

Jesus' Messiahship

What Made Jesus the Messiah

Jesus first proclaimed himself as the Messiah in the Synagogue at Nazareth in a sermon based on Isaiah 61 which includes a prophecy of the release of captives. Those with spiritual discernment saw this as a turning away from sin which enslaves the evil doers. With the understanding of the time, it meant purification of the soul, rather than transformation of the soul through the Divine Love.

Quoting verse 10 of Isaiah 61, "I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God. For he has clothed me with garments of salvation ...", Jesus explained that his soul rejoiced because it had been endowed with immortality, which is salvation. He further pointed out that the immortality of his soul was the result of the presence of the Divine Love which was now available to all through the kindness and mercy of the Heavenly Father. *He proclaimed himself the Messiah as possessing a soul conscious of its immortality and as bringing the good news that this immortality could be received by all who would seek it through earnest prayer to the Father for His Divine Love.*

Having been anointed the Christ through the Love principle working in him, he was to exemplify and teach the way to At-onement with the Father through the Divine Love. Based on this teaching, spiritual captives would be freed from sin, not through adherence to the Mosaic Law alone, but through the efficacy of God's Divine Love which transforms the soul so that it loses its desire for sinful thoughts and deeds.

In the autumn before his death, Jesus proclaimed himself as the Messiah before the chief priests and rulers. He presented his mission as proclaiming the New Covenant between the Heavenly Father and the people of Israel. He also pointed out that God's Divine Love was now available to all who might seek It through earnest longing of soul, and that he manifested Its presence by having the nature and essence of the Father in the form of the Divine Love in his own soul.

Why was Jesus Rejected as the Messiah

Jesus was not accepted as the Messiah by most in Nazareth because the people who had known him for twenty years as an ordinary carpenter and the son of Joseph had hard time to suddenly change their minds about him. It is true that familiarity breeds contempt.

The Hebrew priests and rulers rejected Jesus' claims because of misunderstanding /misapplying certain prophetic statements regarding the Messiah, focusing on hairsplitting distinctions resulting from their interpretations of the law such as the Sabbath, as well as wishing to preserve their own power and prestige.

For example, Isaiah had prophesied that no one would know from whence the Messiah came, but Jesus was known to be from Nazareth. Replying to their objections on their own terms, Jesus stated that they didn't know him or his Father – meaning his Heavenly Father and the origin of his divine soul. He replied to being criticized for his healing on the Sabbath by showing how circumcision was always performed on the eighth day, even if that was the Sabbath, so how much more appropriate it was making a person whole on the Sabbath (John 7:22-24).

The common people rejected Jesus as the Messiah for reasons such as fear of the rulers and social pressures. For example, they didn't want to be ostracized and banned from the synagogue. This was the case of the parents of the man born blind whom Jesus healed. (John 9:18-23)

There was also fear on the part of the rulers that if many of the common people were convinced, as a result of healings and miracles, of Jesus' Messiahship and followed him, the Romans might see it as a subversive movement and intervene (John 11:48). That is why in the end Jesus was not only rejected as a Messiah, but a concentrated effort was made to put him to death (John 11:45-57).