

Part Four In A Series Of Seven

Why Did Jesus Christ Come to the Earth?

WHAT WE'VE LEARNED

- The Old Testament Is Full Of The Story That Jesus Christ Would Come.
 - In Jesus Christ God Actually Came To Be With Us.
 - In Jesus Christ Mankind Has Someone Who Can Be Their Representative Before A Holy God.
- Our Hope Of Final And Total Victory Rests On God's Faithfulness.

EVALUATION SHEET

Please go ahead and fill in the evaluation sheet attached.

CONTACT DETAILS

Web site: greatbarrchurchofchrist.org

Mobile: 0787 9444 267

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GREAT BARR
CHURCH OF CHRIST



GOD, LIFE AND PEOPLE

Part four in a Series of Seven

4. JESUS CHRIST



Why Did Jesus Christ Come To The Earth?

'caring for **PEOPLE** for **PEOPLE** matter to God' **Romans 5:8**

THE OLD TESTAMENT SAID: SOMEONE IS COMING!

I. SOMEONE IS COMING

1. A writer summarised the Old Testament message this way: Someone is Coming! That's too simple, but it does remind us that the promise of a coming one runs all the way through the Old Testament. It has been estimated that there are more than 400 prophecies in the Old Testament about Christ and his work.

II. WHO IS IT THAT WAS COMING?

2. The Old Testament tells us the coming One would be both God and Man. In **Genesis 3: 15** we're told he would be 'the seed of the woman' (human). In **Isaiah 7:14** we're told he would be a child born of a virgin but that he would also be 'Immanuel' (God with us). In **Isaiah 9:6-7** we're told he would be a descendant of David but that he would also be 'the Mighty God'. In **Micah 5:2** we hear he would be a Judean but that he would also be eternal.

3. Only one man in world history seriously claimed to be God as well as man – Jesus Christ, the son of David and the Son of God. It was God who was 'in Christ' reconciling the world unto himself – **2 Corinthians 5:19-21**.

JESUS CHRIST PROMISES US THAT WE'LL FINALLY WIN

14. But for many, the thing that worries them most is the presence of evil in their own lives. They've earnestly fought against it but have no reason to believe they'll win against it. Christ comes promising us that not only will we win against the penalty of Sin, if we submit our lives to him, we'll finally win against the power of Sin too.

15. Listen to these faithful words and let the hope stir in you (**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**): 'May God himself, the God of peace, make you holy through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it.**'

I've emphasised the last sentence because God's faithfulness is the basis for the Christian's confident hope of victory over Sin! Remember, the victory is not only over the penalty of sin, we beat its power as well!

Aren't you glad he came!

CHRIST HAS MET & CONQUERED ALL THAT MAN FEARS

12. Jesus Christ came to give us hope. If our hope for the future is based on our health, what do we do when serious illness comes? If it's resting on our wisdom, what do we do when old age weakens our intellect?

If we're relying on our wealth, where are we when the economy stumbles or our business collapses? If our hope depends on our children, where do we turn if our children turn from us or if they have no hope for themselves?

If we hope on the basis of society's progress, how will we feel when the mass exploitation and oppression going on in the world gets worse and worse and crime figures continue to spiral?

13. The good news is: Christ has met and conquered all that Man fears! He met our Sin and defeated it. He met Suffering and made it serve his purposes. He met Death and killed it.

(There's a tombstone in England with this written on it: **Gone away with a Friend!**) The Christian's hope is firmly grounded in God and Christ so change and decay, threats and fears have no power to destroy it (see **1 Timothy 1:1** and **1 Timothy 4:10**).

WE SEE GOD MAKING HIMSELF WOUNDABLE

III. WHY DID HE COME?

4. Jesus Christ came to tell us that God is 'with' us. The prophet said the baby would be 'Immanuel' (see **Matthew 1:23**), which means, 'God with us'. In coming to be 'with us' God joined us in our pain and struggle. He doesn't 'sit out there' yelling orders at us. His love for us caused him pain and led him to join with us in our pain. In seeing Jesus pushed around, oppressed and mistreated we see God making himself wound-able for our sakes. God so wants to live with us! (See **John 1:1, 14** and **Colossians 2:9**.)

5. Jesus Christ came to show God's love in its most glorious light. The love of God for us didn't begin at Christ's coming. No, but in Jesus we have the clearest and most lovely expression of it (**1 John 4:9**).

6. Jesus Christ came to expose the awful evil of our Sin. He did this in two basic ways. First, he lived his life so radiantly, courageously and selflessly. Our lives by comparison are so loveless and withered and Christ assures us: 'Sin does that to you!'

Secondly, he allowed Sin to show its true nature when it hounded him to the cross. It was God Sin was attacking! It was Man Sin was crucifying! In all this, Christ is saying to us: 'I want you to see that Sin is evil beyond description and must be destroyed if God and man are to enjoy life together!'

JESUS CHRIST REPRESENTS THE WHOLE OF MANKIND

7. Jesus Christ came to be mankind's Representative. Jesus doesn't represent a chosen few! He came to speak for all! He came as Man so he could confess the Sin of mankind! In him mankind has found a Man who can fully understand God's view of sin. In him mankind has found a Man who can approach a holy God on their behalf as their Mediator (**1 Timothy 2:4-5**).

8. Jesus Christ came to die to bear the Sin of Mankind. Justice between people is regulated by good laws but the law is mocked and is worse than useless when crime isn't dealt with!

So how can God acquit sinners without mocking his law? How can God expect us to respect his law if, by **'just letting sinners off'**, he doesn't respect it himself? That's why Christ came (**Romans 3:24-26**).

9. Can we look at the Cross and think God doesn't take Sin seriously? The death of Christ shows that forgiving sinners isn't easy, not even for God! God so respects his law that he won't offer a cheap and easy forgiveness that would make a mockery of it.

Still, while he won't despise his law, God loves sinners and pays the price so he can offer a just forgiveness to all men (**1 John 1:9 & 1 Peter 2:24**).

GOD'S FORGIVENESS ISN'T CHEAP

10. Jesus Christ came to call us to trustful and holy living. The only man who knows Sin in all its awful evil is the man, Jesus Christ.

And when a man trusts in the crucified Christ, Sin comes to mean to him what it means to Christ! (**This is part of what the New Testament means by 'repentance'**.) That's why a follower of Christ cannot choose a sinful lifestyle or think of Sin in a casual way.

11. Some have a strange view of Christ's dying for them. They feel that somehow the moral law was set aside or at least weakened so they could be forgiven.

The reverse is true: It's because God wouldn't weaken or set aside the demands of his holy law that Christ had to die for our pardon!

His cross doesn't stand as a symbol that God despised his holy law – it stands as a reminder that God honours that holy law!