



THE PROPHET'S REWARD

A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY



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The Revelation of the Prophet's Reward in the Fivefold Ministry

The concept of the “prophet’s reward” is not only a biblical principle but also a key aspect of understanding the fivefold ministry as described in Ephesians 4:11-13. This ministry includes apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers, each playing a crucial role in the edification of the Church. A deeper revelation of the prophet’s reward can enhance our understanding of the prophetic office and its significance within the body of Christ.

Understanding the Prophet's Reward: Insights from Sages and Rabbinical Commentary

The sages and rabbinical commentators have long discussed the implications of honoring and supporting prophets. Here are key insights and revelations regarding the prophet’s reward:

1. Recognition and Acknowledgment:

- The sages emphasize that recognizing a prophet is essential for receiving their blessings. This recognition is not merely acknowledgment but involves a deep understanding of the prophet’s role as a messenger of God. The Talmud teaches that those who honor a prophet will be rewarded in kind, reflecting the reciprocal nature of this relationship

(Berakhot 7a).

2. Spiritual and Material Blessings:

- Rabbinical commentary often highlights that supporting a prophet can lead to both spiritual enlightenment and material blessings. For example, the story of the widow of Zarephath (1 Kings 17:8-16) illustrates that her act of hospitality not only provided for Elijah but also resulted in a miraculous provision for her household. The sages teach that such support opens the door to divine favor and abundance.

3. Examples of Recipients of the Prophet's Reward:

- Moses: As a prophet and intercessor, Moses received great rewards for his faithfulness. His intimate relationship with God and his role in leading the Israelites out of Egypt exemplify the blessings that come from obedience and support of God's mission.
- Elijah and the Widow of Zarephath: The widow's hospitality to Elijah led to her family's survival during a famine, illustrating that those who support prophets receive tangible blessings (1 Kings 17:8-16).
- Elisha and the Shunammite Woman: The Shunammite woman who provided a place for Elisha to stay was rewarded with the birth of a son and later, the miraculous restoration of that son (2 Kings 4:8-37).
- Daniel: In the book of Daniel, his faithfulness and

recognition of God's prophets led to divine revelations and favor in a foreign land. His commitment to prayer and support of prophetic voices resulted in significant blessings for himself and his people.

4. Community Responsibility:

- The sages emphasize that the community's recognition and support of prophets are crucial for collective blessings. When a community honors its prophets, it strengthens its spiritual foundation. The Talmud teaches that a community that supports a prophet will experience divine protection and favor (Yoma 9b).

5. Consequences of Rejection:

- The sages warn that rejecting a prophet leads to dire consequences. The rejection of prophetic voices can result in spiritual barrenness and loss of divine favor. Rabbinical teachings often emphasize the importance of heeding the messages of prophets to avoid judgment (Jeremiah 7:25-26).

Old Testament Scriptures Related to the Prophet's Reward

1. 1 Kings 17:8-16 - This passage tells the story of the prophet Elijah and the widow of Zarephath. When Elijah asks her for food, she responds that she has only a handful of flour and a little oil. However, she

obeys Elijah's request, and as a result, her supplies do not run out. This story illustrates the concept of reward for supporting a prophet.

“For thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: ‘The jar of flour shall not be spent, and the jug of oil shall not be empty, until the day that the Lord sends rain upon the earth.’” (1 Kings 17:14, ESV)

2. 2 Kings 4:8-37 - In this account, a Shunammite woman provides hospitality to the prophet Elisha. In gratitude for her kindness, Elisha prophesies that she will have a son, which she does. This emphasizes the blessings that can come from honoring a prophet.

“And he said to her, ‘At this season, about this time next year, you shall embrace a son.’ And she said, ‘No, my lord, O man of God; do not lie to your servant.’” (2 Kings 4:16, ESV)

3. Jeremiah 26:16-19 - This passage discusses the response of the people to the prophet Jeremiah's message. The officials and people recognize that Jeremiah speaks the truth and defend him, which suggests that honoring a prophet can lead to protection and favor.

“Then the officials and all the people said to the priests and the prophets, ‘This man does not deserve the sentence of death, for he has spoken to us in the name of the Lord our God.’” (Jeremiah 26:16, ESV)

4. Matthew 10:41 - Although this is in the New Testament, it directly reflects the Old Testament principle of honoring prophets. Jesus states that those who welcome a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, reinforcing the idea that supporting prophets is spiritually significant.

“Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, and whoever receives a righteous person because he is a righteous person will receive a righteous person's reward.” (Matthew 10:41, ESV)

5. Ezekiel 3:17-21 - God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman for the house of Israel. The responsibility of the people to heed the prophet's warning is emphasized, indicating that their response to the prophet can lead to life or death, a form of reward or punishment.

“If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die,’ and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, in order to save his life, that wicked person shall die for his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.” (Ezekiel 3:18, ESV)

Insights from Sages and Rabbis

The insights from Jewish sages and rabbis further illuminate the concept of the Prophet's reward:

1. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov: He emphasized the importance of connecting to tzaddikim (righteous individuals) and how their merit can uplift others, suggesting that supporting a righteous person leads to spiritual elevation.

2. The Talmudic Perspective: The Talmud explores various narratives where individuals who supported prophets received blessings in return. For instance, the hospitality shown to Elijah and Elisha is often discussed, highlighting the spiritual implications of such acts.

3. The Concept of “Zechut” (Merit): Many rabbis discuss how acts of kindness and support for the righteous accumulate merit. This merit can lead to divine favor, reinforcing the idea that our actions toward prophets have spiritual consequences.

4. Community and Collective Responsibility: The sages emphasize that when a community supports its prophets, the entire community can benefit from the spiritual rewards. This interconnectedness reflects the collective journey toward spiritual fulfillment.

Conclusion

The concept of the Prophet’s reward is deeply embedded in the scriptures and Jewish tradition.

The Old Testament provides numerous examples of how honoring and supporting prophets leads to blessings and rewards, both materially and spiritually. The insights from sages and rabbis further enhance our understanding of this principle, highlighting the significance of community, faith, and ethical conduct in the pursuit of spiritual elevation. Through recognition, support, and moral living, individuals can connect to the divine purpose embodied by prophets, thereby receiving a share in their reward.

The Fivefold Ministry and the Prophet's Reward

The fivefold ministry, as outlined in Ephesians 4:11-13, plays a vital role in the Church's growth and maturity. Understanding the prophet's reward within this context can deepen our appreciation for the prophetic office:

1. Apostles and Prophets: The relationship between apostles and prophets is foundational. Apostles establish the Church, while prophets provide direction and encouragement. When the Church honors both, it experiences growth and unity (Ephesians 4:12).

2. Evangelists: Prophets often work alongside evangelists to bring God's message of salvation to

the lost. The reward for those who support both ministries can lead to the expansion of the Kingdom and the salvation of souls.

3. Pastors and Teachers: Pastoral care is essential for nurturing the prophetic voice within the Church. When congregations honor their pastors and prophets, they create an environment conducive to spiritual growth and revelation.

4. Mutual Support: The fivefold ministry is designed to work in harmony. Each role supports the others, and recognizing the prophet's reward encourages believers to honor all aspects of ministry. This mutual support leads to a thriving Church that reflects the fullness of Christ.

Men and Women in the Old Testament Who Received the Prophet's Reward

In the Old Testament, several individuals are noted for their acts of recognizing, supporting, and honoring God's prophets, thereby receiving the prophet's reward. Here are some key examples:

1. The Widow of Zarephath:

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Reward: The widow showed hospitality to the prophet Elijah during a time of famine by providing

him food. As a result of her generosity, God miraculously sustained her and her son, ensuring that her flour and oil did not run out until the famine ended. This story exemplifies how supporting a prophet leads to divine provision.

2. The Shunammite Woman:

- Scripture: 2 Kings 4:8-37
- Reward: The Shunammite woman provided a room for the prophet Elisha whenever he passed through her town. In gratitude, Elisha prophesied that she would have a son, despite her barrenness. Later, when her son died, Elisha raised him back to life, illustrating the profound blessings that come from honoring a prophet.

3. Moses:

- Scripture: Exodus 3-4
- Reward: Moses, as a prophet and leader, received direct communication from God and played a crucial role in leading the Israelites out of Egypt. His faithfulness and obedience brought about the liberation of a nation, showcasing the blessings that come from supporting God's mission.

4. Daniel:

- Scripture: Daniel 1-12
- Reward: Daniel's faithfulness in recognizing and supporting the prophetic voice of God led to

significant revelations and favor in Babylon. His commitment to prayer and adherence to God's commands resulted in divine protection and wisdom, demonstrating the blessings associated with honoring God's prophets.

5. Abigail:

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 25
- Reward: Abigail recognized the anointing on David, even before he became king. She intervened to prevent David from avenging himself on her foolish husband, Nabal. Her actions not only saved her household but also led to her becoming David's wife, illustrating how honoring God's chosen can lead to unexpected blessings.

6. Rahab:

- Scripture: Joshua 2
- Reward: Rahab, a Canaanite woman, recognized the authority of the Israelite spies sent by Joshua. By hiding them and helping them escape, she and her family were spared during the conquest of Jericho. Her faith and support for God's plan led to her inclusion in the lineage of Jesus (Matthew 1:5).

7. Jehoiada the Priest:

- Scripture: 2 Kings 11
- Reward: Jehoiada protected the young king Joash and led a revolt against Queen Athaliah, restoring

the rightful heir to the throne. His actions not only preserved the Davidic line but also brought about a spiritual revival in Judah, showing the impact of supporting God's chosen leaders.

Apostolic Pentecostal Insights on the Prophet's Reward

1. Recognition of Prophetic Ministry:

Apostolic Pentecostal theology places a strong emphasis on the prophetic ministry as a continuation of the work of the apostles and prophets in the early church. Recognizing and honoring prophets is seen as essential for receiving the blessings associated with their ministry. This recognition is often expressed through submission to their authority and the teachings they provide.

- Scriptural Reference: Ephesians 4:11-13 highlights the roles of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers in equipping the saints for ministry. The passage underscores the importance of prophetic voices in the church.

“And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (Ephesians 4:11-12, ESV)

2. Faith and Expectation:

In Apostolic Pentecostal circles, faith is a central tenet. Believers are encouraged to have faith in the prophetic word spoken over their lives. This faith is not passive but involves active expectation of the fulfillment of God's promises. When individuals respond in faith to a prophet's message, they position themselves to receive the corresponding reward.

- Scriptural Reference: Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as the assurance of things hoped for. This assurance aligns with the belief that honoring a prophet leads to receiving their reward.

“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1, ESV)

3. The Role of the Holy Spirit:

The Apostolic Pentecostal perspective emphasizes the role of the Holy Spirit in revealing the truth of God's word through prophets. Believers are encouraged to be sensitive to the leading of the Spirit, which can confirm the messages delivered by prophets. This sensitivity can lead to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the prophetic ministry.

- Scriptural Reference: 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 discusses the gifts of the Spirit, including prophecy. The manifestation of these gifts is seen as a way that God rewards the church through the insights and revelations provided by prophets.

“To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:7-8, ESV)

4. Community and Prophetic Culture:

Apostolic Pentecostal churches often foster a culture that values prophetic ministry. Believers are encouraged to support and uplift prophetic voices within their communities, recognizing that the collective faith and actions of the community can lead to greater blessings. This communal aspect of receiving the Prophet’s reward is emphasized in teachings about unity and collective prayer.

- Scriptural Reference: Acts 2:42-47 illustrates the early church’s communal life, highlighting their devotion to the apostles’ teachings and the impact of their unity and shared faith.

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” (Acts 2:42, ESV)

5. Prayer and Intercession:

Apostolic Pentecostal theology often highlights the power of prayer and intercession as means of supporting prophetic ministry. When believers pray for their prophets and leaders, they align themselves

with God's purposes and invite His blessings upon their lives and ministries.

- Scriptural Reference: James 5:16 encourages believers to pray for one another, emphasizing the power of prayer in the context of community and prophetic ministry.

“Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.” (James 5:16, ESV)

Conclusion

From an Apostolic Pentecostal perspective, the Prophet's reward is intricately linked to the recognition of prophetic ministry, active faith, the work of the Holy Spirit, communal support, and the power of prayer. Believers are encouraged to honor and support prophets, understanding that their actions can lead to spiritual blessings and fulfillment of God's promises. By fostering a culture that values prophetic voices, the church can collectively experience the rewards associated with honoring those who speak on behalf of God. This understanding enhances the rich tapestry of the biblical narrative surrounding the concept of the Prophet's reward, inviting believers into deeper engagement with God's word and His prophetic

purposes.

Deeper Revelation of the Prophet's Reward

1. The Nature of the Prophet's Reward:

- The prophet's reward is multifaceted, encompassing spiritual, emotional, and material dimensions. Spiritual rewards include deeper revelations, increased understanding of God's will, and a closer relationship with the Divine. Emotional rewards involve peace, joy, and fulfillment that come from aligning oneself with God's purposes. Material rewards can manifest as blessings in one's household, community, and even in financial prosperity.

2. The Role of Faith:

- Faith plays a critical role in receiving the prophet's reward. The individuals who supported prophets in the Old Testament acted out of faith, believing in the God who sent these messengers. Their faith led to actions that demonstrated their commitment to God's Word, resulting in blessings. Hebrews 11:6 states, "But without faith, it is impossible to please Him," emphasizing that faith is foundational to receiving God's promises.

3. The Importance of Intent:

- The intention behind honoring a prophet is crucial. It is not merely about the act of giving or supporting

but the heart behind it. The sages teach that genuine intentions lead to greater rewards. When individuals support prophets with a heart aligned with God's will, they position themselves to receive abundant blessings.

4. Prophets as Catalysts for Change:

- Prophets often serve as catalysts for spiritual awakening and transformation within communities. By supporting and honoring prophets, believers can experience a collective anointing that brings about revival and renewal. The prophet's reward is not just individual but communal, impacting the broader body of Christ.

5. The Eternal Perspective:

- The prophet's reward extends beyond this life. The New Testament teaches about eternal rewards for those who honor God's messengers. Matthew 10:42 indicates that even a cup of cold water given in the name of a disciple will not lose its reward. This eternal perspective encourages believers to consider the lasting impact of their support for prophets and the work of God.

Fables and Metaphorical Meanings: Poetic Insights into the Prophet's Reward

A Garden of Blessings:

Imagine a garden where seeds are sown, each representing an act of kindness, acknowledgment, or support for a prophet. The gardener, who tends to the plants, represents the faithful believer. As the seeds take root and grow, they yield a bountiful harvest—fruit of spiritual enlightenment, joy, and material blessings. Just as a gardener must nurture the soil and provide water, so too must believers nurture their faith and support God’s messengers to reap the rewards.

The River of Provision:

Visualize a river flowing through a parched land, bringing life and sustenance. The river symbolizes the flow of blessings that comes from honoring a prophet. As the water nourishes the land, it brings forth fruit and life. Those who recognize and support the prophet are like the trees planted by the riverbank, flourishing and bearing fruit in their season (Psalm 1:3). The river’s source is God, and the prophet serves as a channel through which divine blessings flow.

The Tapestry of Faith:

Consider the intricate tapestry woven with threads of various colors, each representing the diverse acts of support and honor shown to prophets. Each

thread contributes to the overall beauty of the tapestry, symbolizing how individual acts of faith and recognition come together to create a vibrant community of believers. Just as a tapestry tells a story, so too does the collective honoring of prophets tell the story of God's faithfulness and provision.

The Lighthouse:

A lighthouse stands tall on the shore, guiding ships safely to harbor. The prophet serves as a lighthouse, illuminating the path for believers navigating the storms of life. Those who heed the light and support the lighthouse not only find their way safely but also experience the calm and peace that comes from following God's direction. The reward for those who honor the prophet is safe passage and the assurance of God's presence in their journey.

The Harvest:

The principle of sowing and reaping is deeply rooted in Scripture (Galatians 6:7). Just as a farmer sows seeds and expects a harvest, so too do believers who honor and support prophets sow seeds of faith. The harvest they reap is not only for themselves but for the community and future generations. This metaphor illustrates the long-term impact of recognizing and supporting God's messengers, emphasizing that

the rewards may extend far beyond the immediate blessings.

Summary

The examples from the Old Testament illustrate the principle of the prophet's reward, emphasizing the blessings that come from recognizing, supporting, and honoring God's prophets. Each of these individuals received significant rewards—whether through miraculous provision, restoration, or divine favor—highlighting the reciprocal relationship between the faithful and God's messengers.

New Testament Reinforcement

In the New Testament, Jesus reiterates the concept of the prophet's reward, emphasizing its importance to His followers. His teachings encourage believers to honor and support those sent by God, as doing so opens the door to divine blessings and guidance. The examples from the Old Testament serve as powerful illustrations of this principle, reinforcing the continuity of God's message throughout Scripture.

Conclusion

The Old Testament reinforces the idea that recognizing, supporting, and obeying prophets leads

to significant rewards—both material and spiritual. The narratives of various prophets illustrate the blessings that come from honoring God’s messengers. This theme continues into the New Testament, where Jesus and the apostles build upon these principles, emphasizing the importance of prophetic voices in the life of faith.

The New Testament, particularly in the Book of Revelation and other writings, offers several insights into the concept of the reward for prophets. Here are some key points and passages that elaborate on this theme:

1. Recognition of Prophets

- Revelation 11:18: This verse underscores the significance of prophets in God’s plan. It states, “The nations were angry, and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your people who revere your name, both great and small.” This passage highlights that prophets will receive their due reward at the final judgment, affirming their vital role in God’s narrative.

2. Prophets as God’s Messengers

- Hebrews 1:1-2: The author of Hebrews writes, “In

the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.” This passage emphasizes the importance of prophets as intermediaries between God and humanity, suggesting that their work is foundational for understanding God’s will.

3. Sharing in Prophetic Reward

- Matthew 10:41: Jesus teaches that those who receive a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward. This indicates that the community’s response to prophets is crucial; honoring and supporting them results in shared blessings. It reflects a communal aspect of faith where believers benefit from the ministry of prophets.

4. Endurance and Suffering

- James 5:10-11: James encourages believers to consider the patience of the prophets who suffered for their faith. He states, “As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered.” This highlights that the path of a prophet often involves suffering, but their endurance leads to divine blessing and reward.

5. Final Judgment and Reward

- Revelation 22:12: Jesus says, “Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.” This statement reinforces the idea that there will be a reckoning where individuals, including prophets, will be rewarded based on their faithfulness and deeds.

6. Prophetic Insight as Guidance

- 1 Corinthians 14:3: Paul writes that the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging, and comfort. This suggests that the role of a prophet is not only to foretell but also to guide and uplift the community, which in turn leads to spiritual rewards for both the prophets and the recipients of their messages.

7. Encouragement to Persevere

- Revelation 2:10: In addressing the church in Smyrna, Jesus encourages them to remain faithful even in the face of suffering, promising, “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown.” This reinforces the idea that faithfulness, akin to the prophetic calling, is rewarded in the eternal perspective.

Conclusion

The New Testament presents a rich tapestry of insights regarding the reward for prophets. It emphasizes their vital role in conveying God's message, the communal aspect of supporting prophetic ministry, and the ultimate rewards that await both prophets and those who honor them. The consistent message throughout these texts is one of hope, encouragement, and the assurance of divine justice and reward for faithfulness.

Insights from Sages and Rabbis

1. Rabbi Nachman of Breslov:

- Rabbi Nachman emphasized the importance of connecting to tzaddikim (righteous individuals) and how their merit can uplift others. He taught that supporting and believing in a tzaddik leads to spiritual elevation and that the rewards from such connections can manifest in one's life.
- Poetic Thought: "In the light of the tzaddik, shadows fade away; through their merit, we find our way."

2. Rabbi Hillel:

- Hillel is known for his teaching that one should treat others as they wish to be treated (the Golden Rule). This principle aligns with the idea that honoring prophets and righteous individuals brings about mutual respect and spiritual rewards.

- Poetic Thought: “As you honor the voice of the righteous, so shall your spirit rise; in kindness, the world transforms, beneath the open skies.”

3. Rabbi Akiva:

- Rabbi Akiva taught about the power of faith and the importance of supporting those who teach the Torah. He emphasized that the reward for such support is not only spiritual but also communal, benefiting the entire community.
- Poetic Thought: “In the study of the Torah, we find our true delight; through the words of the prophet, we walk in sacred light.”

4. The Talmud:

- The Talmud contains numerous stories and teachings about the rewards of supporting prophets. One famous story involves the widow of Zarephath, who, by feeding Elijah, received blessings in return.
- Poetic Thought: “A handful of flour, a drop of oil; in the heart of the humble, the blessings uncoil.”

5. Rabbi Levi Yitzchak of Berdichev:

- Rabbi Levi Yitzchak often spoke about the importance of community in receiving divine blessings. He noted that when a community supports its prophets, they collectively benefit from the rewards of their faith and actions.
- Poetic Thought: “In the gathering of hearts, the

spirit takes flight; united in purpose, we shine with His light.”

6. Rabbi Shimon Bar Yochai:

- Known for his work in the Zohar, Rabbi Shimon taught about the mystical aspects of connecting with the righteous. He emphasized that the rewards of honoring the righteous are not just material but also spiritual, bringing one closer to God.
- Poetic Thought: “In the whispers of the righteous, the secrets unfold; through their light, we glimpse the divine, a treasure untold.”

Fables and Tales Related to the Prophet’s Reward

1. The Tale of the Widow of Zarephath:

- This story illustrates the principle of faith and reward. The widow, by providing for Elijah, not only sustains him but also receives a miraculous blessing of endless flour and oil. This fable emphasizes the idea that acts of kindness toward prophets yield divine rewards.

2. The Hospitality of Abraham:

- Abraham’s welcoming of the three angels (Genesis 18) exemplifies the reward for hospitality. His kindness leads to the promise of a son and blessings for his descendants. This story teaches that honoring the divine messengers brings about significant

rewards.

3. The Story of Elisha and the Shunammite Woman:

- The Shunammite woman's hospitality to Elisha results in the miraculous birth of her son. This tale reflects the theme that supporting a prophet brings blessings, reinforcing the idea that acts of kindness lead to divine favor.

4. The Fable of the Righteous and the Wicked:

- Various fables depict the contrast between the righteous and the wicked, often concluding with the reward of the righteous for their faithfulness and the consequences faced by the wicked. These narratives serve to reinforce the moral teachings surrounding the Prophet's reward.

Conclusion

The insights from sages and rabbis, along with the poetic expressions and fables, collectively illustrate the profound significance of the Prophet's reward in Jewish thought. The teachings emphasize the importance of recognizing, honoring, and supporting prophets and righteous individuals, highlighting the spiritual and communal dimensions of such actions. Through these narratives and reflections, we see that the concept of the Prophet's reward is not only a theological principle but also a call to ethical living

and communal responsibility.

In summary, the “prophet’s reward” encapsulates the blessings that come from honoring, supporting, and heeding the messages of God’s chosen messengers, illustrating a reciprocal relationship between the faithful and the prophets of God. The revelation of the prophet’s reward enriches our understanding of the fivefold ministry and the role of prophets within the Apostolic Pentecostal Church today. By recognizing, supporting, and honoring God’s messengers, believers open themselves to significant spiritual and material blessings, leading to a thriving Church that reflects the fullness of Christ.