"The Coming of Messiah"

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BIG SANDY, Texas—At our Bible study on Wednesday night, I gave a presentation titled "The Coming of Messiah" This topic was chosen as we approach the fall festivals. Many Bible students believe that the Son of God was physically born in the fall of the year and that He will return to the earth at this time of the year.

Messiah mentioned four times

In the King James Version of the Bible, the English word *Messiah* is mentioned only four times.

The Hebrew word *masiah* (which means "Anointed One") is translated "Messiah" in Daniel 9:25 and Daniel 9:26. It is translated "anointed" 37 times in the Old Testament.

The Greek word *Christos* (which means "Christ, Anointed One, Messiah) is translated "Messiah" in John 1:41 and John 4:25. It is translated "Christ" 553 times and "Christ's" 16 times.

Old Testament history

Let's look at some Old Testament scriptures involving the history of the coming Messiah.

- Genesis 3:15—The Lord God told the serpent that there would be enmity between the seed of the serpent and the Seed of the woman.
- Genesis 12:2—The Lord told Abram that He would make Abram's seed a great nation.
- Genesis 16:1-4—When Sarai did not get pregnant, she convinced Abram to have a child with her maidservant Hagar.

One of the common expressions that my wife and I often use to describe questionable decisions in life is: "What could possibly go wrong?"

- Genesis 16:5—When Sarai did not like the reaction of the maidservant Hagar, she blamed Abram and the maidservant.
- Genesis 17:16—God promised Abraham that Sarah would have a child to be a mother of nations.

- Genesis 17:17-18—After Abraham laughed at the idea, he asked God if He could simply use Ishmael to fulfill the promise.
- Genesis 17:19-20—After God said that He would establish His covenant through the family of Isaac, He said that He would also bless the family of Ishmael.
- Isaiah 7:14—The Lord gave a sign about a virgin bearing a Son and that Son being called Immanuel.
- Matthew 1:23—Matthew quoted Isaiah 7:14 when discussing the birth of Immanuel—which is translated "God with us."

Looking for the Messiah

- John 1:19—The Jews sent priests and Levites to ask John: "Who are you?"
- John 1:20—John confessed: "I am not the Christ."
- John 1:21—The priests and Levites asked: "Are you Elijah?" and "Are you the Prophet?"
- John 1:22—The priests and Levites asked: "Who are you (that we may give an answer to those who sent us)?"
- John 1:29—When John saw Jesus coming toward Him, he said: "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"
- John 1:41—Andrew told his brother Simon Peter: "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated "the Christ").
- John 1:49—Nathanael said to Christ: "Rabbi, You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

Knew His mission

Later, the Son of God told His disciples (in Matthew 16:21) what was going to happen to Him.

- "I must go to Jerusalem."
- "I will suffer many things from the elders, chief priests and scribes."
- "I will be killed."
- "I will be raised the third day."

Adversity for Peter

- Luke 22:31—The Lord warned Simon Peter that the adversary wanted to sift him as wheat.
- Luke 22:32—The Lord said that He would pray for Peter and that Peter would become helpful to strengthen the brethren.

Adversity for the Son of God

- Luke 22:41-42—The Son of God talked with the Father about the adversity.
- Luke 22:43-44—An angel helped the Son of God to deal with the adversity.

Mourning for family

■ Luke 23:27-28—When the Son of God saw the people mourning for His circumstances, He was more focused upon the people mourning for themselves and their children.

Peace because of Father and Son

■ John 16:33—"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer [because] I have overcome the world."