Episode: Messiah No. 01
Narrator: Scribe
Primary Scriptures: Matthew 16:15-20; John 20:30-31
Story Summary: Jesus as Messiah
Location: Jerusalem
Time: circa 30 AD
Suggested Memory Scriptures: Matthew 16:15-16

John ended his Gospel by informing the reader that the New Testament writers had an infinite amount of material to choose from. John 21:25 says, "Jesus did many other things as well. If everyone one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written."

How did John choose from all of that material? He reveals his method in John 20: 30-31, "Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."

In John 17:3, Jesus defined eternal life: "Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Messiah, whom you have sent."

With life and eternal life at stake, it makes sense that the most important question in the world might be the one Jesus asked Peter in Matthew 16:15-17, "Who do you say I am?" According to Jesus, the correct God-inspired answer is, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

So, if you really wanted to have life and eternal life, what could be more important than fully knowing about and knowing Jesus Messiah, Son of God? And, if you wanted to do that, how would you go about doing it?

It would not be too big of a stretch to conclude all of the New Testament writers had exactly the same aim as John – that all may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing all may have life in his name. If you looked for it, you would find that a big part of the New Testament seems to be a proof text that Jesus is the Messiah.

Few Christians have a full understanding of Messiah. A typical complete understanding is something like this simplistic summary: the Messiah will come as a king, defeat the Romans and kick them out, establish God's kingdom in which the Jews would enjoy a kingdom like David's.

Since the stakes are so high, gaining a full understanding of Messiah is warranted. We suggest you start with learning about the expectations of the Jews, the revelations of Jesus, and the writings of the New Testament writers after his death, burial, resurrection and ascension.