



MESSAGE GUIDE

MARCH 30, 2025

“LIKE NO OTHER-PART 4: JESUS THE MESSIAH”



MATTHEW 4:12-16; 8:17; 12:15-21;
13:34-35; 15:7-9; 16:13-20

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We are in week four of our series, Like No Other. What does the Bible teach us about who Jesus is? He is like no other. And in this series, we’re taking a look at Matthew’s Gospel to learn all we can about this Jesus who has revolutionized the world.

So far, we’ve looked at Jesus the Teacher and Jesus the Healer. In this message, we are going to learn about Jesus, the Messiah.

1. **WHAT ARE SOME THINGS THAT COME TO YOUR MIND WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORD, MESSIAH?**

In Judaism, there was Simon bar Kokhba whom some believed was the Messiah. He led a rebellion against the Roman Empire from AD 132-135. There was Shabbetai Zevi who was a charismatic Jew in the early Ottoman empire. He performed what some believed to be “miracles” and eventually declared himself the Messiah. And then there was Menachem Mendel Schneerson who was the seventh Rebbe of Chabad Lubavitch and who just died in 1994. And it’s said that many Lubavitchers believe that God will soon reveal him to be the one true Messiah.

So, how do we know? How do we know that Jesus is the real Messiah?

What if we discover that Menachem Mendel Schneerson was really the Messiah of God? And what difference does this really make anyway? What does this have to do with us? Isn’t this just in the realm of Judaism, and it’s not relevant to 21st century people just trying to live our lives in a pretty chaotic world?

First, We need to answer the question: **WHAT IS THE MESSIAH?**

“Messiah” comes from an ancient Hebrew name: *Mashiach*, which means Anointed one; chosen one. In the New Testament, the Greek word is *Christos*: Anointed one; chosen one.

So, what’s the significance of someone being anointed? Well, in biblical times, anointing someone with oil was a sign that God was consecrating or setting apart that person for a particular role. Thus, An “anointed one” was someone with a special, God-ordained purpose.



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In the Old Testament, people were anointed for the positions of:

- Prophet: God told Elijah to anoint Elisha (**1 Kings 19:16**)
- Priest: Aaron was anointed as the first high priest of Israel (**Leviticus 8:12**)
- King: Samuel anointed David as king of Israel (**1 Samuel 16:13**)

But the Old Testament prophesied that there would come a Deliverer, chosen by God, who would be a prophet like no other, a priest like no other, and a king like no other! This deliverer would be called THE MESSIAH!

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God. (**Isaiah 61:1-2, ESV**).*

So, let's not miss the deep, deep religious, cultural, political, social milieu of Israel in the first century AD. The Jewish expectation was that this Deliverer, this Messiah, would come and based on Isaiah 61 and Isaiah 42 and other OT prophecies, this Messiah would overthrow the Roman occupiers and (like Moses the great prophet and lawgiver) he would set his people free.

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. (**Isaiah 42:1, ESV**).*

So, WHAT is the Messiah? The Messiah is the anointed, the chosen one of God who will bring justice to the nations, who will deliver God's people from their enemies, and we also need to include Isaiah 53: *He poured out his soul to death and was numbered with the transgressors; yet he bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors. (**Isaiah 53:12, ESV**).*

2. WHAT DO YOU THINK THE IMPACT WOULD HAVE BEEN ON THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL TO KNOW THEIR MESSIAH WOULD BE A PROPHET, KING, AND PRIEST LIKE NO OTHER?

That leads us to **WHO IS THE MESSIAH?**

In that religious, historical and cultural context, Jesus is born. He grows up and appears with John the Baptist who, Matthew says, is fulfilling the prophesy of Isaiah 40:3—*The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight. (**Matthew 3:3; Isaiah 40:3**)* This appears to be a very unique introduction of the Anointed One, the One chosen by God.



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Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights, just as Moses and the Israelites were led into the wilderness for 40 years, and they faced their trials and temptations (Matthew 4). This is very much a picture of the Messiah.

Matthew records that Jesus began His ministry in Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali: *...so that what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "The land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death on them a light has dawned."* (**Matthew 4:15-16; Isaiah 9:1-2**).

Again, this is very much a picture of Jesus as the Messiah!

In Matthew 8 we read, *That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "He took our illnesses and bore our diseases."* (**Matthew 8:16-17; Isaiah 53:4, ESV**). This is a direct fulfillment of the messianic prophecy of Isaiah 53.

And we could go on and on in Matthew's Gospel to see the direct link of Jesus to the messianic prophecies:

- Matthew 12:15-16 fulfills Isaiah 42:1-3
- Matthew 13:34 fulfills Psalm 78:2
- Matthew 15:1-9 fulfills Isaiah 29:13

3. READ THESE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES AND THE CORRESPONDING PASSAGES FROM MATTHEW. WHAT ARE THE PROPHECIES AND HOW WERE THEY FULFILLED BY JESUS?

4. HOW DO THESE MULTIPLE SCRIPTURES THAT DESCRIBE JESUS AS THE MESSIAH, STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH IN HIM?

But then we have the testimony of those who knew Jesus best, those who walked with Him, saw Him perform these miracles and teach like no other. *Jesus asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."* (**Matthew 16:15-16, ESV**).



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Notice, that Jesus didn't scold Peter for making such a claim. He didn't deny it, renounce it, rebuff it. He said, *"Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven."* (**Matthew 16:17, ESV**).

Eyewitnesses declare, Scripture declares, history recounts that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One and Chosen One of God. And so, we come to our third and final question—the one we really need to wrestle with, because this is a question of faith:

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT? In other words, Why should we care?

If you believe or don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the sun will still come up tomorrow. You will still have to go to work or school. You still have that kid's soccer game coming up this weekend or that concert coming up at Ruoff Music Center.

But here is the rub. Many people—and perhaps even us at times—go about life like we're in the Matrix, where we just go about life not thinking about why we're here, what life is all about, and what our purpose is. We just ... are. We'll leave the deeper questions to the theologians and philosophers.

Because we all do anchor our lives to something—a spouse, kids, house, money, job. Our lives orbit around something. But there are a couple of problems with that. One is that there still seems to be this nagging sense we face that says, "Is that it?" We have that perfect vacation we were looking forward to, and when it's over, we say, *Well, what's next?*

And here's the second problem with living in the Matrix and having our lives orbit around whatever happens to be the happiness remedy of the day. What happens when the "center" of our orbit collapses? God forbid, your spouse dies, or your marriage dissolves, or your kids move away from home, or you lose your job. And we are no longer in the gravitational pull of that center, and our lives begin to spin out of control. Every been there done that?

Maybe the problem is we're orbiting our lives around the wrong thing. And this is why the Messiah, the Anointed One, the Chosen One of God is so eternally, existentially, and essentially important. The Messiah was the One anointed by God LIKE NO OTHER—as Prophet, Priest, and King. And that makes a difference in the orbital pull and centering of our lives.

- Jesus the Messiah is Prophet: He taught us truth and embodies truth (John 1:4; 14:6).
- Jesus the Messiah is Priest: His death atones for our sins and reconciles us to the Father (Hebrews 2:17; 4:14).
- Jesus the Messiah is King: After His resurrection God gave all authority to Him (John 18:36; Ephesians 1:20–23; Revelation 19:16).



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5. DO YOU BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST THE SON OF THE LIVING GOD WHO TAKES AWAY THE SINS OF THE WORLD, INCLUDING YOUR OWN? AND IF YOU DO BELIEVE THAT, THEN WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? CONTINUE TO LIVE IN THE MATRIX IN THE ORBITAL PULL OF WHATEVER THE WORLD TELLS YOU WILL BRING YOU THE MOST FULFILLMENT AND SATISFACTION?