

The Greatest Story (Part 38):

Is Jesus The Christ?

Mark 8:27-30

Memory Verses: Mark 16:16

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

For thousands of years the Israelites were awaiting the coming of their king who would make all things right... their messiah... their Christ. Christ literally means "the anointed one of God" "the messiah." Two thousand years ago Jesus came and in **Mark 8:27-30** we see this dialogue. Look at it with me. **"And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they told him, 'John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.' And he asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Christ.' And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him."** Peter boldly declares that Jesus is the Christ, the long awaited Messiah who was prophesied about throughout the entire Old Testament. Jesus is the one we've been waiting for.

But if that is true then why did the Jewish people as a whole not accept him? Of course many Jewish people did but a majority did not. It was for this reason that the church exploded within Gentile cities like Antioch and Corinth rather than Jerusalem. Today over 70 percent of people with Jewish heritage claim to be non-religious and only .2% of all Jews believe Christ to be the Messiah. Jesus came for his own and his own accepted him not. It is startling to me that 2 Billion people around the world can see that Jesus is the Messiah but the very people Jesus came to save first do not. Which begs a very serious question from us this morning. Is Jesus the Messiah is he the Christ?

Today I want us to look at some of the most popular reasons Jews reject Jesus as the Messiah and use the book of Mark to offer a compelling argument that Jesus is indeed the Christ. This morning I believe we will see that... **If Jesus Isn't The Christ Then The Christ Isn't Coming**

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing I want us to see here is that **Jesus Fulfills Messianic Prophecy**. You say, of course he does, isn't that exactly what you've been trying to prove... isn't that the entire reason for us walking through the entire Old Testament for the past 9 months? Yes it

is, and the evidence is compelling. But did you know that non-messianic Jews reject Jesus as the Christ because they believe that he failed to fulfill them all. The Jews claim that Jesus did not fulfill all of the messianic prophecies... and to an extent they are correct.

They are. So stay with me. I believe, and the Jews concede to an extent, that Jesus has fulfilled a huge majority of the messianic prophecies. But the Jews claim that if he doesn't fulfill all of them then he is a false messiah... and they would be right ... if indeed that was correct. The problem is they are viewing their belief based on present day prophecy verses future prophecy. You see Jesus has fulfilled everything in the present and, though he hasn't yet, will one day fulfill every prophecy that is still reserved for the future. Just because the Jesus hasn't fulfilled future messianic prophecy doesn't mean that he isn't the Christ.

So let's first examine what Jesus has already fulfilled. Jesus has fulfilled over 300 Old Testament prophecies concerning the messiah. That is an astonishing amount of prophecies fulfilled by one person. In fact the chances of just 1 person fulfilling only 8 of those prophecies is 1 in 100 Quintillion (1 with 17 0's). The chance of anyone fulfilling 300 are beyond the scope of possibility. But not only has he fulfilled an astronomically supernatural amount of these prophecies but he has fulfilled some which are completely beyond his ability to manipulate or manufacture. Where he was born and how he was born. And of course he was born in Bethlehem just as prophecy foretold and he was born of a virgin just as it was foretold. In fact the virgin birth itself is enough to convince me and end the discussion right there. If an 800 year old prophecy tells of one who will be supernaturally conceived of a virgin by the Holy Spirit... and then it happens... I'm all in on that.

But since we are in the book of Mark today let's walk through some of these 300 prophecies that were fulfilled just in this book. **Isaiah 53:7-8** tells us that the Christ would not open his mouth in rebuttal to his accusers. **Mark 15:3-5** tells us that Jesus remained silent in response to Pilate's accusations. **Isaiah 50:6** tells us that the Christ would have his crucifiers spit in his face. **Mark 14:65a** tells us that they did indeed spit on Jesus as they beat him. **Psalms 22:14-16** tells us that the Christ would be crucified with pierced hands and feet. **Mark 15:20** tells us that Jesus was led away to be crucified. **Isaiah 53:12** tells us that the Christ was to suffer among sinners. **Mark 15:27** tells us that Jesus was crucified with two criminals. **Psalms 22:18** tells us that the Christ's crucifiers would throw dice for his garments. **Mark 15:24** tells us that Jesus' crucifiers threw dice for his garments. **Psalms 16:10** tells us that the messiah will rise from the grave. **Mark 16:7** tells us that Jesus was raised from dead. Again... just to get this one correct should end the conversation right? You would think... but we have more. **Psalms 110:1** tells us that the Christ will sit at the right hand of God after he rises. **Mark 16:19** tells us that Jesus ascended in the air to sit at the right hand of

God. Jesus most definitely fulfilled messianic prophecy which proves he is the Christ. It is remarkable that physical witnesses, numbering up to 500 people at one time saw Jesus die, alive again, and ascend to heaven just as prophecy declared and yet some still don't believe! Especially those looking for the Messiah!

So why don't they believe even after all of this? Well, the biggest hang up for the Jews is not that Jesus didn't fulfill the prophecies that we just spoke of... its that he didn't fulfill them all. What prophecies did Jesus not fulfill according to non-messianic Jews?

First, they claim that he can't be the messiah because he didn't build the Third Temple. So let's get some of the background here. The first temple was destroyed in 587 BC during Nebuchadnezzar's conquest of Jerusalem. The second temple was destroyed in 70AD by the Roman Emperor Titus. In [Ez. 37:26-28](#) we see that there is coming a day when God will dwell with his people in a new sanctuary. The non-messianic Jews claim that this points to a new third Temple. Because the Jews have no concept of the "sanctuary" of God apart from the Temple this holy sacred place must be a new Temple. And what more important function could there be for the Christ then to rebuild a sanctuary for God. If there is no Temple then there can be no Messiah. The big problem is that this verse is not talking about a temple as in a building. The sanctuary of God has come in the form of Jesus as the temple of God here on Earth. When he ascended he sent his Holy Spirit to indwell a new temple; the church. The sanctuary of God that the Jews are looking for is in fact already here and was established by Jesus. Mark attests to this in [Mark 16:20](#) where we see... they went out and preached while the lord worked WITH them. Did you catch that... the Lord was WITH them because he was in them. And as we have previously examined [Ephesians 2:20-22](#) tells us that we, the Church, are the temple of the holy spirit built together one by one for his glory in the the Earth.

Secondly, they claim that Jesus can't be the Christ because he hasn't gathered all Jews back to the land of Israel. We see in [Isaiah 43:5-6](#)) a prophecy that is reiterated multiple times throughout the Old Testament, which started in the book of Deuteronomy. This prophecy has also been attributed by the Jews as a sign of the Messiah. So, have the Jewish people been gathered back together in Israel yet? No, but that number grows daily. The main thing here is that it is difficult to assume that this prophecy has to be accomplished by the Christ. It could be a gathering led by God as it is stated throughout the Old Testament. No where in the Old Testament does it specifically state that Israel will be gathered together again when the Messiah comes. Still we as Christians do believe that this will happen in the future in conjunction with the second coming of the Messiah. Mark alludes to this in [Mark 13:24-27](#) where Jesus states that his elect will be gathered from the ends of the

earth. His elect meaning Christians and Messianic Jews who eventually accept Christ as the Messiah. Only those Jews who accept Christ will be gathered.

Third, Jews don't believe that Jesus is the Messiah because he hasn't brought about world peace. We see this prophecy in [Isaiah 2:4](#) Obviously we don't have world peace yet. This is why the Jews were looking for a conquering king rather than a humble carpenter... they have always attributed the coming of the messiah with world peace. Jesus has actually caused the world to go the opposite way. It is on his account that many wars and blood shed has occurred. So, does this mean that Jesus is not the Christ? Actually, nope again. The Bible tells us that world peace will come through the messiah but at his second coming. Mark alludes to this as well in [Mark 13:13](#) where we are told that we will be hated but if we endure to the end and you will be saved. In the end will peace. We also know that Jesus preached world peace through loving one another. Look at [Mark 12:31](#) which says to love your neighbor as yourself. More so than anything though we know that spiritual peace is offered in Jesus now. [John 14:27](#) Jesus tells us that; peace I leave you, my peace I give you.

The bottom line here is this... whether past or future... Jesus is the fulfillment of all prophecy. He has either miraculously and supernaturally already fulfilled it, or he will fulfill it at his second coming. But we also know that... **Jesus does much more than fulfill prophecies... Jesus simply fulfills. He satisfies our broken and longing souls as only the Messiah could. If Jesus Isn't The Christ Then The Christ Isn't Coming**

The next thing I want you to see is this... **Jesus Is The Descendant of David** . You see, the next biggest hang up for the Jews is that they claim that the Christ must be the physical son of David on his father's side and since Jesus was born of a virgin he cannot be the physical Son of David. My rebuttal is simple. First, why can't the Christ be the physical descendant of David through is mother? This doesn't lessen his claim on the throne because physical lineages could progress through daughters in the absences of sons. Next, because the virgin birth is a supernatural act that couldn't be physically proven, Joseph would be considered the physical father of Jesus through whom the lineage of David would descend anyway. Also, why couldn't the lineage of David be given to Jesus through adoption? All of these are possibilities but still not even the most important piece of the puzzle. You see Jesus actually has more claim to the throne of David than anyone through Mary's physical lineage, and through Joseph's attributed physical lineage or through Joseph's adopted lineage, and through God as the creator of David and Jesus. Incase you don't get it... creator trumps father. Jesus has both a physical claim to the throne and the spiritual claim.

We see Jesus talking about this claim in [Mark 12:35-37](#) where he asks the jewish leaders a question. "How can the Lord be a son?" The

Jewish scribes always say that the Christ must be the son of David. Jesus isn't saying that this isn't true... all prophecy claims this as the case. But Jesus presents a calamity of sorts. David himself said the Lord (God) said to my Lord (the Christ) to sit at his right hand. If David is speaking in his day about an already existing Christ then how is that Christ his son? There are two huge implications here. If The Christ is Lord then it really doesn't matter if he is David's son... he's LORD. Lord trumps son.... So it doesn't matter if he comes through a paternal lineage or not. And secondly, the Christ must be an eternal deity... he must be God... he must be the son of God. You see the Jews do not believe that the Messiah has to be the son of God or have any supernatural abilities. They have to believe this because they can't explain away the powerful miracles of Jesus which the book of Mark describes on every page. They casually glance by prophecies like **Isaiah 35:5-6** – which speaks to the Christ's ability to heal the blind, deaf, lame, and mute. No the Christ is a supernatural miracle worker who is God and is the son of David all in the same. No disrespect to our Jewish friends but... checkmate. Jesus is the greatest descendant of David, through paternal lineage, through maternal lineage, and through supernatural divine lineage... **he is not just the son of David but the Lord of David.** You see.. **If Jesus Isn't The Christ Then The Christ Isn't Coming**

Application (Resolution, You)

The last thing we need to see is this... **Jesus Is Revelation to Israel and the World.** The Jews don't believe that Jesus was the Messiah because if he were all Jews would have to believe it. They claim that the Messiah will be revealed through National revelation to all people of Israel. They say that all Israel believed in Moses because of national revelation and if Jesus was the Messiah all would believe that too. A big problem with this claim is that they actually didn't even believe Moses. Infact the Bible clearly shows us that they tried to backstab, kill, and turn on him multiple times.

The thing is.. even if they all did believe in Moses and not Jesus... that's not the way God works. God doesn't force anyone to believe in him or his messiah. Jesus is a gentlemen... he presented himself to the Israelites as the king of the Jews in alignment with Old Testament prophecy but he didn't make Israel believe in him... he gave them a choice. And they have chosen to reject him. Whether you choose to believe in him he is the Christ because **If Jesus Isn't The Christ Then The Christ Isn't Coming.**

Conclusion

Jesus is clearly the Christ. There is no reason to doubt it. Can you place your trust in him as the Christ today. Is your testimony the same as Peter's in **Mark 8:27-30** . Do you believe he is the Christ? If So have you made him your Lord.

Mark 16:16 makes it clear how to be saved. Whoever believes. You must believe in Jesus as the Christ... do this and you will be baptized by the Holy Spirit and you will be saved. Whoever does not will be condemned.