

Women's Bible Study
Who Do You Say I AM?
He is the Messiah – Matthew 1:18-25
Jacqui Stahl - September 28, 2011

Study Intensive Questions:

Please remember to support your answers with scripture references.

1. Read Matthew 1:18-25. How does this passage reference the genealogy found in Matthew 1:1-17? Considering Matthew's audience was of Jewish descent, why do you think it was important for him to make this connection?

2. According to our passage, how did the birth of Christ, "*fulfill what the Lord has said through the prophet*"? (vs. 22) Using a concordance, look up the word FULFILLED and find 2-3 other prophecies which Christ fulfilled in his lifetime.

3. In Matt. 5:17 Jesus said, "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" Read Hebrews 7:22-28 and Hebrews 9. List some ways Jesus fulfilled the Law.

4. In the Old Testament the term Messiah or Anointed One was a title used for those God set apart for specific work. Using the following passages, describe how people were anointed and for what purposes: Exodus 28:41; 1 Sam. 9:16, 1 Kings 19:16, and Isaiah 45:1.

5. How was Jesus' anointing as told by Peter in Acts 10:38 different or similar to the anointing of those in the Old Testament? What work was Jesus anointed for in Matt. 1:18-25? How might this job description relate to those referred to in the passages from question 4?

6. Keeping in mind the name "Jesus" and its meaning found in our passage, in what ways was God's work for Messiah different than the Israelites' expectations of the work for the Messiah? (Consider Is. 53, John 3:14-15, and 1 Peter 2:23-24)

7. As redeemed people, our lives are hidden in Christ. Using scripture, describe a few ways we are to continue the work of Christ. (For example, 1 Pet. 2:9 "*But you are... a royal priesthood... that you declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness...*") Why do you think continuing the work of Christ is necessary if Jesus fulfilled the whole of God's Word?

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Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things people rely on in our culture to save them from oppression, suffering, or death? Do these things work? Why or Why not?

2. Jesus said, "*Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.*" (Matt.5:17) As a group call to mind some ways Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies and the Law.

3. Colossians 2:17 states the things of the Old Testament were, "*a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.*" The writer of Hebrews often used the word *better* to show how the Old Testament pointed ahead to something better in Christ. Discuss how Jesus was:
 - A Better Prophet

 - A Better Priest

 - A Better Sacrifice

 - A Better King

4. As redeemed people, our lives are hidden in Christ. We are to continue his work by doing things like sharing the gospel, being living sacrifices, interceding for others, living a holy life, and being good stewards of what God has entrusted to us. Discuss some practical ways we can carry on the work of Christ in our home, work, or church environments. Why do you think continuing the work of Christ is necessary if Jesus fulfilled the whole of God's Word?