

WHAT DID THE JEWS EXPECT?

By Keith Greer

"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him." {John 1:11} When Jesus came into this world His own people rejected Him. Why?

The Jews had three major concepts of the Messiah who would come: **Christ (King)**, **Elijah**, and **The Prophet**. Listen carefully to the questions John was asked.

"Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ. And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." {John 1:19-21}

What would Christ mean to the Jews? A King. " Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to Me, 'You are My Son, Today I have begotten You.'" {Psalms 2:6,7}. This shows that the Jews were looking for a king, who would rule them, and walk before them.

What about Elijah? "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." {Malachi 4:5,6} Jesus would come in the "spirit of Elijah the prophet." He would not be a reincarnation of Elijah!

The Prophet. "The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear, according to all you desired of the LORD your God in Horeb in the day of the assembly, saying, 'Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, nor let me see this great fire anymore, lest I die. 'And the LORD said to me: 'What they have spoken is good I will raise up for them a Prophet like you from among their brethren, and will put My words in His mouth, and He shall speak to them all that I command Him. And it shall be that whoever will not hear My words, which He speaks in My name, I will require it of him.'" {Deuteronomy 18:15-19} Jesus was this Prophet! "Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, "This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world" {John 6:14} John gave his testimony that he was not the fulfillment of these things. But Christ was!

If all this evidence clearly pointed to Jesus being the Messiah, why did they reject Him? Jesus did not stop with the testimony of John.

"You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me." {John 5:39} The prophecies gave a clear picture of the Messiah. If they had really studied and understood, Jesus would have been accepted!

The Jews were quite proud of being of the "stock of Abraham." Please read John 8:33-39. Jesus sets the record straight on this count. "Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM." {John 8:58} How did they react to this truth? They wanted to stone Him! .

The Jews rejected Jesus because He did not fill their expectations of the Messiah.

First, the Jews wanted a return to "former glory." A mighty nation, a mighty king, and freedom from the bondage of Rome. What they wanted was a "physical kingdom" and all that comes with it! Christ did not fill that bill. Sadly, the Jews had this preconceived conception in their minds of the kind of king they wanted and needed. Yet, a careful study of the scriptures clearly will show that type of picture was never given by the prophets of old. Jesus was sent to remedy man's greatest need and that was an answer to their sin problem. All this had been clearly foreshadowed by the prophets in so many ways in the Old Covenant. Jews then and folks today both have the same problem. They read the scriptures with prejudice – seeing what they want to see and ignoring the rest!

Truth is, Christ fulfilled the prophet's prophecies. He is **THE MESSIAH!** ***