

## I. THE PROPHET

### A. So much in four short verses!

1. First, we must recognize who is speaking
  - a. The people (the common man)
  - b. Everyday people not the religious leaders or the officers
2. They were responding to the saying (vs. 40)
  - a. It was in the last day of the feast – the pouring of the water
  - b. And HE cried out in during the processional (vs. 38)
  - c. It was shocking and powerful
  - d. And it compelled them to comment
    - i. That has always been my answer to the question
    - ii. The difference between preaching and teaching
    - iii. Teaching gives a lot facts, looks at things from side
    - iv. Preaching proclaims truth to bring about a decision
    - v. Teaching informs, preaching should convict
3. And we see the conviction here (vs. 40-42)
  - a. Some decided one way, some another, some still unsure
  - b. But all knew they faced a choice!
  - c. And it was in response to preaching
  - d. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – “For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.”
  - e. Roman 10:17 – “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

### B. Natural for them to see Him as “that” prophet

1. Notice in vs. 40 that they don’t say “a” prophet
  - a. They call Him THE Prophet (capital P)
  - b. They asked John the Baptist the same question (John 1:21)
  - c. The asked if John were “that” prophet
2. Baseball is a sport where they say there’s a stat for everything
  - a. How many balls have been thrown in a game?
    - i. How many bases did the 23 best player steal in July?
    - ii. You name it, there’s a stat or a way to figure it out
    - iii. The average baseball fan knows his team’s players
    - iv. Where they’re from and what they did last year
    - v. A super fan can quote stats! (I am not that kind of fan)
  - b. The average Jew in the time of Christ knew more about Bible
    - i. Than the average baseball fan knows about Baseball
    - ii. A few knew more, a few knew less, but all knew some
    - iii. They knew prophecy

- c. They had studied from a very young age
      - i. Taught in the synagogues from 5 to 13
      - ii. Taught by the rabbis
      - iii. To be scribes they would study until 30 years old
    - d. They knew God's Word
  - 3. They didn't equivocate – "OF A TRUTH (vs. 40)
    - a. It is equivalent to saying "upon my word"
    - b. In a time that a man's word was his bond
    - c. But to what did they refer?
- C. Prophecy found in Deuteronomy 18:15
  - 1. Deuteronomy 18:15 – "The LORD thy God will raise up unto thee a Prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken;"
    - a. Peter even preached along these lines
    - b. Acts 3:22 – "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."
  - 2. They might not have known everything, but they knew something special was happening!
  - 3. They might not have been ready to call Him Christ, but they called Him equal at least to Moses
  - 4. Of a Truth, He IS that Prophet!

## II. THE CHRIST

- A. He is also Christ
  - 1. Christ means "anointed one"
    - a. he Messiah, or Son of God, consecrated to the great office of Redeemer; called the Lord's anointed.
    - b. Consecrated – set apart to a great office
  - 2. Psalms 2:1 – "Why do the heathen rage, and the people imagine a vain thing? (2) The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against his anointed, saying,"
    - a. Isn't it interesting that the "people" imagine a vain thing
      - i. John 6:15 – They wanted to make Him a king
      - ii. For vanity, to throw off Roman rule and eat free bread
    - b. The "rulers" counsel together against the Lord's anointed!
      - i. John 7:32 – The Pharisees and the chief priests
      - ii. And this counsel is against the Father
- B. The office of REDEEMER
  - 1. The one who would set the captives free
  - 2. Jesus broke sins chains! He set me free!

3. John 8:36 – “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

C. They were sure!

1. They were staking their word upon it
2. Of a truth, He IS the Christ!

### III. THE KING

A. Anointing is not only consecration, but to service

1. We see David as a boy in his father Jesse’s household anointed king!
2. Jesus as the seed of David, also of that lineage
3. The throne is His right
  - a. Not just the throne of Israel,
  - b. Not just the throne of this world
  - c. Not just the throne of the universe
  - d. But the very throne of Heaven!
  - e. Revelation 5:12 – “Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”
4. He is KING of kings, and Lord of Lords

B. They knew about David

1. They even knew where to look in Scripture to find His birthplace
  - a. Isaiah 11:1 – “And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:”
  - b. Micah 5:2 – “But thou, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”
2. Shall Christ come out of Galilee? (vs. 41-42)
  - a. Supposed to be born in Bethlehem
  - b. But He was known as a Galilean
    - i. On the other side of Samaria from Jerusalem
    - ii. And the little town of Bethlehem
3. But they couldn’t conceive of how God used even Caesar work to fulfil the Will of God
  - a. Luke 2:4 – “And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)”
  - b. Matthew tells us the same thing in great detail

C. Too bad they didn’t ask a few more questions

1. John 5:39 – “Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.”
2. If only they had asked. Had looked. Had searched.

3. They could have said, Of a truth, He IS the King.

#### IV. THE DIVISION

- A. In the light of all these opinions grew a division among the people
  - 1. Was He THE Prophet? And what did that mean?
  - 2. Was He THE Christ? What would He do?
  - 3. Was He THE King? When would He begin His rule?
    - a. They even sought to “take” Him again (vs. 44)
    - b. Some commentators think that means “arrest”
    - c. Makes more sense – to make Him king (like in ch. 6)
- B. Jesus Christ BRINGS division
  - 1. Luke 12:51 – “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:”
  - 2. The simple act of baptism brings division
    - a. The Catholic knows the family will turn against him at Baptism
    - b. The Jew knows his culture will turn against him at Baptism
    - c. At least my pagan friends all went way because of Salvation
- C. At this time there was a high expectation of the coming Messiah
- D. They were ready to say, as Mark 13:21 warns us against
  - 1. “Mark 13:21 – “And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here is Christ; or, lo, he is there; believe him not:”
  - 2. But why?
- E. Daniel 9:1-2
  - 1. First year of Darius – 539 BC / 67 years in captivity / studying Jeremiah
  - 2. Prophecy 70 years / Daniel realizes only 3 left / begins to pray!
  - 3. Angel Gabriel arrives in vs. 20 and presents God’s Messianic timeline
  - 4. Not just 70 weeks until the kingdom on Earth, but 70 WEEKS (490)
  - 5. 69 weeks until the Messiah would be cut off (killed)
  - 6. Must be 483 years AFTER the decree to rebuild Jerusalem and the Temple by Cyrus but BEFORE the Destruction of the second temple 70AD
- F. It depends on which decree and if the dates are right, but sometime between 458 BC (Ezra 7) and 444 BC (Nehemiah 2) – let’s say 450 BC
  - 1. The dates could be counted incorrectly in history
  - 2. 450 BC – 483 years = 33 AD
  - 3. That’s a familiar date, isn’t it?
- G. The Messiah MUST be on Earth 483 years AFTER the decree to rebuild or Daniel was a false prophet and a liar!
  - 1. Jesus Christ is the only one that could have fulfilled this
  - 2. But you see why the people were so ready to say Christ
  - 3. They could do arithmetic

## V. THE QUESTION

- A. We see the Prophet, the Christ, the King, and the Division He causes
  - 1. It's time to ask the Question
  - 2. Who do you say He is?
- B. Is He just a good prophet? Maybe even as great as Moses?
- C. Is He the Christ? The Son of the Living God?
- D. Then will you make Him your King?
- E. Be saved today!