

JESUS, THE MESSIAH

- “And here he is, speaking openly, and they say nothing to him! Can it be that the authorities really know that this is the Christ? Yet we know where this man comes from; and when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from.”
 - So Jesus proclaimed, as he taught in the temple, “You know me, and you know where I come from? But I have not come of my own accord; he who sent me is true, and him you do not know. I know him, for I come from him, and he sent me...”
 - Yet many of the people who believed in Him said, “When the Christ appears, will he do more signs than this man has done?”
 - The Pharisees heard the crowd thus muttering about him, and the chief priests and Pharisees sent officers to arrest him. Jesus then said, “I shall be with you a little longer, and then I go to him who sent me; you will seek me and you will not find me; where I am you cannot come.”
 - The Jews said to one another, “Where does this man intend to go that we shall not find him? What does he mean by saying, ‘You will seek me and you will not find me,’ and, ‘where I am you cannot come?’”
 - Some of the people said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?”
 - So there was a division among the people over him... The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this man!” The Pharisees answered them, “Are you led astray, you also? Have any of the authorities or of the Pharisees believed in him?”
 - But this crowd, who do not know the law, are accursed.” Nicodemus, who had gone to him before, and who was one of them, said to them,
 - “Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?” They replied, “Are you from Galilee too? Search and you will see that no prophet is to rise from Galilee.”
- (John 7:26-29, 31-36, 40-43, 45-52)**
- When Jesus was born in a stable in a Bethlehem too full of travellers to give his parents lodging, an angel announced his birth to shepherds in a nearby field: “I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk. 2:10-11).

- The Saviour, the Messiah, had entered the world. When Jesus was a mere forty-day-old infant, his parents took him to the Temple and offered him to his Father (see Lk. 2:22). An old man, Simeon, whom the Holy Spirit had promised would see the Messiah before he died (see Lk. 2:25-26), saw the little family. Taking Jesus in his arms, he prophesied that the child was “set for the fall and rising of many in Israel” (Lk. 2:34).
- History records only one religious leader whose coming was plainly foretold (see Lk. 24:27; Jn. 5:39).
- For more than a thousand years, the Jews had awaited the coming of a Messiah. The word “Messiah” in Hebrew means “anointed one” (and the word “Christ” comes from a word meaning the same thing in Greek, the language of the New Testament).
- The idea of a Messiah came into humanity’s consciousness immediately following the fall of Adam and Eve into sin.
- This sin lost, for our first parents and all of us descended from them, friendship with God, the joys of the Garden of Eden, harmony of soul and body, an unclouded intellect and will, and unending life in harmony with the universe.
- This tragic loss for all of us was irrevocable—except that Adam and Eve had been made by a God of infinite love. Aware of their naked helplessness, in his almighty goodness he withheld his justified anger at their awful

arrogance and, to heal their fatal wound, promised them a saviour.

- He announced that, in time, he would send one who would be utterly at enmity with the serpent, the evil one (see Gen. 3:15).