

## MESSIAH, OR CHRIST?

One of the most widely used names in Christendom is "Christ." It is heard upon lips of believers in worship and on tongues of sinners in profanity. It is commonly thought to be the title of the Anointed Son of the Most High, though its origin far predates the birth of the Man of Galilee. It is doubtful if the Saviour Himself ever heard the name in reference to Himself. What then is the history of the name "Christ?"

The word Christ does not appear in the Old Testament of the Authorized Version; but it appears many times in the New Testament, being a translation of the Greek word Christos. It was used by the Greeks as having the meaning of the Hebrew "Mashiyach," or the English "The Anointed One." The term "Messiah" appears twice in the Old Testament (A. V.) and two times as "Messias" in the New Testament, whereas every time the word "Christ" appears the title should have been "Messiah," or translated into the English as "Anointed."—Dan. 9:25, 26; John 1 :41 ; 4:25.

It is taught that the Saviour was called "The Christ" and "Jesus Christ" because it is found in the Greek texts; but such belief is shown to be erroneous when we think upon the record left us, as by John. Two Hebrew brothers are speaking one to the other, Andrew said unto his brother Simon, "We have found the Messiah." The Greek text has this explanation. "Which is being interpreted, the Christ." Now the question is: "Why should need be an explanation by one Hebrew brother to another, when they both would have understood the term Messiah? Plainly the inference is that a Greek translator added the explanatory term for the benefit of his Greek readers, when he was translating from the Hebrew into the Greek, for they would not understand the term Messiah without an interpretation.

The same truth can be seen in John 4:25, where the Samaritan woman is speaking to the Saviour, and said, "I know that the Messiah cometh." Again, for the benefit of his Greek readers, the

translator added, "Which is called the Christ." Why should a woman of Samaria, speaking the Aramaic language have to interpret into Greek for the Hebrew Messiah, who would readily understand the term, and who, as far as we know, never knew the Greek language.

The Twentieth-Century Unabridged Dictionary says, "Aramaic (was) the language of Palestine after the captivity, in which tongue (the Saviour) and His disciples spoke."

Ernest Renan, famous French scholar, and archeologist, who spent many years in the East in research work for France, says. "It is not probable that (the Saviour) knew Greek. This language was very little spread in Judea beyond the classes who participated in the government, and the towns inhabited by pagans, like Caesarea...Neither directly nor indirectly, then, did any element of Greek culture reach (Yahshua.)" --'The Life of Jesus.' by Ernest Renan.

"Greek culture, philosophy and religion had no influence on (Yahshua) and His disciples or the early (disciples). The Jews resisted every influence not Semitic. Greek customs and manners were forbidden. During the reigns of Trajan and Hadrian, the Jews were not permitted to learn Greek or use Greek ceremonies. **The first part of the Talmud, the Mishnah, emphatically declares it is worse for a Jew to learn Greek than to eat swine flesh.** These laws were strictly observed with few exceptions, by the Palestinian Jews who jealously preserved their religion, customs and language from contamination."—Gospel Light, Introduction, page 24, by Lamsa.

Whence then came the term Christ as applied unto the Saviour? The Scriptures state, "The disciples were called Christians first in Antioch." Of this, Dr. William Smith, in his Bible Dictionary, says. "The disciples, we are told (Acts 11:26), were first called Christians at Antioch on the Orontes, somewhere about A. D. 43. The name, and the place where it was conferred are both significant. It is clear that the appellation 'Christian' was one which

could not have been assumed by the (disciples) them selves. They were known to each other as brethren of one family, as disciples of the same Master, as believers in the same faith, and as distinguished by the same endeavors after holiness and consecration of life: and so were called brethren (Acts 15:1, 23: 1 Cor. 7:12). disciples (Acts 9:26: 11:29), believers (Acts 5:14), saints (Rom. 8:27, 15:25).

“The name "Christian" then...is used contemptuously, could not have been applied by the early disciples to themselves, nor could it have come to them from their own nation of the Jews; it must, therefore, have been imposed upon them by the Gentile world, and no place could have so appropriately given rise to it as Antioch, where the church was first planted among the heathen. Its inhabitants were celebrated for their wit and propensity for conferring nicknames.”—End of quote.

George Lamsa, in his "Gospel Light," page 25, says, "if Greek influence had been strong in the First and Second Centuries in the East, the word Christos (Greek) would have been used instead of Mshikha (Syric form of Hebrew Mashiyach, or the English Messiah) in the Eastern text...This is not the case."

The Greeks could have used the Grecian form of the Hebrew "Mashiyach." or Messiah in every case, as well as in John 1:41 and 4:25. if they had so wished, but they preferred to use a substitute name for the Saviour, and so they adopted the Greek form of the ancient Hindu saviour Chrisna (Krisna) and called the Hebrew Saviour "Christos." And why should the English versions give us the English forms of the substitute Greek word. Christ for Christos, when they could have rendered the word into Messiah, as they did in Daniel 9:25 and 26, or as they have interpreted it into the English as "Anointed" in the margin of the John texts?

Christ comes from the Greek "Krishma" (Chrisma) having the meaning to anoint (but not in the sacred sense. Reader take note) and closely resembles Krishna of the Sanscrit. There is a wealth of meaning in this paragraph if the reader desires to dig

deeper for it!

To tell whether a stream is pure one must trace it to its fountain source, and so we place the word Christ to this test; and, in so doing, find that the origin of Christ is derived in Sun-worship, Baalism of old. Thus we find the word, as traced back into antiquity:

CHRIST (English), CHRISTUS (Latin), CHRISTOS (Greek), CHRISNA (Krisna. Sanscrit, Hindu), KRIS (the Sun).

**Christ then comes from Chrisna, the Hindu Sun-god messiah, named after the orb he represented, that is, Kris, the Sun.** AWAY WITH SUN-GOD WORSHIP, FOR WE HEAR THE PROPHET CRYING OUT AGAINST THIS HEATHEN SIN. Yahweh said unto Ezekiel, "O son of man, hast thou seen this? Turn ye yet again and thou shalt see greater abominations than these. And He brought me into the inner court of Yahweh's house. and, behold, at the door of the temple of Yahweh, between the porch and the altar, were about twenty-five men, with their backs toward the temple of Yahweh, and their faces toward the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."--Ezek. 8:16. See Jer. 8:2.

Pike in his "Morals and Dogma." says "Kris. the orb of the sun...Krisna (Chrisna) is the Hindu Sun-God."—page 78.

Christ, then, dear reader, is the modern English form of the ancient name of the Sun-God Messiah, Chrisna. Shall we use this heathen deity's name, when referring to the Only Begotten, the Saviour of the world? Or shall we use the Anglicized form of the inspired Hebrew, and call Him the Messiah? Shall we use Yahweh's term, or the name of a pagan deity? Let's face the issue squarely!

The law says, "The prophet (preacher) that shall presume to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak; or shall speak a word in the name of other Elohim (deities), even that prophet (preacher) shall die."—Deut. 18:20.

Moses commanded: **"Make no mention of the name of other**

**gods (Elohim), neither let it be heard out of thy mouth."**—Exo. 23:1 3.

Joshua warned: "Neither make mention of the name of their gods."—Joshua 23:7.

David said: "I will not..take up their names into my lips."—Psa. 16:4.

Yahweh promised: "**I (even Yahweh) will take away the names of the Baals (lords) out of her mouth.**"—Hos. 2:16, 17.

Surely these are warnings enough, beloved! What more need we say to help you surrender humbly to the Father of love just now, and allow Him by His holy Spirit to remove the names of the Sun-god from your lips. that you may worship the Father in the name of His Son Yahshua the Messiah, and not in the name of Christ, a name from the sun-god worship of the distant past?

HalleluYah! We do not need to taint our worship with the names of pagan deities, of India of Babylon, or of Greece! HalleluYah! "We have found the Messiah," which is, being interpreted, "the Anointed One."—Editor.

Note: Iris was the messenger of Zeus. Some contend that the name Christ was made out of Iris, merely by crossing the "I" making it into "X" the Grecian "Chi," hence, "Chris."

Constantine's conquering symbol, "XP," whom phonetics in English are represented by "CHRI," or "CHRE" is used as an abbreviation for Christ; but we have noted in the above study, "Chris" or "Kris" is the Sanscrit name for the "Sun," and history tells us that Constantine was an ardent Sun-worshipper before his "conversion." These are thoughts for thinkers!

For the truth about the Messiah's name please send for the tract "Is Jesus the Name.?"

FAITH BIBLE & TRACT SOCIETY

P. O. Box 321

Amherst, Ohio 44001