



# FEED MY SHEEP

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## A Study of the Terms “Jesus the Christ” and “Christ Consciousness” *The Story of Joseph, Part 33*

**NOTICE:** You will note that in the box in the lower right corner of page 4, we state: “we reserve the right to discontinue sending it at any time to anyone.” This will be the last issue for some as we delete those who place little value on these teachings as evidenced by their lack of support. We will be examining the records and simply deleting those names; we will not go to additional expense to send “drop notices.” — James Bruggeman

Previously, we were studying Jacob’s overnight experience at a place called Luz. I closed with this: And then Jacob either laid his palm over his heart or perhaps over the top of his head, over his pineal gland, as he concluded: “and this is the gate of heaven!” This is the doorway to the heavenly realm, to the spiritual dimensions, if you will.

So brothers and sisters, are you looking for God? Look within. You don’t have to follow some guru into the desert to find God. In fact, Jesus Himself warned us in...

**Matthew 24:24** For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect.

**25** Behold, I have told you before.

**26** Wherefore if they shall say unto you, **Behold, he is in the desert; go not forth: behold, he is in the secret chambers; believe *it not*.**

By the way, have you heard about the guy who lives in Las Vegas (i.e., the desert) who calls himself “the prophet Yahweh?” This happened about ten years ago now, and I am going from memory, but basically he challenged the local TV station to pick a time and place and this prophet Yahweh guy would call upon “Christ” and his angels to show up in their UFOs! And

sure enough, the TV cameras were rolling when this UFO appears and streaks around the sky for a few minutes and then disappears.

It was quite a wonder to behold in person, I suppose. And no doubt there are many who will believe it is a sign. But my dear fellow-believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, how much clearer a warning do we need? That’s an easy one, isn’t it? False christs, false prophets, come out here in the desert and see Christ in his UFO? Prophet Yahweh showed forth great signs and wonders, did he not? Therefore, go not forth!

Now I did not simply take you on a tangent there. I spoke of the warning of false Christs and UFOs for a reason. It connects to Jacob and the stargate, ...oops, I mean, the stairway to heaven.

You see, we live in a day of false Christs and false prophets, probably more so than at any other time because the day of the Lord’s return is near, and therefore deception will be so rampant and so powerful that as it says in verse 24: insomuch that, if *it were possible*, they shall deceive the very elect.

To most Bible readers, that would imply that the very elect will not be deceived, because it is not possible. However, remove the words in italics (because they were supplied by the translators, rightly or wrongly) and then it reads, “insomuch that, if possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

That suggests a different implication to the phrase, don’t you agree? The closest disciples of our Lord were the 12 apostles. They were all very specially chosen. They were the very elect. And one of them was deceived by greed, by avarice, by lust for power, by zealous fervor, or whatever—Judas was deceived.

We are facing some incredibly powerful deceptions today. One of them is the resurgence of Gnosticism in many guises, in Unitarian-Universalism (which I hasten to add is obviously not the biblical Universal Reconciliation doctrine which I teach). Gnosticism is also selling its highly seductive wares in the guise of the Jehovah's Witnesses and the Unity movement and Mormonism and secret societies. Those are one fulfillment of verse 26 "behold, he is in the secret chambers..."

In the secret societies, they initiate people into secret knowledge in their special rooms within their lodges or temples. Gnosticism is from the Greek word, *gnosis*, which means "knowledge." If you will just obey your higher-ups in the secret society, whether Theosophy, Rosicrucianism, Freemasonry, Illuminism, or whatever, then they will gradually impart to you this secret knowledge.

But they can learn new bits of knowledge all their lives, and they will only be disappointed in the end, because part of the deception lies in what Paul describes as people who are "Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." [2 Timothy 3:7]. And what are the central doctrines of truth? Paul tells us in

**1 Timothy 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;  
4 Who will have all men to be saved,**

We discussed that at length in our series on universal reconciliation, but there it is again: God will have all men to be saved. The word "wills" is the Greek verb *thelo* and it means to intend, to purpose, to resolve, to determine. Do you think that if God wills, intends, purposes and determines something, that it's not going to happen? No, if God wills it, it will happen! It is just a matter of timing. And we will see more on that next. Continuing in verse 4...

**4 [God] will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.**  
And here is more of the vital truth...

**5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;  
6 Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

Each man or woman *in their own due time*, and for some, we know that will not occur until *after* the great white throne judgment when they will have to undergo what is metaphorically called the lake of fire. That, however, is not what churches call hell fire, nor

is it eternal. It is God's method of bringing the rest of creation to salvation. We have dealt with the theology of all that extensively in our series of lecture, God's Plan for Man. See the flier enclosed with this mailing.

Verse 5 said "the man Christ Jesus," and from that and other selected verses, some teach that Jesus was only a man—a great man, a great teacher, to be sure, but in the end, only a man. They ignore numerous other verses, such as 1 Timothy 3:16, which declares that God was manifest in the flesh, i.e., in the person of Jesus the Christ. Many of the modern Gnostics also give honor to Jesus as a great teacher, but certainly not as God. Furthermore, they and others are fond of using that term which I just used: Jesus the Christ.

Consequently, because some of these deceivers use that term, many of the fundamentalist variety Christians get upset and think it is heresy or something. As though Christ were His last name. Allow me to clarify—and again, though it may seem like I am on a tangent, I have a very specific purpose in mind, and we are on track, so bear with me.

The word "Christ" comes from the Greek *christos*, which simply means "anointed." It is the equivalent of the Hebrew word מָשִׁיחַ *mashiyach* {maw-shee'-akh} which in English is messiah. Again, it simply means "anointed."

Please note that both people and things can be anointed; it is usually done with some sort of oil. God even declares that a heathen king named Cyrus was "His anointed." Do you hear what that is saying? That Cyrus was a christ! Maybe we had better look at that for the doubters.

**Isaiah 45:1 Thus saith the LORD [YHWH] to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden,**

The Hebrew word there is again מָשִׁיחַ *mashiyach* {maw-shee'-akh}, messiah. In Greek, it is *christos*. King Cyrus was a christ, one who was anointed for a special purpose of God. Kings were anointed. David was anointed king. Priests were anointed. Aaron was anointed high priest.

Jesus is both priest and king. He was anointed by Mary, sister of Martha. [See endnote, pg. 4.] His head was also anointed. Granted, there is a special meaning of anointing which refers to the One who is called to be the Christ, the Messiah, that is, the one and only-begotten Savior of the world. There is only one Savior, and it is perfectly correct to call Him Jesus the Christ. Christ is not His last name; it is His title, it is the office to which He was called.

“Alright, James, we got it! Why all the fuss over what some see as such a petty thing?” Well, because the point I am getting to is that in addition to that term which is used by many pseudo-Christians, there is also another term which is bandied about. It is “Christ consciousness.” How many of you have heard New Agers and others use that term?

You see, the problem arises, the *deception* arises when terms like that are used by some people to mean *one* thing and they mean something entirely different to other people. I have no problem with the term “Christ consciousness.”

At its most basic, it is my *goal* and should be the goal of every believer, to strive towards the mark of having the consciousness of Christ, the mind of Christ. Ponder these verses later.

**Romans 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, ...**

Paul writes to the Christians in Galatia:

**Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,**

Speaking again of the same thing to the believers at Colosse, Paul tells them that this goal they are pursuing was a mystery hidden from virtually everybody for eons past.

**Colossians 1:26 *Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:**

**27 To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:**

**Philippians 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

That is why it is called “the Christ consciousness”—because it was fully manifested in the Lord Jesus. Our goal is to be like Him...to have His mind, His consciousness! But that transformation of our mind is not complete until... Luz! (see last month’s FMS) ...Until we awake in our glorified, resurrected bodies!

**1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.**

You see, in pseudo-Christian and non-Christian circles, when they use the term “Christ consciousness,” they too are looking for immortality, but they believe (1) that they can achieve it if they just try hard enough; that they can “ascend” to the level of “ascended masters” like Jesus if they just use the right meditation process, or gaze at their navels in just the right way ☺;

or (2) conversely, others believe that if they can just bio-engineer the right genes and lengthen their telomeres and halt the dying process, that they can achieve the Christ consciousness.

I could go on and on, because there are hundreds of spiritual gurus who would have you believe that you can achieve the Christ consciousness through a myriad of ways, but they all share one thing in common. They all avoid the Door, the only Way to salvation and immortality. ...by faith in the shed blood of Jesus the Christ. The false teachers avoid the atonement, the one acceptable sacrifice for sin. But doctrines like the blood sacrifice, atonement, and sin are all cast aside in favor of do-it-yourself salvation.

They all are attempting to come into the Holy of Holies in every way but the one narrow path that leads to the Tabernacles experience, which is the resurrection of the body through faith in the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus the Christ. Our own works cannot get us there; beware that great deception! That is not to say we don’t have work to do, we do. We *prove* our faith by our works. *After* we have come to faith in Christ and in His work, then we show our love for Him for what He has done for us by our own works.

So back to Genesis 28 where Jacob awakened at Luz. I believe this literally happened and I also believe it is a metaphorical picture of great spiritual realities of which Jacob was given a sneak preview, as it were.

In other words, Paul said that the Christ consciousness in you, the promise that you are going to be resurrected into immortality with the same mind that was in Christ Jesus; he said that was a great mystery hidden down through the ages, but now with the coming of Christ Jesus it was made available by faith.

I think that Jacob was given a glimpse of that mystery in his experience at Luz. Jacob’s life continued to be a struggle for many years, but that first night at Luz was a turning point. Like his father and grandfather before him, Jacob believed God and it was accounted to him for righteousness. It’s the very same method of salvation that is available to you and me.

And now let me recapitulate the first scene at Luz. Jacob has this phenomenal dream of a connection with the Lord of the universe. Did Jacob believe Yahweh when He said “I am the God of your fathers, etc.? Yes, he did. In the dream, God promises Jacob those six major blessings (Genesis 28:12-16, which we enumerated last month.) As you look at them again, how many of them promise Jacob that he will go to heaven when he dies? Hmmm...Just curious.

In fact, every one of them has to do with family expansion (posterity) and real estate expansion and helping out the neighbors; that is, to be a blessing to the rest of the world, right? As Jacob had gone to sleep that night, you know he must have been feeling very much in an “ungrounded” state.

I mean, he had just left his home ground, fleeing in fear of Esau. He was all alone, as far as we are told. True, he had just got the birthright blessing from his blind father, Isaac, but I will bet he felt pretty “sheepish” and ashamed about the deceitful way in which he went about it, don’t you agree? So Jacob was feeling pretty low and scared, and what he really needed was to have some assurance from a “higher power” that he was going to be alright. And so, right on cue, God is there in the dream that night...(To be continued.)

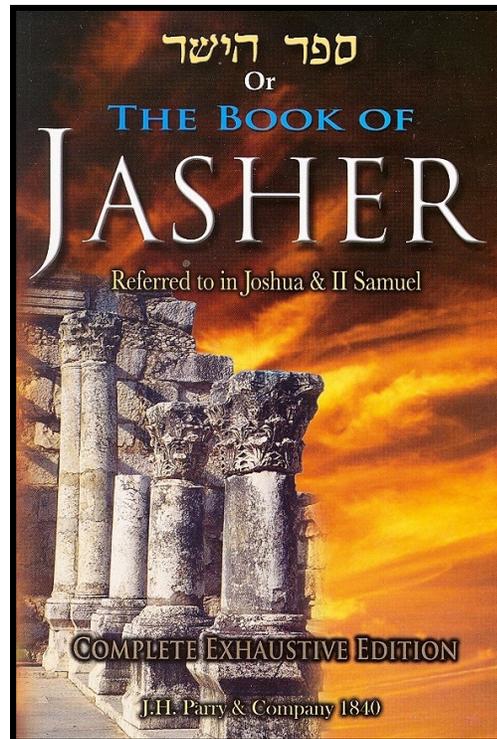
### Endnote

I gave a short study (really short—for me—only two lectures!) called *The Mystery of the Anointings of Jesus*. It is available on DVD (D-147) for \$16 ppd., or on two CDs (#588 & 589) for \$12 ppd.

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