John 1:23

I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'



January 30, 2022 John 1:19-31 The Voice

John 1:19-31

And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." ²² So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said."



²⁴ (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) ²⁵ They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, ²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." ²⁸ These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.



²⁹ The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.' ³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."



Exile and Exodus

Isaiah 40

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned



R.O.U.S.'S

I don't think they exist.



Waiting and Preparing

^{1:19} And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not *The Christ*."



Isaiah 40

³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

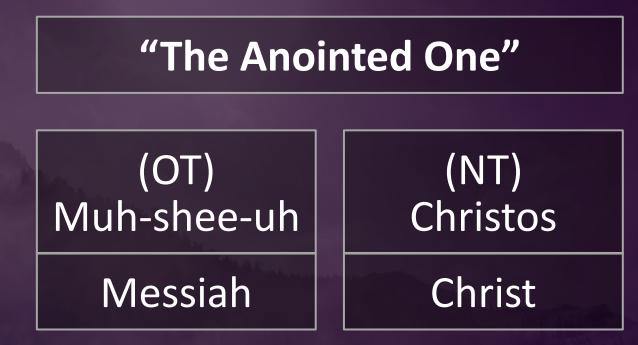


The "Christ"

Psalm 2 ² The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against *His Anointed ("His Christ")*.

⁶ (God says) "As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill."

⁷ I will tell of the decree: The LORD said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you.



Waiting and Preparing

²⁵ (The Religious Leaders) asked (John), "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither *The Christ*, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?"



Us: Person and Purpose

Comparatively Small

Miraculously Large



Us: Person and Purpose

Comparatively Small

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not The Christ."

²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

Miraculously Large

Us: Person and Purpose

Comparatively Small

²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not The Christ."

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Miraculously Large

³¹ I myself did not know him, but for this purpose I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel."



Jesus: Person and Purpose

Objectively Large

Sacrificially Small



Jesus: Person and Purpose

Objectively Large

Lord

'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

'Make straight the way of the *Lord*,'

Sacrificially Small



Jesus: Person and Purpose

Objectively Large

Lord

'After me comes a man who ranks before me, because he was before me.'

'Make straight the way of the *Lord*,'

Sacrificially Small

Lamb

^{29b} "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"



Exodus 12 (The Passover)

⁵ Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male a year old. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats...

⁷ "Then they shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. ⁸ They shall eat the flesh that night, roasted on the fire; with unleavened bread and bitter herbs they shall eat it."



1 Peter 1

¹⁷ And if you call on him as Father who judges impartially according to each one's deeds, conduct yourselves with fear throughout the time of your exile, ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.



John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Matthew 16:15-16

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶ Simon Peter replied, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."



²⁰ He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not The Christ."

²⁷ even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie."

Confess the My Need for The Christ

Confess the Magnificence of The Christ

Receive the Powerful Gift from The Christ



Little "christs"

^{29b} "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Acts 11:26 And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.

