

THE CHRIST

What do you think of when you hear the name 'Jesus Christ'? Some will likely say that it is the name of the man from Nazareth of Galilee, spoken of in the Bible. That answer would be right because the Bible informs us of this fact in Matthew 1:21: ***"And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."*** And Luke 2:21: ***"And when eight days were accomplished for the circumcising of the child, his name was called Jesus, which was so named of the angel before he was conceived in the womb."*** Also see Luke 1:31. Jesus' name was given to him at the time of his circumcision, as was customary for the Jews to do, which occurred on the eighth day from his birth. His name would actually have been Joshua ben Yowceph, meaning "Jesus, son of Joseph". It was a tradition among the Semites that the last name (surname) was the given name of the Father so that it may be known that the man was the son of so and so.

Some may be wondering about the name 'Christ' in the name 'Jesus Christ'. The name of Christ was not Jesus' surname. It was a title bestowed upon God's chosen one. From very ancient times, there was the belief among the Jews that from God's chosen people there would arise a great prophet that would be a Savior to the world. This great prophet would be God's 'anointed one'. Moses spoke of this great prophet in Deuteronomy 18:15, 18, 19: ***"The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken. I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."***

Skeptics may point out that this verse refers to a prophet only and not the Anointed. However, there is evidence of who Moses was referring to – read Acts 3:20, 22, 23: ***"And he shall send Jesus [the] Christ; which before was preached unto you: For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear. In all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass that every soul which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people."*** Jesus also speaks about these verses in John 5:46: ***"For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me."*** The forementioned verses from Deuteronomy were the only verses where Moses spoke of the Messiah to come, therefore, that is how we know that John 5:46 is referring to the Deuteronomy prophecy.

Another important point that should be mentioned is that Moses clearly says that this Prophet would come out from among his brethren. This prophet will speak the words of God and will be born of flesh from amongst the Jewish people. There is no mention of him being from a virgin birth in Old Testament prophecies. It is strange that of all the prophecies that point to the fulfillment of God's Anointed that such a spectacular phenomenon as the supposed virgin birth is not even mentioned as sign of his Messiahship, and as a matter of fact, neither do any of the writers of the New Testament refer to God's Christ coming from a virgin birth. In fact, the Bible speaks of Jesus coming into the world through natural means -- read Romans 1:3: ***"Concerning his Son Jesus [the] Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh."*** Then read Acts 13:22, 23: ***"And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my Will. Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel, a Savior, Jesus."*** When Moses spoke of 'thy brethren' in Deuteronomy, he was speaking of the Jewish people (the Hebrews) who were of the twelve tribes which had descended from the twelve sons of Jacob, who was the son of Isaac, who was the son of Abraham, to whom

God had promised his descendants would be a chosen nation (people). *"Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee. And I will make of thee a great nation..."* Genesis 12:1, 2a. From Jacob's son Judah, came the country of Judah: *"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be."* Genesis 49:8 to 10. It is from the tribe of Judah that we are told from scripture that King David would come: *"And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons... Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So, Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah."* I Samuel 16:1, 13. From King David's progeny (seed) would come the man of flesh who would be God's Christ. This Christ would be the Word (Spirit) of God manifested in the flesh, *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth."* John 1:14.

God had promised to David that from his seed (progeny) would come the everlasting King (kingdom): *"And it shall come to pass, when thy days be expired that thou must go to be with thy fathers, that I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne for ever. I will be his father, and he shall be my son: and I will not take my mercy away from him, as I took it from him that was before thee: But I will settle him in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and his throne shall be established for evermore. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David."* I Chronicles 17:11 to 15. Read also II Samuel 7:12 to 17. The New Testament writers do not hesitate in the proclamation that he, the Christ, shall come from the seed of David: *"Saying, What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, The son of David."* Matthew 22:42; *"Hath not the scripture said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"* John 7:42. Even though from the first verse Jesus was looking for a more definite answer from the Pharisees, there was no hesitation in their answer as from whom the Christ would come or from whose flesh (seed) would God's Anointed come. The Jews knew that the man who would become the Christ would be descended from the ancestral line of David, making him the 'son of David': *"And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he begun to cry out, and say, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me."* Mark 10:47; *"And the multitudes that went before, and that followed, cried, saying, Hosanna to the son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest."* Matthew 21:9; *"I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star."* Revelations 22:16.

It would appear that most of our society is ignorant of scriptural testimony that shows that Jesus' father, Joseph, was from the seed of David, and had to be, in order for prophecy to be fulfilled: *"But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David..."* Matthew 1:20a; *"And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)"* Luke 2:4. The scriptures were fulfilled through Joseph given it had been established that the man who would be the Christ will descend from the seed of King

David in the flesh, and Joseph, Jesus' father, was confirmed as being of David's progeny: ***"Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne."*** Acts 2:29, 30. Knowing that God intended for the Christ to come from the seed of King David by the flesh, what does the Christ or 'the Anointed' of God actually represent? It is usually answered that the Anointed of God, when he reappears, will usher in the new era of paradisaical bliss. However, for purposes of this writing, we are not delving into the future state of the paradisaic era of Jesus' return. Moses made a reference as to what this prophet, who would be God's Anointed, would constitute. This prophet would speak the Words of God, in other words, he would be God's voice on earth. He would not be one seeking to propagate his own thoughts, but convey God's Will to mankind. ***"I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put my words in his mouth: and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto my words which he shall speak in my name, I will require it of him."*** Deuteronomy 18:18, 19.

The Word of God, or the Spirit of truth, is also known as the Comforter. ***"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me."*** John 15:26. The Word has been with God always. When speaking of 'the Word' in John 1:1, it is not making reference to Jesus in this instance since John stressed that the Word (Spirit) has always been with God: it is an intricate part of God, the essence of God, and His ever creative power. ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."*** John 1:1. When we speak of God's Word, it is not in reference to sounds like the sounds made by the human vocal cords; when God spoke to his prophets, it was through His Spirit. ***"For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit."*** II Peter 1:21; ***"Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot."*** Acts 8:29. Though we may come to understand the development of human thoughts and the mechanics of speech, we can not understand or comprehend the source of God's power (His Word or the Spirit of truth).

What we have learned from the scriptures that can be understood by us is that an unmeasurable element of God's Spirit or Word (what He wills or desires of us) was manifested upon His Chosen or Christ, for from John 1:14a, we read: ***"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us ..."*** We also know God's Word was manifested in one man with unmeasured power; and this man was that promised Christ of God. ***"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."*** John 3:34.

We are told by scripture that there was one who bore witness to the descending of that Spirit of truth or the Word upon Jesus the Christ. From John 1:32 to 34, we read: ***"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God."*** And from Isaiah 11:1 to 4: ***"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears. But with righteousness shall he Judge the poor, and reprove with equity for***

the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." Read also Matthew 3:16. This Spirit that is spoken about is that Word that was manifested upon Jesus in unmeasured power. This does not mean that Jesus had no knowledge about the scriptures before his baptism, because he had to be well-versed in the scriptures in order to be chosen of God: ***"And when he was twelve years old... and it came to pass, that after three days they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the doctors, both hearing them, and asking them questions. And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers."*** Luke 2:42a, 46, 47; ***"And the rulers also with them derided him, saying, He saved others; let him save himself if he be Christ, the chosen of God."*** Luke 23:35b. After his baptism, being bestowed with the Spirit of God, Jesus spoke with authority and power. He became the Word of God on earth. ***"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God."*** John 6:68.

With respect to the account of Jesus' baptism, there is a verse that should be changed back to its original translation from ancient text which coincides with John's witness of the Spirit (Word) descending upon Jesus. The verse is Luke 3:22 and in its original form, it reads: ***"And the Holy Spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; Today have I begotten thee."*** This translation agrees with John 1:32 to 34 and the following verses: Psalm 2:7: ***"I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee."***; Matthew 3:16, 17: ***"And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."***; Hebrews 1:5: ***"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"*** As previously written, Jesus became the chosen (or Christ) of God at his baptism. It makes sense that the gift of the Spirit of truth would be given only to a mature (adult) person that it may be preached with wisdom from life experience. At his baptism, Jesus received the manifestation of the Holy Spirit (Word) with power. It was at this time when God anointed Jesus with the Spirit and he became the Son of God, the Christ, the living Word. After his baptism, Jesus went out into the world and performed healings and spoke in words that marvelled all who heard them. ***"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."*** Matthew 7:28, 29; ***"When they had heard these words, they marvelled, and left him, and went their way."*** Matthew 22:22. Jesus was a behavioral replica of the first created man in the image of God, that is, in the image that God had desired all mankind to follow from the beginning of creation. God had created man to be in that pure image of righteousness, before he sinned. ***"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him: male and female created he them."*** Genesis 1:27.

Jesus was God's Word (Anointed One) in the world. He was God's Christ; when Jesus opened his mouth to speak, he spoke as the Holy Spirit led him, therefore, the words he spoke were not of his own will, but the Will of God in him. ***"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works."*** John 14:10; ***"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profited nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."*** John 6:63. Read also John 3:30 to 36; John 12:47; and John 17:8.

It has been made quite evident by the scriptures that the Christ of God was not the Father Omnipotent and had not come down from the heavenly abode and transformed Himself into a fleshy form like man that He had created in the beginning. Remember that God is a Spirit (John 4:24), and the world is his footstool (Isaiah 66:1). His Spirit is omnipresent. Jesus became a representation of the Word of God manifested in the flesh. He who became God's Christ would be given the Spirit (Word) without measure and power. ***"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him."*** John 3:34; ***"But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."*** I Corinthians 1:24; ***"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*** Matthew 28:18. Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of man, made of flesh and blood, became the Son of God for his obedience to God's Will.

Clergy of the mainstream churches tell its followers that Jesus literally came down from heaven and refer them to John 1. We do not believe he literally came from heaven but if not, then what did? It was the Holy Spirit which descended from above at Jesus' baptism – re-read John 1:32. The Spirit is the Word, which is the Spirit of truth preached to the souls held captive by the great deceiver, Satan. ***"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison."*** I Peter 3:18,19. See also Isaiah 42:7; II Timothy 2:26.

Some may ask the question: Did Jesus possess a spirit of his own? Yes, all mankind has a spirit, including Jesus, who came into this world like all people before him. However, there is a difference between the spirit of God and that of man's. With respect to mankind, we know our thoughts, ideas and emotions make up our spirit and we know where this spirit of mankind originates from – it is from the material matter of the brain which generates the impulses of thoughts and emotions. As to God's Spirit, it does not originate from a material source of flesh and blood. To oversimplify, it represents the Will of God, but that means something much more than it sounds. We believe God's Spirit is an omnipresent field of unknown energy of Spiritual power that can interlink with the spirit of receptive individuals but is unexplainable at the same time because of His omnipresence. This is something our human mind does not know, because our ways are not God's ways. ***"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*** Isaiah 55:8, 9. The mechanics of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit is not understandable to us either. What we can be sure of is that Jesus accepted the Spirit of God's truth with a subservient and unresisting mind, joyously receiving the truth of the scriptures with humility and passiveness, in the likeness of a child, surrendering his spiritual self. This was the type of man God chose to manifest His Spirit. After his baptism, no more did Jesus' spirit of worldly flesh and blood have dominance, but a transformation took place and God's Spirit (Word) became the possessor of Jesus' mind. ***"Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things."*** John 8:28. Jesus accepted his role as the Son of God at his baptism by his anointing by God. ***"For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son?"*** Hebrews 1:5. Jesus, because of his spiritual oneness with God, could make the following statement: ***"Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works. Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake."*** John 14:10, 11.

After his obedience to God's Will during his life, Jesus became the literal Son of God, not by the rebirth from the womb of his mother, but born anew by the resurrection from

the dead by God. ***"And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:"*** Romans 1:4. See also I Peter 1:3; Romans 8:29 and Colossians 1:18. Being the Anointed One, Jesus has the preeminence over us by being the first resurrected of all God's children, however, we too can be the sons and daughters of God by being spiritually reborn again by our yielding to the Holy Spirit through him, who became the word of God among men, the Christ of God, Jesus of Nazareth. ***"And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."*** II Corinthians 6:18.

To close our discussion, let us read from passages where Jesus is identified as being God's Christ: ***"The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, he will tell us all things. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he... Come see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?...And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world."*** John 4:25, 26, 29, 42; ***"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."*** Acts 2:36. Given our discussion on this topic, there is little doubt that the scriptures give indisputable evidence that the one who became God's Christ was the Prophet prophesied by Moses that became the living Word of God on earth. God's Spirit rested upon this man. The Word of God descended from the heavens and rested upon His Christ. ***"Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him. We have found him, of whom Moses in the law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph... Nathanael answered and said unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel."*** John 1:45, 49; ***"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him; And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."*** Mark 1:10, 11. Thus the Spirit, the Word of God dwelt on earth in his Anointed One, the Christ, Jesus of Nazareth. ***"If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater: for this is the witness of God which he hath testified of his Son. He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son."*** I John 5:9, 10. Jesus of Nazareth, the biological son of Joseph and Mary, who was of the seed of David through Joseph's blood ancestry, fulfilled all the prophecies of the prophets, thus, making him God's one and only Christ.