

We Have Found the Messiah; John 1:35-42

- I. When you have lost something
 - A. You search for it until you find it
 - B. Car keys, TV remote, wallet, etc
 - C. How many of us have turned the house, care, etc., upside down to find what we have lost
 - D. In the same way, we search for the meaning of life, the answer to, “why am I here?”
 - E. But more often than not, when we find the answer we turn our nose up at it
- II. Listen to Him
 - A. The Messiah is coming
 1. Deuteronomy 18:15–18; ¹⁵ “The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen— ¹⁶ just as you desired of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the Lord my God or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ ¹⁷ And the Lord said to me, ‘They are right in what they have spoken. ¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.
 2. “it is to him you shall listen” as opposed to the nations they are removing from the promised land
 3. Deuteronomy 18:9–14; ⁹ “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer ¹¹ or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, ¹² for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you. ¹³ You shall be blameless before the Lord your God, ¹⁴ for these nations, which you are about to dispossess, listen to fortune-tellers and to diviners. But as for you, the Lord your God has not allowed you to do this.
 - B. Google “self-help” and you will find many people making a living by selling books, seminars, webinars, and many other ways on how you should live
 1. They have “life-coaches” who are counselors and they claim to teach you how to deal with... well, life!
 2. “If you come to my seminar, buy my book, or log into my website, I can give you the keys to life.”
 3. I imagine the Israelites hearing some of those same words, “Come, listen to the story about my god, and you will have a great life”
 4. Some of their stories included the so-called god, Molech
 5. Leviticus 18:21; You shall not give any of your children to offer them to Molech, and so profane the name of your God: I am the Lord.
 6. Part of Josiah’s reforms included tearing down the altars to Molech
 7. 2 Kings 23:10; And he defiled Topheth, which is in the Valley of the Son of Hinnom, that no one might burn his son or his daughter as an offering to Molech.
 8. We find the idea of burning our children in an offering to God heinous! Yet that was part of not listening
 9. Deuteronomy 28 lists the blessings for listening to God and the curses for not listening to God (obeying)
 - C. Many of us have decided to not listen!

1. We listen to the “life-coaches,” and the self-help gurus thinking they have the keys to life
 2. Or we decide that we can do better on our own
 3. We claim Christ as our King, but we refuse to do what he says. We pick and choose what we want to believe and create arguments against the rest
 4. We end up sacrificing our children on the altar of Molech (our children are leaving the church in droves!)
 5. Luke 6:46–49; ⁴⁶ “Why do you call me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do what I tell you? ⁴⁷ Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: ⁴⁸ he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who hears and does not do them is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. When the stream broke against it, immediately it fell, and the ruin of that house was great.”
 6. Matthew 17:5; ⁵ He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.”
 7. 2 Thessalonians 1:5–8; ⁵ This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering—
⁶ since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, ⁷ and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels ⁸ in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.
- D. “Listen to Him” does not mean hear what He has to say and then go and do your own thing; it means to obey Him
1. Revelation 21:7–8; ⁷ The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. ⁸ But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
 2. A partial list of the “do not do’s”
 3. But I don’t want to focus on those, I want to focus the “do’s”
- E. Matthew 22:37–40; ³⁷ And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.”
1. Verse 40 is the key that brings it out of the OT and into the NT
 2. 1 Corinthians 13:1–3; ¹ If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ² And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. ³ If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.
 3. The “love” is a self sacrificing love, the kind that puts others first; the kind that Jesus emulated by sacrificing Himself on the cross; shedding His blood that we might have salvation, exemption from prosecution
 4. Imagine what the Plainview would look like if all the Christians put others first
 5. We often shout that the Christmas season is about Jesus
 6. Yet we spend more time and effort on ourselves

7. Instead of buying gifts for ourselves and our children we should look for families in need and give to them
 8. In this way we teach our children how to give (love) instead of get (stop asking what did you get for Christmas, instead ask what did you give)
 9. Acts 20:35; In all things I have shown you that by working hard in this way we must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'
- F. We can focus more on Jesus and His expected return instead of ourselves and and out "stuff"
- III. An attitude of expectation
- A. Deuteronomy 18:18; I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brothers. And I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.
 - B. From the moment Moses said this, the Israelites should have been living with an attitude of expectation
 - C. But they did not, they decided to serve their own desires, to listen to the people of the land whom they did not drive out
 1. Judges 2:10–15; ¹⁰ And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel. ¹¹ And the people of Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and served the Baals. ¹² And they abandoned the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of the land of Egypt. They went after other gods, from among the gods of the peoples who were around them, and bowed down to them. And they provoked the Lord to anger. ¹³ They abandoned the Lord and served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. ¹⁴ So the anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he gave them over to plunderers, who plundered them. And he sold them into the hand of their surrounding enemies, so that they could no longer withstand their enemies. ¹⁵ Whenever they marched out, the hand of the Lord was against them for harm, as the Lord had warned, and as the Lord had sworn to them. And they were in terrible distress.
 2. These people became a snare, a trap to them and drew them away from God
 3. They stopped living in expectation of the Messiah and lived for themselves and their own selfish desires
 - D. God punishes them for their disobedience by finally placing them in complete captivity away from the land God had given them (for 70 years)
 - E. During (and just after) the captivity, God gives Daniel a road map to the Messiah
 1. Daniel 7:15–22; ¹⁵ "As for me, Daniel, my spirit within me was anxious, and the visions of my head alarmed me. ¹⁶ I approached one of those who stood there and asked him the truth concerning all this. So he told me and made known to me the interpretation of the things. ¹⁷ 'These four great beasts are four kings who shall arise out of the earth. ¹⁸ But the saints of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever, forever and ever.' ¹⁹ "Then I desired to know the truth about the fourth beast, which was different from all the rest, exceedingly terrifying, with its teeth of iron and claws of bronze, and which devoured and broke in pieces and stamped what was left with its feet, ²⁰ and about the ten horns that were on its head, and the other horn that came up and before which three of them fell, the horn that had eyes and a mouth that spoke great things, and that seemed greater than its companions. ²¹ As I looked, this horn made war with the saints and prevailed over

- them, ²² until the Ancient of Days came, and judgment was given for the saints of the Most High, and the time came when the saints possessed the kingdom.
2. The people can again live in expectation of the coming Messiah (God's anointed one)
 3. During the 11th king of the 4th kingdom is the victory of the Messiah (when the Messiah prevails over death)
 4. History records (the Bible as well) that many people during this time (the 1st Century) claimed to be the Messiah
 5. The people were looking for Him
 6. The sects of the Pharisees, Sadducees, Lawyers, Scribes, etc. grew out of the expectation of the Christ (Christ is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word Messiah)
 7. Acts 5:36–37; ³⁶ For before these days Theudas rose up, claiming to be somebody, and a number of men, about four hundred, joined him. He was killed, and all who followed him were dispersed and came to nothing. ³⁷ After him Judas the Galilean rose up in the days of the census and drew away some of the people after him. He too perished, and all who followed him were scattered.
- F. Are we living in expectation of the Christ's return?
1. I know we don't have a road map like Daniel
 2. Matthew 24:32–36; ³² "From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. ³³ So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁴ Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. ³⁵ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ³⁶ "But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.
 3. Acts 1:6–7; ⁶ So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" ⁷ He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority.
 4. But that is so we live each day like the Christ is coming
 5. We can become very complacent about His return and focus on our own lives
 6. Just like we expect the sun to come up every morning, we should expect the return of the Messiah
 7. That is one of the meanings of "hope": a confident expectation of Jesus' return
- G. Andrew had to go find his brother, Peter
1. John 1:40–42; ⁴⁰ One of the two who heard John speak and followed Jesus was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹ He first found his own brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means Christ). ⁴² He brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John. You shall be called Cephas" (which means Peter).
 2. Not only did Andrew go and find Peter, he brought him to Jesus
 3. That is part of our expectation; we know Jesus is coming, we ought to be preparing not just ourselves, but all those around us
 4. John 4:34–35; ³⁴ Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.
- IV. We have found the Messiah
- A. Are you living in obedience to Him, calling Him Lord, Lord

B. Are you living in expectation of His return, in hope