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THE444: The Messiah

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The Anointed One

When I consider the word anointed the act of blessing someone with oil comes to mind. An act that is sacred to God and blessing or dedicating someone to him. This usually happens in the church when there is a call to salvation in Christ. Another way anointing is depicted is a supernatural calling on someone's life. However, when we come to understand it from a biblical aspect it means the bridge between heaven and earth. The anointing which God provides to use through the Holy Spirit.

According to the text by S. Mowinckel, Messiah stems from the Aramaic Hebrew, the Anointed One. This word shows the example of Judaism and early Christianity. Jesus was the Messiah the Jews were waiting for. When he arrived, the anointing was one of the main points in his teaching. It is stated later in Judaism the term 'Messiah' indicates an eschatological figure. The day of judgement is mentioned as becoming the day of Jesus Christ, that's where Messianic prophecies comes in.

According to Novenson's text he references Mowinckel's text, it is also stated the Messiah is described as an eschatological figure (p. 40). Jesus's coming is in the future and the use of Messiah is based on the last things. The expression 'the Anointed One' does not occur in the Old Testament as a direct term for the Messiah. Jesus is said to have fulfilled the idea of what a Messiah is based on an earthly view. Novenson's text indicates the Jewish Messianic idea was

the temptation of Satan which Jesus was called to reject. The new idea is based on Jesus being the savior.

Based on Mowinckel, Helmer Ringgren used the Scandinavian school's comparative approach. Based on the early times of Christianity there are many prophecies that have been fulfilled in Jesus Christ's name. It is stated many Christians have been offended by this perspective. It draws a viewpoint based on scholarly and practical interpretation (p.43). Based on Exodus 40:9 "Take the anointing oil and anoint the tabernacle and everything in it; consecrate it and all its furnishings, and it will be holy. We see here that the anointing is considered a cleansing and renewal of a person and all things involved. This is a way to have a fresh new start and when I consider the Messiah that is who he is in his identity. He is the Son of God and sent here on earth to renew us. Jesus is used by God to anoint his children from their sin, the fall of mankind.

The anointing can be considered a baptism. Based on the reading's we see its imperative to understand the context as well the time the word is being used. Also, we should understand the purpose of Jesus and what God's message is to the people of that time. The Messiah in Hebrew is based on the meaning of anointed and in Greek the anointed one. 1 Samuel 15:1 "Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so, listen now to the message from the Lord. In Samuel, the people are being warned to listen and trust in Christ because a punishment is coming over the Amalekites. The people are going to be protected by the anointing of the Lord.

I enjoyed this week's readings, I have somewhat of a clearer understanding of what Messiah means and its original meaning anointed one. I also learned this week it is not mentioned in the Old Testament which was surprising to me.