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THE 444

April 4, 2023

RESPONSE #8

Messianism/Messiah in the Book of Acts:

There was a complexity in the subject of names and titles, in ancient times. Names and titles, compared to the modern-day simplicity of insignificance, of how names are given to people and used. Names that bare no meanings and the titles only common; nothing of outstanding weight. Names and Titles in ancient times had deep meanings and revealed a story that gave life to the name or title.

The name Jesus Christ seems to be a real double name for the Apostle Paul. The title Messiah, was a range of functions, an office of great duty; attributed to the figure who is anointed by the Lord, as it is alluded to in the Song of Second Isaiah and also in the canon text of Isaiah 42:1, 61:1. Jesus was the one anointed to preach the Kingdom, to bring good news to the poor, to cure the blind, the deaf and the lame. He was the Christ. There is a statement in this narrative of Christ among the messiahs; names, titles, and possibilities, that I want to highlight, because of the way it was projected and constructed. Willi Braun challenged the logic of Miller's arguments, stating, "Given the highly contested mood of the formational activities of early Christians everywhere, intend to think that brand names especially Christos, were chosen precisely because they were already heavily greased with allusion and connotative oil. Furthermore; what good is a brand name or title that does not evoke anything, that has no weight or revealed depth, empty of any biblical connotations? How does it render legitimacy?"

Some names in the ancient text are honorific and those with these kinds of names, at times posture in a manner as to portray themselves as the actual living entity of what the name signifies. The example name Bar kokhba is not a title, it is its own entity as shown in Aramaic, Greek, and Latin translations. It plainly means Star. This kind of naming is another level and can stand in for the personal name of its bearer. Christos seems to be a word with a character all its own. It was neither one name among many, like Jesus, nor was it a customary Greek title. It was an honorific designation, that expresses the uniqueness of JESUS...