

THE APPEARING OF THE MESSIAH

- * The prophets of the Old Testament foretold that one day a man would appear who would rule the world in righteousness. This man is usually referred to by men today, as the 'messiah.'
- * Numerous details are supplied in the Old Testament concerning the man and his mission.
- * Christians say that Jesus of Nazareth is the man referred to by the prophets. The disciples cite many texts from the Prophets and from the Psalms to prove the claim.

(The orthodox christian churches – those churches deriving their doctrine from the "catholic" churches of the Roman-Greek Empire – introduced a number of irrelevant issues. The New Testament was written to prove, on the basis of the Old Testament, that Jesus was the man appointed to rule the world. It was not written to prove that Jesus was born of a "virgin," nor that he was 1/3rd part God, nor that he was conceived without "original sin." Such doctrines are, in fact, worse than pointless.)
- * Jews say that the messiah has not yet appeared. They cite prophecies – not yet fulfilled – which relate to the time of the messiah.
- * While both christian and Jew:
 - base their arguments on the same material (i.e., from the Old Testament)
 - start with the same assumption (i.e., that the O.T. predicts one coming of the anointed man)they reach conclusions which are contradictory.
- * When all the prophecies relating to the messiah are collected and analysed the plain fact emerges that they cannot possibly all be fulfilled
 - by one man
 - at one place and time.
- * The basic assumption of the orthodox christian, as indicated above, is therefore just as false as is that of the Jew. In order for prophecy to be fulfilled, the man ordained as the messiah must:
 - appear at different times
 - under different circumstances
 - with somewhat similar results.

- * The New Testament gives further clues but adds another factor. The triumphal return of Jesus spoken of in the New Testament is additional to the two appearances already prophesied in the Old Testament.

It is not similar to either.

- * This situation has interesting results:

- the Jews are wrong in thinking that the messiah has yet to appear a first time
- the christians are wrong in thinking that they could never meet the messiah face to face under the same, or similar, circumstances to the Jews
- certain aspects of the present Jewish expectancy are correct, and many aspects of the present christian expectancy are incorrect.

- * No subject has been more misrepresented, no subject has been more surrounded by irrelevancies than that of 'the messiah.' In later pamphlets the issues will be clarified: the scripture will be set out which reveals that the messiah – or the "ideal servant" of God – has already appeared twice and shall shortly return to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

FOR THE THEOLOGIANS: You are reminded that, at the close of 1963, an Open Letter was forwarded to 567 Queensland clergymen concerning the misrepresentation known as 'virgin birth.'