

WHO IS GOD'S CHRIST (ANOINTED)?

As Christians, we should know why we follow Jesus the Christ as opposed to following other religious leaders. We should also be prepared to answer those who may question why we believe Jesus to be that Promised One of God. In order to confirm who is the true Chosen One (ie. Anointed, Christ or Messiah) of God, the evidence must come from the New Testament and fulfill the words of the prophets found in the Old Testament. This tract will examine the scriptural evidence from the New Testament to prove that Jesus of Nazareth was the Christ or the Son of God.

The first piece of evidence that we will examine relates to Jesus' nativity. It was prophesied in the Old Testament where God's Chosen would be born: Bethlehem of Judaea. From Micah 5:2: ***"But thou Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee, shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel, whose goings forth have been from of old from everlasting."*** The New Testament talks about the star of Bethlehem and the Magi from the east, of which we are often incorrectly told they traveled directly to the place of his birth by following the star. We know this is not true given scripture informs us that they went to Jerusalem and inquired where this infant was born that should become king of the Jews. From Matthew 2:1, 2, 4 to 6: ***"Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem. Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east and are come to worship him... And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where [the] Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet. And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda, for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel."***

Before commenting about these preceding texts, let us read our last text in reference as to where the Christ should be born from John 7:40 to 42: ***"Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying said, Of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, This is the Christ. But some said, Shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That [the] Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"*** Beginning with what may appear to be a discrepancy to some people of a reference to "Bethlehem of Judaea" versus "Bethlehem Ephratah", the term of Judaea or Judah is used because there was also a town by the same name of "Bethlehem" in Galilee, a short distance from Nazareth, so "of Judaea" is used to distinguish which Bethlehem was being spoken about. In reference to "Bethlehem Ephratah" being used in the Old Testament, there is no discrepancy because Ephratah or Ephrath is the ancient name of Bethlehem of Judah which was the name used during the time of Jacob, grandson of Abraham. This name is found in the Old Testament. Turning first to Genesis 35:19, we read: ***"And Rachel died, and was buried in the way to Ephrath, which is Bethlehem."*** Now turn to Genesis 48:7: ***"And as for me, when I came from Padan, Rachel died by me in the land of Canaan in the way, when yet there was but a little way to come unto Ephrath: and I buried her there in the way of Ephrath: the same is Bethlehem."*** The last verse we will read will show that Ephrath is the same place as Bethlehem, that is, the Bethlehem of Judaea in I Samuel 17:12a: ***"Now David was the son of that Ephrathite of Bethlehem Judah, whose name was Jesse..."*** It is now known that Bethlehem is the same place as Ephrath and this Bethlehem was located in Judah. Matthew 2:1, 2 tells us that from this town would the Chosen of God come forth and it was foretold by both of these texts that Jesus, who had been raised in the town of Nazareth in Galilee was born at Bethlehem of Judah.

Going back to John 7:41b, 42 and the quote: ***"But some said, shall [the] Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the scripture said, That [the] Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"*** We can assume that some of the people did not seem to know that Jesus had been originally born in Bethlehem of Judaea, or did know this fact, but desired to look upon Jesus as a Galilean because he had been brought up as a Nazarene from a young child. Nevertheless, it is well established scripturally that his father, Joseph, was born a Bethlehemite Judean. From Luke 2:4: ***"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:)"*** Having been born in Bethlehem, Jesus was a Bethlehemite like his father Joseph had been.

Returning to the subject of Magi, they saw a new star in the west from where they were located, somewhere east of Jerusalem. The cult of Mithra was dominant in Persia, in Parthia, in fact in all the Middle East. It had become prominent at Rome and had even reached as far as Britain, probably through the occupying Roman legions. As strange as it may sound, the Mithraic cult was looking for their last Saviour, and to them, this Saviour would also arise in the Middle East, similar to what God's own people looked forward to. It was a common belief among the magicians (including the Magi) that he would come out of Judaea, probably no doubt the reason why the Magi traveled to Jerusalem. It was the belief of the Magi that when a new star appeared in the sky, it was a sign that an important person had been born. To be clear, the star mentioned in the Bible did not lead the Magi directly to the place of Jesus' birth. Where the Magi were located in the Middle East, they were east of Jerusalem, therefore, to reach Jerusalem the Magi had to travel west. There is an unsubstantiated belief that the Magi were Jews serving in the rulers courts. This could be possible because Jews were dispersed in large numbers throughout the eastern countries and held high positions in the courts of kings and governors. Still, there is no definite proof they were Jews. What is being established here is the fact that when the Magi had arrived at Jerusalem, they

had not found the child nor knew where to locate him. Being men of important rank, they inquired of Herod where the child Jesus could be found, proving that the star did not lead them directly to the child.

Another prophesied sign pointing to the Messiah is found in Zechariah 9:9: ***"Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion: shout, O daughter of Jerusalem, behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt, the foal of an ass."*** This prophecy was fulfilled according to Matthew 21:2 to 5a: ***"Saying unto them, Go into the village over against you, and straightway ye shall find an ass tied, and a colt with her: loose them, and bring them unto me. And if any man say ought unto you, ye shall say, The Lord hath need of them and straightway he will send them. All this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Tell ye the daughter of Sion, Behold, thy King cometh unto thee, meek, and sitting upon an ass..."*** These two texts pertaining to the episodes were presented to further show through prophecy that Jesus of Nazareth was that Prophet that was descended from Bethlehem of Judah that became the promised Christ, the Son of God that had repeatedly been prophesied to come into the world throughout the Old Testament, even to his very crucifixion.

The Old testament is replete with prophecies pointing to him, who is of God, and how he must undergo many ordeals as God's Christ. Following are a few verses directing us to the confirmation of deeds and events of that Christ. ***"The sceptre shalt 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 49:10; ***"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. 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. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before his shearers, is dumb, so he opened not his mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment; and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence, neither was any deceit in his mouth."*** Isaiah 53:5 to 9; ***"For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."*** Psalm 22:16 to 18; ***"He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."*** Psalm 34:20; ***"Reproach hath broken my heart: and I am full of heaviness: and I looked for some to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. They pave me also gall for my meat; and in my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink."*** Psalm 69:20, 21; ***"They shall leave none of it [i.e. of the passover lamb] unto the morning, nor break any bone of it: according to all the ordinances of the passover they shall keep it."*** Numbers 9:12. All these preceding texts declare unto us what was to occur to that last true prophet of God, that is, he that shall be ordained not by the hand of man but by the very Spirit (Word) of God and with power. There are other verses that help us to identify the Messiah, but space will not allow for them all. Again, we can determine who fulfilled these prophecies by reading all of John 19. Jesus of Nazareth was that last great Prophet of God, the promised Christ from the seed of David, and the embodiment of God's Spirit (Word) that existed before the world was.

God foretold from whom the Christ would be descended from in I Chronicles 17:11 to 15 when the prophet Nathan speaks to King David: ***"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 ever more. According to all these words, and according to all this vision, so did Nathan speak unto David."*** After Nathan delivered God's words to David that were given to him in a vision, we read of God's verification of His promise. ***"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant. Thy seed will I establish for ever, and build up thy throne to all generations."*** Psalm 89:3, 4; ***"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom."*** Samuel 7:12; ***"My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie to David. His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me."*** Psalm 89:34 to 36; ***"The LORD hath sworn in truth unto David: he will not turn from it: Of the fruit of thy body will I set upon thy throne."*** Psalm 132:11. From the previous texts, we are told that from the seed of David, God would bring forth his son's throne and establish his kingdom for ever. What did the Jews look for that promised seed to be called when he comes? Let us read a few biblical texts for the answer. ***"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; ***"And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son?"*** Luke 20:41; ***"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord."*** Luke 2:11; ***"While the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them, Saying, What think ye Christ? Whose son is he? They say unto him, The Son of David."*** Matthew 22:41, 42; ***"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 body according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne."*** Acts 2:29, 30. From the previous texts, it is quite evident that this special One that God said would come forth out of the bowels of David by his seed would not only be known as the 'son of David' because he is descended from that regal lineage, but would also be referred to as the 'Son of God' by he being God's Christ, His Anointed.

Knowing the Jews were looking for someone descended from the seed of David, we have to draw a connection from scripture between David and the man, Jesus, if we believe Jesus is the chosen of God, His Christ. In other words, we would need to show Jesus came from the lineage of David for him to be the Christ. ***"And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?..."*** John 6:42a; ***"Philip findeth Nathaniel and said unto him, We have found him of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."*** John 1:45; ***"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, unto Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)"*** Luke 2:4. We have Matthew's genealogy giving the lineage from king David through to Jesus' biological father, Joseph. We have texts from Matthew, Luke and John all asserting Joseph as being Jesus' father, and being descended from the seed of David. The scriptures confirm that Joseph was the direct descendant of David. We previously showed from scripture that the Jews were waiting for a man that was descended from David, thus, with Jesus being the son of Joseph, Bible prophecies were fulfilled.

Before going on to discuss what it means to be the Christ, we would like to comment on the popular belief that God impregnated Mary and that Jesus came into this world through a virgin birth. Most of Christendom believe that Jesus was God on earth and that Joseph was not the biological father of Jesus. Despite these popular beliefs amongst most churches, there is absolutely no place in scripture where it speaks of God using His omnipotent power to impregnate a woman. The prophecies in scriptures only speak of a man, David, by whose seed would come forth the ordained Prophet and King that would speak all the Words of God. This did happen as God had said it would, and it was through Joseph because he was of the Davidic bloodline.

For some, there is confusion as Luke's genealogy seems to differ from the genealogy presented by Matthew 1. The genealogy in Luke 3 is definitely Mary's and only crosses the kingship line at one point from David, and that at Salathiel and Zorubabel. As for Mary being descended from David, it is true, but her genealogy came through David's son Nathan and not his son Solomon. Nathan was never king and did not carry on the seed or the bloodline of the regal crown – Solomon became king and it was through him that the Davidic kingship continued. Very little is known about Nathan, though there is a traditional belief that he went into the priesthood by the influence of his father. Note that David's son Nathan should not be confused with Nathan the Prophet as they were two different people.

It should be noted that Jewish genealogies were traced through the men and not women. In the case of the priesthood, a woman that was to be married to a priest would have her ancestral bloodline checked out, being that priests preferred to marry a woman of the lineage of Aaron to keep it pure. We are told that Elisabeth, Zacharias' wife, was of this lineage in Luke 1:5b: ***"... and his wife was of the daughters of Aaron and her name was Elisabeth."*** The Kohanim (singular: 'kohen') were priests descended from Aaron. A Levite was not a Kohen. The pedigree of a wife of a Kohen would be searched to clarify her genealogical status: four mothers were checked; two from the mother's side and two from the father's side. The mothers of the four mothers were investigated for any genealogical defects to maintain the male Kohen purity. In all probability, both of Elisabeth's parents were of Kohanim blood, being she would have been confirmed as being descended from Kohanim mothers. Mary, being a cousin of Elisabeth, must have had Kohanim blood in her, although we do not know to what degree.

Despite the fact that the mothers of a potential priest's wife would be checked for blood purity, ordinarily, ancestral descent of a woman would be traced through the man. Chapter 3 of Luke was tracing the lineage of Mary while Matthew 1 traced the lineage of Joseph. Even though Luke places more emphasis on Mary than the book of Matthew, he mentions twice of Joseph being from the house and royal lineage of David: ***"To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David: and the virgin's name was Mary..."*** Luke 1:27; ***"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. Luke makes no mention of Mary's house being of regal lineage except where it crosses Zorubabel and Salathiel and detoured from David via his son Nathan. Luke's writings puts Mary into a different house of lineage when he associates Mary as being a cousin to Elisabeth: ***"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son..."*** Luke 1:36a. Luke clearly states Mary is a cousin to one who is from the daughters of Aaron (see Luke 1:5b quoted above) which also demonstrates to us that Zacharias the priest faithfully adhered to the Jewish law of marrying a daughter of Aaron (Kohen). This would also indicate that more than likely, Elisabeth's father or mother was related to one or both of Mary's parents and must have been of the priesthood, being that the priesthood was a very close inter-marital group. Heli (or Eli) mentioned in Luke 3:23 was not Joseph's biological father, but was his father-in-law by his marriage to Mary. Some readers might find it interesting that the notable Biblical scholar, Dr. Henry H. Halley, accepts the commonly accepted view of most biblical scholars that Luke's genealogy is of Mary's lineage: ***"Mary's genealogy, in accord with Jewish usage, was in her husband's name, Joseph was 'son of Heli' (Luke 2:23) that is 'son-in-law' of Heli. Jacob was Joseph's father."*** Halley's Bible Handbook. In Luke's genealogy, it ends in her husband's name, though the descent is not Joseph's, but Mary's by the male lineage. Heli (Eli) was the father of Mary, but only father-in-law of Joseph.

Let us continue our study and consider the following texts, which talks of Jesus as being a 'man'. The first is from John 4:29: ***"Come, see a man which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?"*** The second is I Timothy 2:5: ***"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*** A third is from John 7:46: ***"The officers answered, Never man spake like this man."*** All these verses speak of Christ as an ordinary man conceived of flesh and blood, yet an extraordinary man in the sense that the gift of the Holy Spirit with power came from the Father and manifested itself upon the obedient and subservient man, who is called Jesus of Nazareth. This man was manifested with power from on high, however, he was a mere mortal (until his resurrection) and always spoke of himself as such. He realized the powers he possessed was the result for being the Chosen One of God. If you check a Greek-English lexicon, you will see that the Greek word translated as 'man' in the three previous verses refers to 'a human being'. The word translated as 'man' in these texts do not refer to a super-natural creature, despite the fact that most of Christendom think of Jesus as God in the flesh. In each text presented, the word 'man' refers to Jesus as an individual of the human race. Bear in mind that Jesus never performed any great works in utterance or miracles until he reached around the age of 30 years, when at his baptism, he received the gift of the Holy Spirit with power: ***"And Jesus came and spake unto them, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."*** Matthew 28:18; ***"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. So was Jesus the Christ from birth? We have ample biblical evidence that he did not become the Son of God, the Christ, until his baptism by John the Baptist, who was Christ's forerunner. See John 1:33, 34: ***"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."***

Relevant to the discussion of the Christ is the term 'Son of man' and what it means according to Jewish thought. Why should we care how the Jews understood this phrase? Because the prophecies of the Old Testament were delivered to God's people so they may understand and see the fulfillment of God's Word. The Jews drew their understanding of the term 'Son of man' from Daniel 7:13: ***"I saw in the night visions, and behold, one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him."*** Before going on with the Jewish interpretation of the phrase 'Son of man', it should be pointed out that the Authorized King James Version of the Bible mistranslates this phrase: it should be rendered 'one like a Son of man'. With the Jews the phrase 'a son of man' came to represent a person who would appear and bring in a new era of glory and peace, therefore, this phrase in the book of Daniel became to mean more than just a symbol of the vision. For understanding of this phrase, we should turn to Daniel 7:2 to 8 and 17 to 25 and read all these texts. Those verses describe world powers who were the sons of men and were cruel, sadistic and evil in their ways such that they were described as being wild beasts. The Jews looked forward to a Utopia wherein people manifested a humane nature of love and kindness and not a barbaric, animalistic nature which the people of the world commonly displayed. To the Jews, the phrase 'son of man' came to represent a common man, but one chosen of God that would be their champion, a conqueror of their enemies. During the time of Jesus, the land of Palestine was an occupied country and made a province of the Roman Empire. We know that Jesus was that champion that the Jews were promised in prophecy, however, they did not know him when he came unto his own, because his conquest was over sin, by the means of his death and his resurrection, and not a conquest in the physical sense. The Son of man was prophesied to conquer the world powers and the time of his return is only known by the Almighty. Again we read from Daniel 7:13b, 14: ***"... one like a son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."*** To conclude this topic, the Jews had the belief that the 'Son of man' would come forth from among their people, but they visualized him coming as a conquering hero, bearing the sword of war, and freeing them from the Roman yoke. The 'sword' that Jesus of Nazareth bore as the 'Son of man' was the Word of God and his conquest was over sin and death and we await his return from the abode of his and our Father.

Was the man who was to be the Christ (or Messiah) prophesied to be conceived by the seed of man or of the Holy Spirit (ie. God impregnating Mary)? Mary's impregnation by a man is not even spoken about or considered to have happened by almost all of the Christendom today, yet nor are the scriptures searched by these same people to find out whether the Chosen One would come into this world by the progeny of man. The Holy Spirit is not physical matter and has not performed any new acts of creation since the creation of our universe by God's Word. Yet, people are asked to believe that when the Holy Spirit hovered over Mary, she became pregnant by the Holy Spirit, which developed within her and transformed itself into the embryo and fetus of flesh and blood or that the Holy Spirit transformed itself into a material seed and entered into Mary's womb. This is what the masses are being asked to believe. Let's look at those verses relating to the Holy Spirit and Mary, starting with Matthew 1:18b, 20b: ***"...she was found with child of the Holy Spirit...that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit."*** Despite what we may have been conditioned to interpret when we see the words 'found with child of the Holy Spirit' or 'that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit', neither of these two verses says God impregnated Mary. Both say that which was within her was of the Holy Spirit and that

is in accordance with the Jewish belief that there are three entities involved in the pregnancy of a woman, that is, the father, the mother, and the Holy Spirit. We read a further text from Luke 1:35: ***"And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God."*** Again, there is no direct statement saying that God impregnated Mary. It was foretold that the child which shall be within her would be called the Son of God in due time. Due to having been indoctrinated by mainstream Christendom during our respective lifetimes, we assume that God impregnated Mary because of the statements made by Christian leaders and theologians who appear to have no understanding of the traditional Jewish belief of God being involved in everything having to do with life, even pregnancy. Following are two excerpts from Jewish sources mentioning this traditional Jewish belief: ***"According to a talmudic homily, there are three partners in man: God, the father and the mother. The father supplies the white substance of which the child's bones, sinews, nails, brain and the white of the eyes are formed. The mother supplies the red substance of which are formed the skin, flesh, hair, blood, and the dark of the eyes. God supplies the spirit, the breath, beauty of features, eyesight, hearing, and the ability to speak, and to walk, understanding and discernment. At death, God reclaims His part and leaves the father and mother with their part."*** Popular History of Jewish Civilization: Family compiled by Hayyim Schneid. From *The Syrian Christ* by Abraham Mitrie Rihbany, chapter two entitled 'Birth of A Man Child', we read: ***"In the Gospel story of Jesus' life there is not a single incident that is not in perfect harmony with the prevailing modes of thought and the current speech of the land of its origin. I do not know how many times I heard it stated in my native land and at our own fireside that heavenly messengers in the forms of patron saints or angels came to pious, childless wives in dreams and visions, and cheered them with the promise of maternity... In a most literal sense we always understand the saying of the psalmist, 'Children are a heritage from the Lord.' Above and beyond all natural agencies, it was He who turned barrenness to fecundity and worked the miracle of birth. To us every birth was miraculous, and childlessness evidence of divine disfavor...Back of all these social traits, and beyond the free realism of the Syrian in speaking of conception and birth, lies a deeper fact. To Eastern peoples, especially the Semites, reproduction in all the world of life is profoundly sacred. It is God's life reproducing itself in the life of man and in the living world below man: therefore the evidence of this reproduction should be looked upon and spoken of with rejoicing."***

Now returning to the question of whether the Christ ('Anointed One' or 'The Word') would come from the seed of a man, we have already read how the Jews expected the Christ (Messiah) to come from a man and did not expect any immaculate conception which is the prevalent belief in mainstream Christendom. More evidence that Jesus' conception came via flesh and blood from the seed of man: ***"He is the tower of salvation for his king and showeth mercy to his anointed David, and to his seed for evermore."*** I Samuel 22:51; ***"Their blood shall therefore return upon the head of his seed and upon the head of Joab, and upon the head of his seed for ever: but upon David and upon his seed, and upon his house, and upon his throne shall there be peace for ever from the LORD."*** I Kings 2:33; ***"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..."*** I Chronicles 17:11, 12, 13a; ***"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed will I establish forever, and build up thy throne to all generations."*** Psalms 89:3, 4; ***"And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom."*** II Samuel 7:12; ***"My covenant will I not break nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before me."*** Psalms 89:34 to 36; ***"Hath not the scriptures said, That Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was?"*** John 7:42. There are other verses showing that from David's seed, that is, through natural procreation, would come the everlasting king and his kingdom would come from God.

We have confirmation from the New Testament that Jesus was this chosen person as he fulfilled Old Testament prophecies: ***"Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh."*** Romans 1:3; ***"Remember that Jesus [the] Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel."*** II Timothy 2:8; ***"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."*** Acts 13:22, 23; ***"I Jesus have sent mine own angel to testify unto you, these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David..."*** Revelations 22:16. From the texts we have just read, there should be no doubt in our mind that Jesus of Nazareth was that promised Anointed One, born from the seed of a man, through natural processes. There is no man in history other than Jesus of Nazareth that is that promised Christ of God. The scriptures teach that there is only one God, and there is only one Christ (Anointed One) and mediator between man and God. ***"For there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*** I Timothy 2:5; ***"And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant..."*** Hebrews 12:24a. Jesus warned his followers that many false prophets would come after him claiming to be the Christ (or Word) of God. ***"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many... Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there: believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets..."*** Matthew 24:11, 23, 24a. Many false prophets have risen since

those days that Jesus walked upon this earth, all claiming to be the last messengers of truth and they have written, or caused to have written, books wherein they claim to be the Word of God.

Two personages who make the unsubstantiated claim of being God's last messengers are briefly mentioned here. The first, Joseph Smith, was born in 1805, and is the father of the Mormon religion. As a young man, he wished to join a sect of Christianity but was confused as to what Christian sect was correct in their teachings. One day, in the woods near his home in 1820, Joseph allegedly received a divine calling wherein he saw a vision of two personages: God the Father and Jesus the Son. In the vision, he was instructed not to join any of the Christian sects. Some time later, in late 1823, an angel called Moroni appeared to him in his bedroom. He told Joseph about a book written on golden plates and of two stones which God had prepared for the translation of the golden plates. The angel showed Joseph the location of the golden book, "on the west side of a hill, not far from the top, about 4 miles from Palmyra". He was not permitted to take them at that time, but four years later in 1827, the angel of the Lord delivered the sacred records to him. Then Joseph translated the plates by divine aid. This translation resulted in the "Book of Mormons". In the Mormon Article of Faith is written: "We believe the Bible to be the Word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe the Book of Mormons to be the Word of God". There is no Biblical prophecy in the Old Testament pointing to Joseph Smith as being the last messenger of God.

The second man is Muhammad ibn Abdullah of the tribe of Quraish of Mecca. The story with him is that in a cave on the mountain of Hira, the messenger angel of God, Gabriel, visited Muhammad in a vision. The year was 610 A.D. when Muhammad received his first revelation being 40 years old and then he continued to receive scripts for the following 23 years. Given Muhammad could neither read or write, he memorized and propagated his word by reciting, which we are told came from God (Allah) through his messenger angel Gabriel, and each time the prophet received a revelation, he was always in a trance-like state. Due to his inability to read or write, his first converts heard his message by poetic reciting, and they also absorbed Muhammad's message by memory. The recitals of Muhammad became the book of Qur'an (Koran).

Both of these men, Joseph Smith and Muhammad ibn Abdullah, had books propagating their different interpretations of the laws of God, as spoken by God in the Old and New Testaments. It should be noted that the Islamic religion accepts the view that the Pentateuch, the Psalms, the Gospels and the Koran are supposed to have survived. Moslems are taught to believe that only the Koran is not polluted and all the other forementioned books are mutilated and polluted. Joseph Smith, Muhammad and others have made the claim that they were God's last messengers. Jesus foretold that men coming after him would make that claim. But there is a very important detail missing from the claims of all these 'last' of the world prophets. They all claim to know and believe in the Old Testament (or a portion thereof) though none of these claimants fulfill the scriptural prophecies of being the Anointed One of God. Neither Joseph Smith nor Muhammad was that Anointed One of God for they are not prophesied anywhere in the Old Testament. There is only one man who fulfilled all the Biblical requirements, and that was Jesus of Nazareth, who became God's Christ by the resurrection. There was no need for another Christ given Jesus of Nazareth was God's only begotten through the Holy Spirit (ie. the manifestation of God's Word). He is the first and the last Prophet.