

What Christian Israelites Believe ...

7. About the Name “Jesus Christ”

An angel told Mary to call her child Jesus before she conceived him:

“And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.” Luke 1:30-31.

“She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.” Matthew 1:21.

The name “Jesus” means “saviour”. He was the living Son of God:

“And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:17 (also Mark 1:11 and Luke 3:22).

He was born with a physical body like ours, but God was his father. As such, he was conceived and born without sin:

“For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh.” Romans 8:3.

“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” Philippians 2:6-7.

Jesus’ birth was prophesied many years before his birth, firstly as being of the “woman’s seed”, destined to overcome the “serpent” – Satan:

“And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” Genesis 3:14-15.

Many other prophecies about Jesus are recorded throughout the Bible:

“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6.

“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord ... And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.” Isaiah 11:1-2, 11-12.

When Jesus was about thirty, he was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. The Holy Spirit descended on him and stayed with him, and he became known as Jesus Christ:

“And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” Matthew 3:16-17.

Christian Israelites believe that Christ was another name for the spirit that descended on Jesus and that allowed him to perform miracles, such as healing the sick and casting out demons:

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” Romans 8:9.

The name Christ means “Messiah” (deliverer, saviour), and dwelling in the Spirit of God/Christ allowed Jesus to become the spiritual as well as the physical Son of God. So we can see why he said:

“I and my Father are one.” John 10:30.

In John 8:56-58, we read how the Jews became angry with Jesus Christ when he said that he had seen Abraham: “Before Abraham was I am” (John 8:58). He was referring to a time before his physical birth. We also read in John 1:1, 3-4 that:

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men.”

Verse 14 in the same chapter explains that the “Word” was Jesus Christ, who was made flesh and dwelt amongst us. Jesus also spoke about being with his Father before the creation of the world:

“And now O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.” John 17:5.

These verses all suggest that Jesus had knowledge of things that were before he was born on earth. His physical self (Jesus) was not with God in the beginning, nor had he seen Abraham, but it was his spiritual self (Christ) that had and that was speaking through the body of Jesus. As such, we believe that Jesus Christ is two entities that came together to fulfill the will of God.