

THE MESSIAH'S PRESENCE AND HIS RULE

Note to the speaker:

Prove that Jesus is unmistakably the Messiah according to the fulfillment of Bible prophecy. Explain what his return in that role means for mankind, emphasizing the blessings to be experienced by those who accept his role as Messiah

THE MESSIAH—A BIBLE-BASED HOPE (5 min.)

'The world desperately needs a messiah,' said the president of the Club of Rome, a prominent group of intellectuals (*w92 10/1 3*)

He meant a charismatic political, scientific, or religious savior who would rescue mankind from social and economic chaos

Obviously, present world leaders offer no solution to problems of poverty, hunger, environmental disaster, inflation, and so on

Neither is any real deliverer on the horizon

Bible points to Messiah, or Anointed One, as basis for real hope

Term applied to Israelite kings and priests (*it-1 113; w92 10/1 7*)

Came to signify a deliverer who would be king and high priest

First prophetic reference to Messiah made in Genesis 3:15

Verse poetically describes "seed" that would undo wickedness

This means ultimate blessings for all mankind—deliverance!

As centuries passed, God provided further Messianic prophecies

Evidence clearly points to Jesus of Nazareth as the promised Messiah

What proof? How can recognizing the Messiah benefit you eternally?

IDENTIFYING THE MESSIAH (10 min.)

(1) Jesus fulfilled scores of Messianic prophecies (*w92 10/1 9-10*)

Descendant of King David (2Sa 7:12, 13)

Matthew 1:1 identifies him as "son of David, son of Abraham"

Jesus' enemies never challenged his lineage (*it-1 915*)

(2) Jesus specifically identified as the Messiah

Angelic announcement at birth identified him as the one "who is to be your Messiah" (Lu 2:11, *Charles B. Williams*)

In 29 C.E., at Jesus' baptism, Jehovah himself anointed Jesus with holy spirit (Lu 3:21, 22)

Jesus could thus proclaim himself Messiah in harmony with prophecy (Isa 61:1, 2; Lu 4:16-21)

(3) Jesus' appearance as Messiah came at the exact time prophesied at Daniel 9:24-27 (*it-2 899-904; w92 10/1 11-12*)

(As time permits, use quoted items from *w92 10/1 11 par. 11*)

WHY MOST REJECTED JESUS AS MESSIAH (5 min.)

Jewish nation expected a conquering hero who would deliver them from Roman oppression (*w92 10/1 13-14*)

Believed he would usher in Messianic Age at first appearance

Even Jesus' disciples shared this misconception (Ac 1:6)

Jesus' death in public disgrace went against Jewish expectations

Messiah's death as sacrifice foretold at Daniel 9:24-27

His being "cut off" made atonement for and finished off sin; his perfect life given in sacrifice serves as ransom for mankind

Isaiah 52:13-53:12 also spoke of Messiah's sufferings and death

Messiah would "see his offspring" and "prolong his days" (Isa 53:10)

Possible only if Messiah resurrected from the dead (Ps 16:10)

The resurrected, glorified Jesus thus able to return and fulfill rest of Messianic prophecies (Heb 10:12, 13)

MESSIAH'S RETURN AND PRESENCE—WHAT IT MEANS FOR US (15 min.)

"Presence" covers a period of many years, with special attention to earth

Like "the days of Noah" (Mt 24:37-39; *it-2 676-9; w92 10/1 16*)

Jesus indicated this presence would be invisible (Joh 14:19)

True, Revelation 1:7 says, "He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him," but "clouds" suggest invisibility (Ac 1:9; *re 19-20*)

Followers "see" by discerning "sign" Jesus gave at Matthew 24, 25

World events and Bible chronology unmistakably prove Jesus invisibly present since 1914 (Refer to *w90* 10/15 18-19)

True Christians in expectation for some 38 years prior to 1914

Reflected in C. T. Russell's positive announcement (*w90* 10/15 19)

Significance? Messiah now enthroned; Kingdom now rules (Re 12:10)

Yet long-awaited Messianic Age still future

Messiah rules for a time in midst of enemies (Ps 110:1, 2)

Global preaching work being done (Mt 24:14)

Kingdom soon to destroy enemies of Messiah (Ps 110:5, 6)

Messiah will thus settle supreme issue raised by Satan (*it-2* 16)

Will undo all problems resulting from that rebellion (Heb 2:14)

ENJOY THE BLESSINGS OF MESSIAH'S RULE! (10 min.)

Prophecy of Isaiah 11 will finally be fulfilled (*w92* 10/1 18-19)

Verses 1-5 describe Jesus' qualities as righteous ruler

Spiritual fulfillment of verses 6-9 to be reflected as Christ, having 'all power in heaven and earth,' directs transformation of earth into global Paradise (Mt 28:18; *ws* 174)

Points to transformation of beastlike personalities now and in future

Also look forward to literal fulfillment in animal realm

Great educational work has already begun; carried on by Jehovah's Witnesses in over 200 lands

Christ in kingly power now standing as "signal"; millions among Gentile "nations" have responded (Isa 11:10)

No false Jewish messiah ever developed such a Gentile following

Have you responded to Messianic signal by embracing Kingdom hope?

Whether yes or no, continue taking in knowledge of Jehovah

Continue to attend meetings and associate with congregation

Dedicated Witnesses must continue steadfast in spreading the knowledge of Jehovah to all who will listen (1Co 15:58)

May we have plenty to do in work of the Lord until Messiah triumphs—to God's eternal glory and to our everlasting good!

(Adhere closely to the outlined material, and observe the indicated timing of each section. Not all cited texts need be read)