

Jesus: The Anointed One

A *mashiah*, an anointed one, is a person on whom oil has been poured. Saul the son of Kish became a *mashiah* in this way (1 Samuel 10:1). Likewise, David became a *mashiah*: “Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him” (1 Samuel 16:13). The regular way of ordaining one to be a king was by anointing him with oil.

God appropriated the *mashiah* idea in referring to His own Son. One of the titles He used to describe Jesus was *Mashiah*, His “Anointed” (Psalm 2:2). Daniel pictured Jesus as a person of royalty, “Messiah the Prince” (Daniel 9:25).

The Hebrew word *mashiah* comes into English as “messiah”; the Greek equivalent, *Christos*, becomes “Christ.” Somehow the woman of Samaria who talked with Jesus at the well had become aware that Deity would make an advent into this world as the *Mashiah* (Messiah). She said, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ)” (John 4:25).

One of John’s disciples, Andrew, also knew that

a title which Deity would wear upon coming into this world would be the Anointed One, the *Mashiah*. Deep feeling must have been in his voice when he told Peter, "We have found the Messiah" (John 1:41).

Peter later confessed, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). Jesus complimented Peter on his faith and declared that the church planned in the wisdom of God would be founded on the fact that the Nazarene was God's Anointed Son. Technically speaking, however, at the time of Peter's confession, Jesus was not the *Mashiah*, the Anointed One. Only after He had mastered death and the grave and had ascended to glory was He anointed as God's *Mashiah*. On the Day of Pentecost, ten days after His ascension, Jesus went before His Father's throne for His coronation. Figuratively speaking, His Father poured the anointing oil on His head. He called Jesus "God" as He said:

Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;
 A scepter of uprightness is the scepter of Your kingdom.
 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
 Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You
 With the oil of joy above Your fellows
 (Psalm 45:6, 7).

From that historic occasion on the Lord's Day (probably May 26, A.D. 30), He was officially made the blessed and only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Timothy 6:15), the special *Mashiah*.