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JESUS THE DIVINE MESSIAH

by

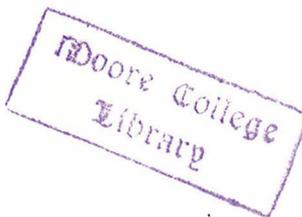
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"The Protestant Faith"



The Christian religion differs only from the religion of the Old Testament at one point and it is this, that God's appointed leader for His people, promised in the Old Testament for the future, has come in Jesus of Nazareth. Thus for a modern Jew to become a Christian means simply to recognize Jesus as the promised Messiah. Messiah means the one who God has anointed and appointed as representative and leader of His people. The disciples of Jesus reached the conclusion that Jesus was this promised Messiah, that is why they called Him Christ for Christ is simply the Greek word for the Hebrew word Messiah. Both mean anointed, which is the ancient symbol still used in crowning of kings to indicate that he is the appointed leader. The remarkable thing about the Old Testament prophecies of the Messiah is that they prophesied not only a leader of God's people, but that this leader would be God Himself. Thus Malachi 3 foretold: "The Lord whom you seek shall suddenly come to His temple and the angel of the covenant whom you delight in, behold he comes says the Lord". Perhaps the clearest prophecy that God Himself would be the Messiah and the promised leader of His people, is in Isaiah 9:6 "Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulder and His name will be called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace". These are terms to describe God Himself, "His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father". It was an extraordinary truth prophesied in the Old Testament that the Son to be born would be God, so extraordinary that when it took place people could hardly believe it, indeed a large section of the Jewish people refused to believe it, and continued to refuse. But it is on the other hand a wonderful truth that was prophesied and has now come true, that the Creator has related Himself to us by taking our nature, becoming our Leader, our Lord and our Saviour, for it is to be the saviour of their people that leaders are for. Our leaders are elected to save us from economic problems. The kings of the Old Testament saved their people from the enemy nations which attacked them round about, but God as our Leader and Lord saves us

from the enemy of mankind, the Devil, who is set on our eternal destruction.

Jesus the Christ has overcome Satan on our behalf, living our life and winning our battles, and we may enter into the benefits of this spiritual victory by putting ourselves under His banner, accepting His leadership and Lordship, and recognizing Him for whom He is, and so relating ourselves to Him in the area of truth. This attitude or response is called 'faith'. It was the way by which God's children in the Old Testament related themselves to their Lord. For example, Abraham believed in God and left his country and followed God's will and direction and believed His promises. God became his friend on this basis and He will become our friend if we believe Him and obey Him and put our complete trust in His promises. We cannot relate ourselves to God by the moral quality of our lives because that is never good enough, but we can put our faith in God as our Lord and He will receive us on this basis.

When we remember that Jesus is God with us, 'Emmanuel' as the prophet foretold, then it is obvious that His life is the pattern and example of all human life, for in Jesus the Creator was living the life He Himself had designed. So Jesus is not only our Leader and Saviour but also our pattern and example. His values are the true values for us to adopt and if we follow Him He will lead us to life.

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