

## WORD STUDY ON “ANOINTED, MESSIAH, CHRIST”

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*“If the priest that is **anointed** (#H4899) do sin according to the sin of the people; then let him bring for his sin, which he hath sinned, a young bullock without blemish unto the LORD for a sin offering” (Lev. 4:3).*

*“And unleavened bread, and cakes unleavened tempered with oil, and wafers unleavened **anointed** (#H4886) with oil: of wheaten flour shalt thou make them” (Lev. 29:2).*

This word study is dealing with words that all of us frequently use but may not fully comprehend their meanings. What does it mean when one is anointed or what is implied when one uses the word Messiah or Christ (*See #3 below*)?

The words anointed and messiah come from Strong’s Concordance #H4899 מָשִׁיחַ, nouns, pronounced “*ma-shiyach*.” There are 39 occurrences in the Hebrew Bible and every time translated “anointed” in English Standard Version (ESV). In the Kings James Version (KJV), it is translated “anointed” 37 times and twice as “messiah.” It is used in prophetic books only twice (Isaiah 61:1 and Daniel 9:24). Derived from #H4886, “*ma-shach*” is a verb meaning “smear, rub, spread a liquid, anoint an object or person to dedicate for service” and is used 69 times in the Hebrew Bible.

### **1. Translations of mashach are noted below.**

- Rubbing (a shield with oil) Isaiah 21:5
- Painting (a house) Jeremiah 22:14
- Applying oil (to the body) Amos 6:6
- Anoint (a person or object as an induction to service, especially leadership offices). Review the following scriptures.
  - 2 Samuel 12:7 David as king
  - Exodus 29:7 the high priest
  - 1 Kings 19:16 Elisha as prophet
- Used of Cyrus king of Persia whom God chose to use for the purpose of delivering the nation of Israel out of Babylonian captivity

## 2. Key points to remember:

- People would do the anointing, but the one anointed was called “the LORD’s anointed.”
- Responsibility accompanied the ceremony.
- Saul and David were both reminded by a prophet that the LORD anointed them as king when confronted with their sin.
- Privilege and honor also accompanied the anointing (“touch not my anointed and do my prophets no harm” (Psalm 105:15).
- This is where we get the word “*Messiah*” from as a title of Jesus, in Hebrew Ye’shua ha-Mashiach (Jesus the Messiah, or anointed one).
  - See Daniel 9:26, Psalm 2:2, and Isaiah 61:1 refer to Jesus.

## 3. Christ

*“The book of the generation of Jesus **Christ**, the son of David, the son of Abraham” (Matthew 1:1).*

In the New Testament, the Greek word for Christ is:

- Christos, pronounced “*christos*” from Strong’s #5547, **Χριστός**, Strong’s number and is used 569 times and it means “anointed”
- Derived from Strong’s #5548 Chrio, meaning: “assign a person for a task, appoint one for a position” or “smear or rub with oil”
- Used of the apostles in 2 Corinthians 1:21

May God bless you and anoint you with fresh oil today (Psalm 92:10) in Jesus’ name!