTER THE SIXTY-TWO WEEKS THE MESSIAH WILL BE CUT OFF AND WILL HAVE NOTHING. THEN THE PEOPLE OF THE PRINCE WHO IS TO COME WILL DESTROY THE CITY AND THE SANCTUARY. THE END WILL COME LIKE A FLOOD, AND UNTIL THE END THERE WILL BE WAR; DESOLATIONS HAVE BEEN DECREED.

- DANIEL 9:26

ASK ME, AND I WILL MAKE
THE NATIONS YOUR
INHERITANCE, THE ENDS
OF THE EARTH YOUR
POSSESSION.

- PSALM 2:8

YOU WILL BREAK THEM
WITH AN IRON SCEPTER:
YOU WILL SHATTER THEM
LIKE POTTERY."

- PSALM 2:9

*And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed
and her Seed;
He shall bruise your head,
And you shall bruise His heel.*

Genesis 3:15

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I WILL PROCLAIM THE
DECREE SPOKEN TO ME BY
THE LORD: "YOU ARE MY
SON; TODAY I HAVE
BECOME YOUR FATHER.

- PSALM 2:7

And the blood shall be to
you for a token upon the
houses where ye are: and
when I see the blood, I will
pass over you, and the
plague shall not be upon
you to destroy you, when I
smite the land of Egypt.

Exodus 12:13 KJV

*How can we protect ourselves
from having the kind of hard
hearts we see among these
religious leaders?*

(1) Praying for the aid of the Spirit of God.

(2) Making it a habit to consistently walk in the light that we presently have... as in obeying God or doing what we already know is His will.

(3) Endeavoring to make a conscious effort to go beyond simply knowing the truth or what may be right.

(4) Having the same willing, compliant and responsive heart that Jesus possessed.

(5) Using our knowledge of the positive influences of being soft-hearted, and negative effects of being hard-hearted as a warning or motivator to respond appropriately to the persuasion of the Holy Spirit.

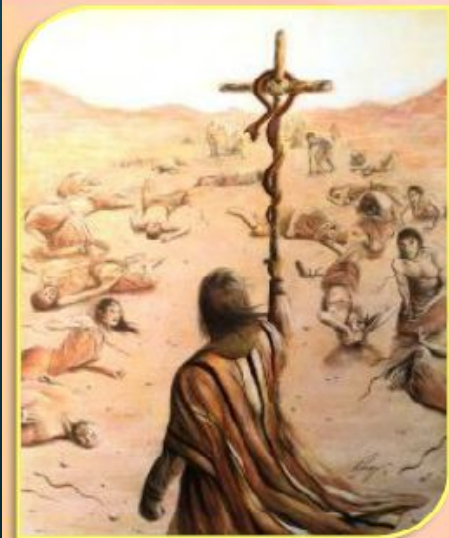
(6) Being distrustful of ourselves.

(7) Developing a loving, intimate and responsive relationship with the Spirit of God and Jesus.



SCRIPTURAL EVIDENCE

"You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me" (John 5:39 NIV)

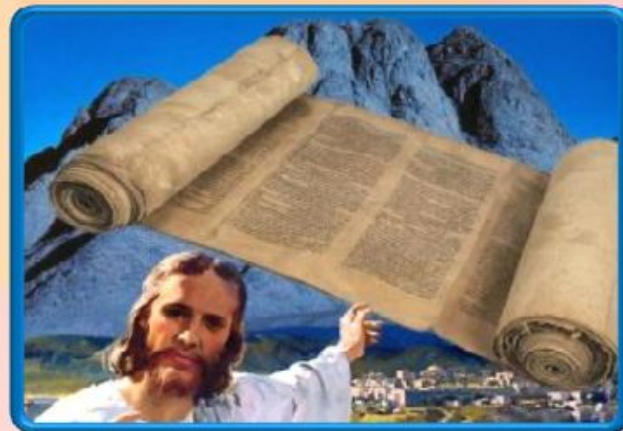


A second evidence that Jesus presented as proof of his divine mission was the testimony of the Scriptures, that is, the Old Testament.

Jesus used Bible stories to explain his mission. For example, he spoke of the serpent lifted up by Moses, thus declaring how he would die, and the meaning of that sacrifice (John 3:14-15.)

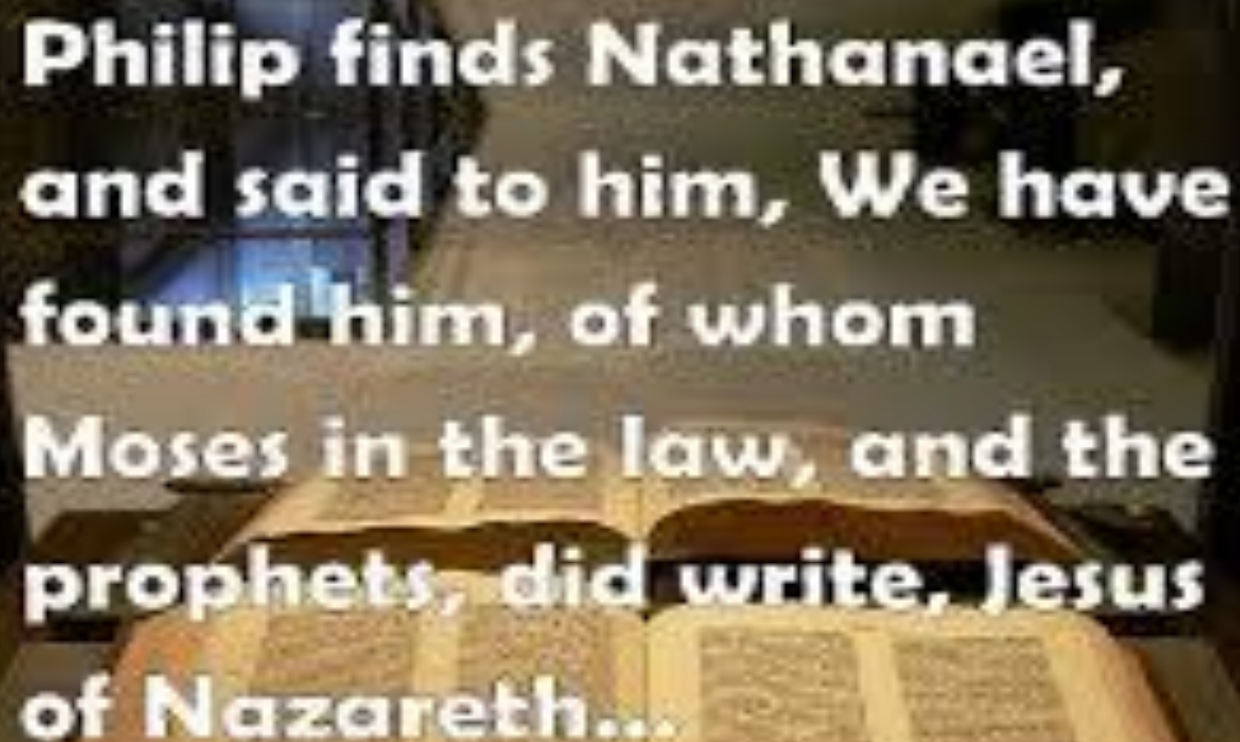
Some recognized in Jesus the Messiah announced by Moses and the prophets (Jn. 1:45; 4:25-26.)

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, Peter, and the rest of the New Testament writers, underline again and again, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, how the life, death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus to the Throne of God are the fulfillment of what was announced in the Old Testament.




**And as Moses lifted
up the serpent
in the wilderness,
even so must
the Son of man
be lifted up:
That whosoever
believeth in Him
should not perish,
but have everlasting
life.**

John 3:14-15 KJV

An open Bible is shown on a wooden stand, viewed from a slightly elevated angle. The pages are yellowed with age. The text is overlaid in white, bold font. The background is dark, possibly a church interior.


**Philip finds Nathanael,
and said to him, We have
found him, of whom
Moses in the law, and the
prophets, did write, Jesus
of Nazareth...**

—John 1:45

An open Bible is shown on a wooden stand, viewed from a slightly elevated angle. The pages are yellowed with age. The text is overlaid in white, bold font. The background is dark, possibly a church interior.

**The woman said to him, I
know that Messiah comes,
which is called Christ:
when he is come, he will
tell us all things.**

—John 4:25

An open Bible is shown on a wooden stand, viewed from a slightly elevated angle. The pages are yellowed with age. The text is overlaid in white, bold font. The background is dark, possibly a church interior.

**Jesus said to her, I that
speak to you am he.**

—John 4:26

How did John the Baptist fit this description given in John 1:23 and Isaiah 40:3

**JOHN REPLIED IN THE WORDS OF
ISAIAH THE PROPHET: "I AM A
VOICE OF ONE CALLING IN THE
WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE
WAY FOR THE LORD.'"**

- JOHN 1:23

**A VOICE OF ONE CALLING:
"PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE LORD
IN THE WILDERNESS; MAKE A
STRAIGHT HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD
IN THE DESERT.**

- ISAIAH 40:3

John the Baptist fit the description in John 1:23 and Isaiah 40:3 by calling himself "the voice of one crying in the wilderness," essentially declaring that his role was to prepare the way for the Lord's coming, just as the prophet Isaiah had foretold, by calling people to repentance and baptism, thus "making straight the path of the Lord."

Why did Jesus turn over the tables
in the sanctuary? How was He
offended by the *money changers'*
presence there, and why were His
actions appropriate according to
John 2:16-17 and Psalm 69:9?

Jesus turned over the tables in the sanctuary because he was angered by the moneychangers turning the temple, which should be a place of prayer and devotion, into a marketplace, essentially profiting off people's religious practices and obstructing their ability to worship God properly; his actions were considered appropriate because he was acting out of zeal for God's house, referencing Psalm 69:9 which says "Zeal for your house consumes me," indicating that he was defending the sanctity of the temple as a representation of God's dwelling place.

EVIDENCE OF THE PROPHECIES

"These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled..." (John 19:36a)

The Old Testament has hundreds of prophecies and allusions concerning Christ, which were fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. John mentions some of them.

**John
1:23**

The work of his predecessor

Isaiah 40:3

**John
2:17**

The zeal of Jesus in expelling the merchants from the Temple

Psalms 69:9

**John
7:38**

The provision of living water

**Jeremiah
2:13**

**John
7:42**

The birth in Bethlehem

Micah 5:2

**John
12:13**

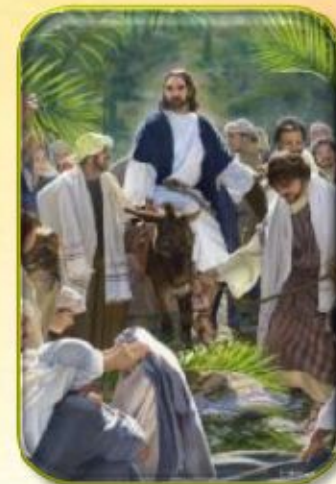
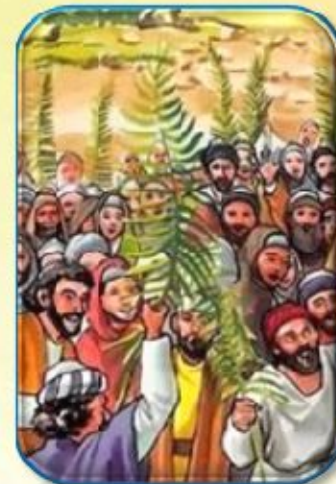
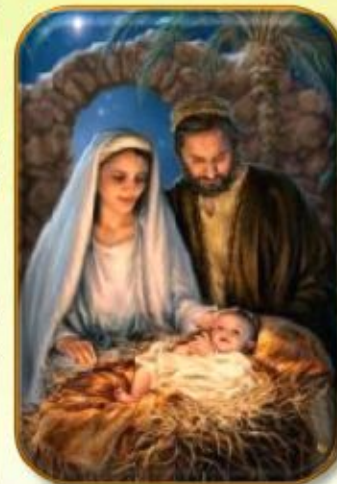
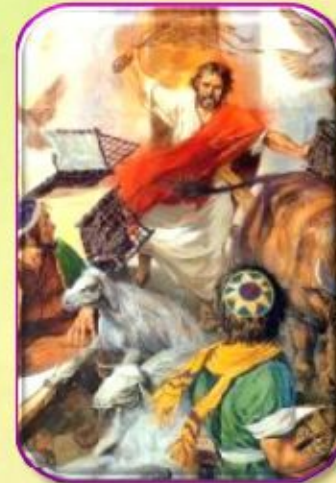
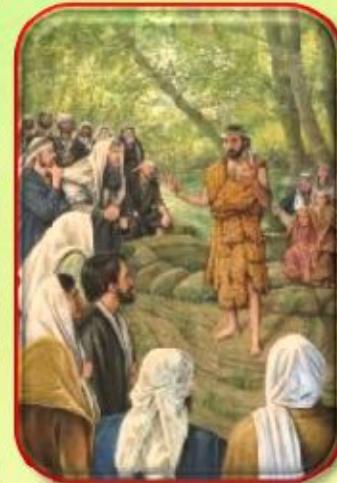
The greeting of the crowd upon entering Jerusalem

**Psalms
118:26**

**John
12:14-15**

The triumphal entry into Jerusalem

**Zechariah
9:9**



EVIDENCE OF THE PROPHECIES

"For these things happened that the Scripture might be fulfilled..." (John 19:36a)

The Old Testament has hundreds of prophecies and allusions concerning Christ, which were fulfilled in the life and ministry of Jesus. John mentions some of them.

John
13:18

The betrayal of a friend

Psalm 41:9

John
19:24

The soldiers divide up Jesus' clothes

Psalm 22:18

John
19:28

Thirst during the crucifixion

Psalm 69:20-21

John
19:36

No bones are broken in his death

Numbers 9:12

John
19:37

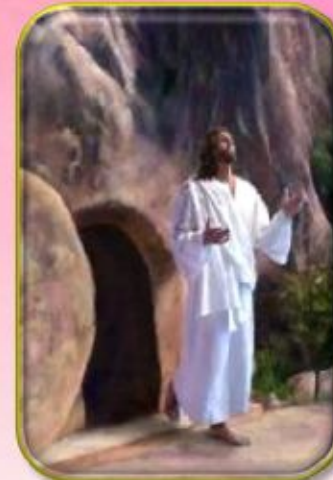
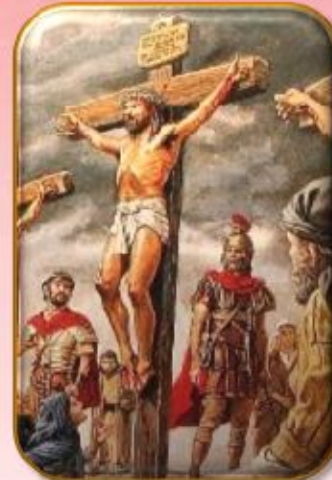
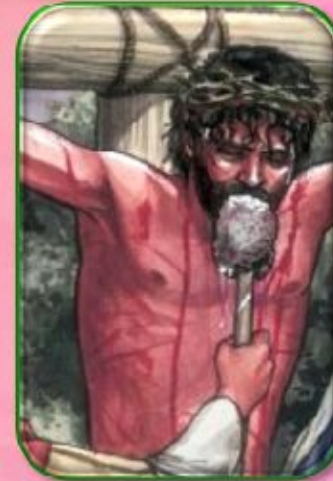
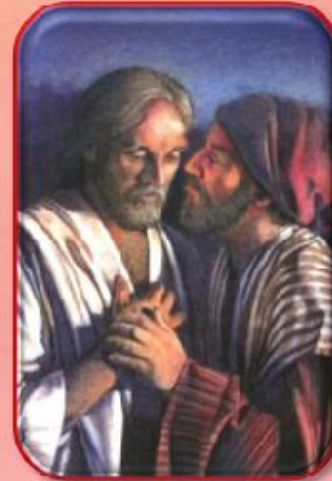
Pierced by a spear

Zechariah 12:10

John
20:9

The resurrection

Psalm 16:10



A depiction of Jesus Christ with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe. He is standing with his right hand raised in a gesture of blessing or teaching. The background is a vibrant, multi-colored gradient of blue, green, and yellow, with numerous bright, glowing rays emanating from behind him, creating a halo effect.

**REASONS TO REJECT JESUS AS THE
CHRIST**

BEING “FROM BELOW” AND NOT “FROM ABOVE”

“But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world” (John 8:23)

Why did the religious leaders reject Jesus?

They did not know the Father (Jn. 8:19, 27, 55.) They professed to believe in God, but they had only a theoretical knowledge of Him

They were “from below” (John 8:23.) They thought about earthly things, not heavenly things

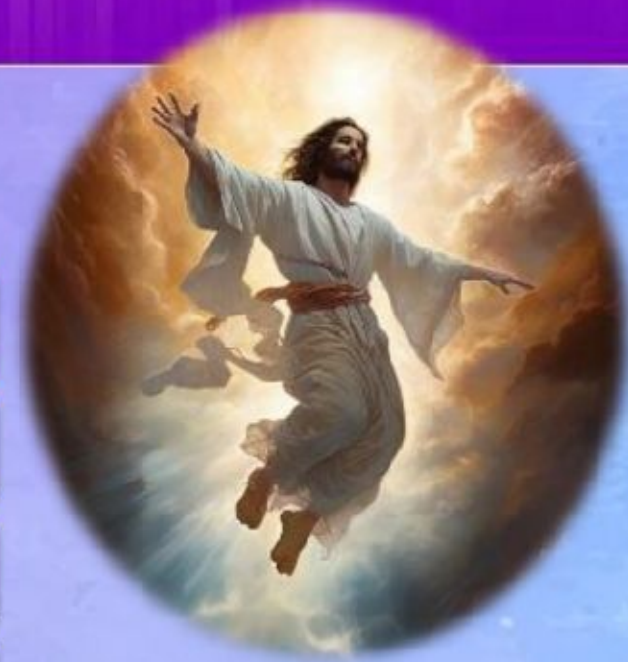
They had put their traditions above the Word of God (Mt. 15:3)

They clung to the letter of the Law and stripped it of its spiritual meaning (Rom. 2:27; Mt. 5:20-22)

They came to think that the mere knowledge of the Scriptures could save them (Jn . 5:39)

They believed in Moses, but they did not accept that the Prophet he had announced had arrived (Jn. 5:46)

They had forgotten mercy (Mt. 23:23)



Thus, even despite bad leadership, many Jews were able to get beyond it and see, for themselves, who Jesus was.

*What lessons do you draw
from Jesus' exchange with
the religious leaders?*

1. When a person's mind/heart is prejudiced, it's virtually impossible for them to see or understand what is being shared with them. 2. To receive the truth of God's word, there must be an openness of mind and a willing receptivity on the behalf of the seeker of truth. 3. One cannot know the Father aright if we do not know Jesus aright. 4. Non-acceptance of Christ results in a that person's perishing in their sins, without pardon or forgiveness.

5. Without God's revelation we are prone to wonder in ignorance and darkness... thus opening ourselves to more susceptible to the deceits of the enemy of our souls. 6. Being without Christ in this present world places a person in a position where they identify with this lower world and are consequently influenced by considerations drawn from the earthly, sensual, superficial, and transitory

How can we be “from above” and not “from beneath”—and how can we know the difference?

We can be “from above” and not “from beneath” by:

- (1) Accepting Jesus and the truth about Him,*
- (2) Repenting and experiencing genuine conversion*
- (3) Living in harmony with God’s revealed will as we are empowered by His Spirit.*

We can know the difference by:

- (1) Our identification with the character of Jesus*
- (2) Observing the ‘fruits’ exemplified in our lives*
- (3) Depending on the enlightenment of the Holy Spirit.*

SOP: “As professed followers of Christ, we have much to learn. There is with many an icy chilliness, a reserve like that of the Pharisees, that must be broken down. . . . Like the Pharisees, [they] desire to be dictators, teachers. God sent his Son to give his people a better knowledge of the truth, to show them the best way to help their fellow-men. But the Pharisees refused to receive the divine instruction. They thought that Christ was too liberal. His ways did not agree with theirs; and instead of seeking to come into harmony with Christ, they sought to bring Christ into harmony with them. . . . In order to carry out their own purposes, they set themselves in opposition to Christ, and thus brought darkness upon themselves.

Those with whom God has entrusted his truth, must possess the same beneficent spirit that Christ manifested. They must adopt the same broad plans of action. They should have a kind, generous spirit toward the poor, and in a special sense feel that we are God's stewards. They must hold all they have—property, mental powers, spiritual strength—as not their own, but only lent them to advance the cause of Christ in the earth. Like Christ they should not shun the society of their fellow men but should seek it with the purpose of bestowing upon others the heavenly benefits they have received from God.

-Gospel Workers, pp. 319, 320.

