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THE444 The Messiah

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### Messianism/ Messiah in the Book of Acts

The book of Acts is a fascinating account of the growth and spread of Christianity in the early days of the Church. One of the themes that runs through the book is the concept of Messianism and the role of the Messiah in the spread of the Christian faith. Messianism is a religious belief that centers on the coming of a savior or Messiah who will bring about a new era in human history. This belief is found in many different faiths and has been part of human culture for centuries. In the Jewish faith, Messianism is centered on the belief that a Messiah will come to restore Israel and usher in a new age of peace and prosperity. The apostles preach the message that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah and that his death and resurrection have made salvation possible for all.

The book of Acts also shows how the concept of Messianism influenced the spread of Christianity beyond the Jewish community. As the apostles spread the message of Jesus, they encountered people from various cultures and backgrounds. However, they were able to communicate the message of Christ through the concept of Messianism, which was familiar to many people. The Idea of Messianism which was a significant factor in the growth of Christianity in the Roman world. The Roman Empire was diverse, and its citizens followed many

different religions. The concept of the savior or Messiah was something that many people came to faith in Christ as a result.

In Acts 4, we see Peter and John being brought before the high priests and elders of the temple. The priests were angry because they saw the apostles as a threat to their authority. The apostles boldly proclaimed their message of salvation through Christ, which angered the priests even more. Despite the threat of punishment, Peter and John refused to stop preaching and healing in Jesus' name. Acts 4 and 5 serve as a reminder that following Christ requires boldness, obedience, and faith. The early apostles faced persecution and even death for their faith, yet they refused to back down. The example of Ananias and Sapphira serves as warning that disobedience and dishonesty can have severe consequences. Despite the challenges, the early church continued to grow and thrive, showing the power of faith and the Holy Spirit.

In M. Novenson's essay the author explores the meaning and significance of the various names and titles given to Jesus in the New Testament. Novenson argues that these names and titles are not simply interchangeable, but rather carry distinct theological and cultural associations that shed light on different aspects of Christ's identity. Novenson begins by examining the title "Son of Man," which is found throughout the Gospels and is often thought to be a self-referential phrase used by Jesus to describe himself.

Novenson then turns to the title "Son of God," which is also used to refer to Jesus in the New Testament. While this title is commonly associated with Christ's divine nature, Novenson points out that in the cultural and political context of the Roman empire, "Son of God" was also a title given to certain human rulers, particularly the emperor.