

# *What is it that you admire so much about Jesus Christ?*

**"So ... What is it that you admire so much about Jesus Christ?"**

Three students from Sri Lanka who heard I was a Christian asked me the question that was foremost in their minds, "What is it that you admire so much about Jesus Christ?" I told them the answer was easy! "All that He is, and all that He has done!"

The Bible records the story of a man who found that Christianity is primarily about Jesus Christ., and is founded on the prophecies made about him throughout the Old Testament of the Bible. Those books, from Genesis to Malachi, are a portrait in words of the promised Saviour. But let's get back to the story of a man who discovered this 2000 years ago.

The man had money, influence and power, (he was the equivalent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer of Egypt), but something was wrong. He did not lack religion, but he did not know God. He went on a pilgrimage to find God, but all he found was hypocrisy and a Bible, probably in the form of a scroll. As he went home reading that part of the Bible he became confused. The great question he was asking was, "Who is this about?"

The writer was a prophet called Isaiah who had lived 700 years B.C. The reader had just returned from Jerusalem which was full of the story of a man who had died on a cross, buried in a rich man's grave and who was alive from the dead! Once he heard from a Christian that the key to understanding the Bible is the Person and work of the Lord Jesus Christ, he had only one reaction. "Look, here is water. What is there to prevent me being baptised?"

This part of the Bible written so many years before Christ came into the world tells so graphically of the time when He went to the Cross, to be the substitute for sinners - to be punished in their place. This is the passage he was reading.

*"Behold, My Servant shall deal prudently; He shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. Just as many were astonished at you, So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; So shall He sprinkle many nations. Kings shall shut their mouths at*



*Him; For what had not been told them they shall see, And what they had not heard they shall consider.*

*Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, And as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; And when we see Him, There is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.*

*Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

*He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. 9 And they made His grave with the wicked—But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth.*

*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities.*

*Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors.”*

**Isaiah 52:13-53:12**