

Word notes Sunday 18/01/09 Jan Hodge
Jesus: Messiah

Summary

When Peter shared his revelation that Jesus was the Christ, the Messiah what would he have understood from that as a Jew? Certainly that Jesus was “the anointed one of God” which means that he was “officially” set apart for God, dedicated and consecrated, that he was God’s choice, had God’s enablement for the task and involved in the coming deliverance of Israel.

Jews then and now look for a Messiah who would:

- Restore the Kingdom of David (Jer 23 5)
- Restore the temple Ezek 37 26-28
- Re-gather the exiles Is 11 12
- Usher in world peace (Is 2:4 swords – ploughshares)
- Establish God as King over all the earth Zech 14:9
- Be the Ruling Messiah

THE Messiah was conceived as being two people – Son of David and Son of Joseph. Son of David – to rule on David’s throne and restore David’s tent of worship, Son of Joseph – someone who would suffer at the hands of his brothers before being exiled. Jesus is both of these in the one person. In fact both David and Joseph are “types” of Jesus where aspects of the Christ are revealed through the lives of others in the Old Testament.

Joseph is introduced in dreams of grandeur, but was lost to Israel, actually considered dead, before his dreams came true and he had a ‘second coming’ when he came back into the lives of his brothers who rejected him. Then he became the saviour of his people in a time of famine and they bowed down to him. David, although anointed as King in his youth, was rejected by the current king and lived as a fugitive for many years before he came to become the quintessential King of Israel. Both of these Jewish traditions are prototypes of Messiah, arrive amid promises, are pushed down, and finally arise in glory.

Application

Discuss what understanding people in the cell have of a Messiah? What should they do? How does this match up to the list above?

Does Jesus fit the bill for the expectations of a Messiah above? How does this affect you and me?

Ask people to share personal testimony of the work of the Messiah in their lives – not limited to when they got saved but as they continue in their Christian walk.

Witness:

Continuing to think about our testimony of Jesus – ask others to do the exercise I put in last week’s notes:

How would you share your testimony of being saved in a simple way? Ask for a volunteer (or do this yourself) to share their story **in three minutes**.

Homework – each member is to think about and prepare their story to share in **three minutes** answering the question: “How & Why did you become a Christian?” to share with the Cell over the next few weeks.

This may seem simplistic but has two goals – to help us be prepared and coherent should we be asked, and to encourage each other with our stories.