

# MBC MEN'S STUDY

## LEADERSHIP 8: THE PERSON AND WORK OF CHRIST

### CLASS 6: THE WORK OF CHRIST

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Before getting into the book, here is the layout of the framework for our five-month men's study class.

- **January 21<sup>st</sup>: Jesus as Prophet, Priest, King and an Overview of His Life on Earth**
- February 18<sup>th</sup>: Jesus' Preparation for Ministry and His 3 years of Ministry in Detail
- March 17<sup>th</sup>: Jesus' Triumphal Entry, Last Supper, Arrest, Trial, etc.
- April 21<sup>st</sup>: Jesus' Death and Resurrection
- May 5<sup>th</sup>: Jesus Ascension and His Present Ministry

### PURPOSE OF THIS 5 MONTH CLASS

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- Why do we want to talk about Christ?
- Why should we desire to know more and more about who Jesus was and who He is now?
- What we do with the doctrine of Christ has eternal ramifications.
- We can't believe in the wrong Christ and think that it is the right way to heaven.
- We can't seek to please the wrong Christ and think that we are living in the right way.
- If we want to know that our salvation is secure and that we are going in the right direction, we must know who Jesus is and what He did.
- If we get this wrong, our entire life can be going in the wrong direction and pointing others in the wrong way as well.
- When we know who Jesus is and what He has done for us, it empowers us to live in such a way that brings honor and glory to God.
- When we live like this, it is going to benefit our own walk with the Lord and all of those around us.
- **The center of our faith and the source of our hope isn't a creed, an idea, an experience, a church, or a philosophy. It's a person: Jesus the Messiah.**
- Knowing him isn't only the beginning of the Christian life – *it's the whole Christian life.*
- As believers, we know Jesus personally, which means Christology is deeply practical.
- The more that you about Christ and what Christ did for you, the more you are going to desire to live for Him. We have been given more resources and promises from being *in Christ* than we can imagine.
- We need to understand these things in order to live a life which brings honor and glory to Christ.

## INTRODUCTION

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- We are going to start by taking a 30,000-foot view over the life of Jesus.
- This is not a deep lesson in theology or an exegetical study. Those are going to be coming in future weeks. Today is simply taking some time to understand the events of Jesus' life as if we were outsiders looking in.
- We are going to start with His birth and trace His life and what He did up to His final week.
- I want us to have a good understanding of what Jesus was doing and where He was going when He was on earth.
- This is just a simple, cursory overview of His life. We are not going to get into all the details, that is what subsequent classes are for.
- Since we are not going to be able to cover *everything* in great detail, I want you to have a working knowledge of what happened during His life.
- We are going to occasionally dive in a little deeper today to examine some of what took place, but our main focus is to just get a real broad overview of Jesus' life.
- Many times, we have simple abstract pictures of what was happening or what Jesus was doing, but we don't always put it together in an organized way.
- After we finish the overview of Jesus' life, we are going to look at the 3 offices which He fulfilled...that of Prophet, Priest, and King.

## THE LIFE OF JESUS

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- We covered the miraculous birth of Christ in our last class, so we are not going to go in depth talking about it theologically. The goal is to simply cover the actual event as the Bible records it.

### The Birth of Jesus

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- Matthew and Luke record the birth of Jesus.
- The angel Gabriel told Mary in Luke 1:26-28 'And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus.'
- Mary was betrothed to Joseph but fell pregnant as a virgin. He assumed she had extramarital relations, so he decided to quietly divorce her. But he too was visited by an angel instructing him to stay with Mary.
- Caesar Augustus sent out a decree 'that all the world should be registered' (**Luke 2:1-3**).
- We don't know the specific details about this census, but it required every man to register in his own city. 'Joseph likely owned land in the region of Bethlehem; as a result, he needed to register there'
- Mary wasn't required to go, but did. Likely because of unwanted attention she received from being an unwed, pregnant woman.

- Upon arriving in Bethlehem, there were no open rooms; so they went out to find alternative shelter. The only place available was an old animal stable. It's here Jesus, the Savior of the world, God in the flesh, was born.

## **After His Birth**

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- Shepherds were not far away from where Jesus was born. They were visited by an angel of the Lord and told to go and see the newborn Savior.
- Per Jewish law, Jesus had to be circumcised on the eighth day and officially named. After this, the young family waited for Mary's 'days of her purification' (Luke 2:22) before they travelled to Jerusalem to present Jesus at the temple and make a sacrifice for Him.
- Sometime after this, Jesus was visited by wise men. They made a long journey from the East to come and worship the small child. Then, found only in Matthew, the family had to make an emergency trip to Egypt to evade King Herod's decree to kill all male children under the age of two.
- Hearing of Herod's death, they returned, but instead of Bethlehem, the Lord directed them to Nazareth. This was because of one of Herod's evil sons ruling.
- The only childhood event of Jesus is found in **Luke 2:41-52**, when in Jerusalem for Passover. Jesus was 12 and stayed behind when His family left. When His family came back to find Him, Jesus was debating teachers in the temple. The people marveled at His understanding.

## **First Year of Ministry**

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- John the Baptist came on the scene to prepare the way for the Jesus' ministry. His message was one of repentance and the kingdom of heaven had come.
- Jesus came from Nazareth to find John baptizing in the Jordan River. Jesus had John baptize Him. He did this to identify with mankind and to show His approval of John's ministry.
- **Two important events mark Jesus' baptism.**
  - Firstly, the Holy Spirit fell upon Him as a dove. This was to endow Him with the necessary power for His ministry.
  - Secondly, God spoke, saying Jesus was His beloved Son. This showed God's love towards Jesus and was an affirmation that He was the Messiah.
- After His baptism, Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness for 40 days to be tested by Satan. This had to happen to show the validity of Jesus' character. He was tempted at least three times, all three times He quoted Scripture and resisted the temptation.
- After passing the test, Jesus left for Galilee. On his way there he spent some time in the region where John was baptizing. It was here Jesus would take His first five disciples.

## First Miracle

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- Upon arriving in Galilee, Jesus' went to a wedding with His mother in Cana.
- When the wine ran out, Mary told Jesus. He replied 'Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come' (**John 2:4**).
- Jesus didn't want to start His public ministry yet. Seemingly to appease His mother, Jesus turned the water into wine, but privately so only a few people knew.

## The Early Ministry of Christ in Judea (John 2:13-4:42)<sup>1</sup>

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- Only the gospel of John records the early ministry of Christ in Judea.
- In John 2:13–25 the first cleansing of the temple is recorded on the occasion of Christ's visit to Jerusalem at the time of the first Passover.
- Here also is recorded the first prophecy of His coming death. The gospel of John then records the interview with Nicodemus and the contrasting account of the conversion of the woman of Samaria (John 3:1–4:42).
- Both of these incidents are in keeping with the theme of the gospel of John showing Christ as the Savior.

## Public Ministry

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- After turning water into wine, He travelled to Capernaum and then to Jerusalem for Passover.
- This was the first Passover of Jesus' ministry and when He officially launched into the public.
- Jesus broke onto the scene with a whip, clearing the temple of the money changers and businessmen.
- At this Passover, Jesus did many miracles and wondrous signs. Enough so that He had a private meeting with a Pharisee named Nicodemus.
  - It was at this time Jesus explained what being born again meant.
- Leaving Jerusalem and heading for Galilee, Jesus went through Samaria. The Jews and Samaritans were foes.
  - Jesus was able to minister to a Samaritan woman.
  - Upon receiving new life, she told her village, and many were born again.
- **Reaching Galilee, this is where the majority of Jesus' ministry took place.**
- The rest of His first year of ministry deals with relating to the people and showing the message of the kingdom of heaven.
- Jesus used miracles like healing the sick and casting out demons. He also taught the radical message of the Sermon on the Mount, focusing on man's unclean heart.

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<sup>1</sup> John F. Walvoord, *Jesus Christ Our Lord* (Galaxie Software, 2008), 125.

## JESUS' FINAL TWO YEARS OF MINISTRY

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- Jesus' final two years of ministry were first marked with popularity and power only to see Him decline in the eyes of the people.
- We will look at what made Jesus so popular with the people and how He responded to that popularity.
- Jesus also was constantly harassed by the religious leaders.
- We will see how they affected His ministry and influenced the people around them.
- Jesus will never back down from them or their questions, though He seldom answers the questions as they asked them.
- **Jesus' final six months see a change in His ministry.**
- He not only changes the area He is ministering in but also the focus of His ministry.
- His face is set towards Jerusalem and His impending death is on His mind.
- The final week of Jesus' life really shows the heart of the people.
- We will see how the same people who cheered Him into the city were only a few days later shouting for His death. Jesus had several trials leading to His death, but ultimately the Jews needed the Romans to give the death penalty.
- Jesus' death is not the end, but only the beginning.

## JESUS' SECOND YEAR

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- Jesus' second Passover marks the beginning of His second year of ministry found in **Luke 6:1** which was characterized by power and popularity.
- This was due to many miracles He performed and His proclamation of the Kingdom of God.
- These miracles made Jesus popular with the people.
- After Passover, Jesus clashed with the Pharisees over the Sabbath.
- In **Luke 6:1-11** Jesus allowed His disciples to 'work' by picking grain from a field and eating it.
- He also 'worked' by healing a man.
- Both broke Jewish laws, but not God's Law.
  - This infuriated the Pharisees and in **verse 11** they were filled with rage and discussed how to get rid of Jesus.
- In His second year, He chose His twelve apostles after spending all night in prayer.
  - After choosing the twelve, Jesus went into His public ministry continuing to heal many and perform more miracles.
  - It's because of this, He appealed to those who were needy and outcast in society.
- Even though He appealed to many by His wondrous works, there were still many who didn't believe.

- “By and large, the cities in which Jesus performed his miracles did not repent of their sins. Individuals may have repented, but most enjoyed his miracles without heeding his message (which included repentance).”<sup>2</sup>
- This shows the state of people’s hearts as Jesus ministered to them. Jesus travelled throughout the Galilee region to show His power over death and disease but for some it wasn’t enough.
- As Jesus’ second year of ministry came to an end, He was confronted by the Pharisees in **Matthew 12** after healing a demon possessed man.
- The Pharisees came to the conclusion in verse 24 that Jesus was demon possessed Himself. It’s after this interaction that Jesus begins to teach in parables about the Kingdom of Heaven and why many rejected His message.
- After this, Jesus returned home only to find people there weren’t welcoming.
- When he was ministering in Nazareth, John the Baptist was beheaded by Herod.
  - Hearing this, He left Nazareth and was followed by many. Jesus saw them, had compassion on them and since it was evening time, He fed them with only five loaves and two fish.
- **This miracle, known as the feeding of the 5,000, marks the end of Jesus’ second year of ministry.**

## JESUS’ THIRD YEAR

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### First six months

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- Jesus ended His second year on a high with the feeding of the 5,000, but suddenly His popularity started to decline. ‘A significant change in Jesus’s ministry takes place at the beginning of the third year. Jesus popularity in Galilee reached its apex with the feeding of the 5,000. His popularity declined overnight.’<sup>3</sup>
- This swing in Jesus popularity was because people wanted a king now, but He came on a spiritual mission. After feeding the 5,000, He had some hard truths to tell them.
- In **John 6** He explains He’s the bread of life and they must eat His flesh and drink His blood to follow Him.
- It says **John 6:66** ‘**From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.**’
- John says only a faithful bunch remained.
- Jesus’ teaching focus now started moving from public to private.
- These six months marked a shift in Jesus’ ministry.
- He began to spend more time away from Galilee, sharing in other areas and focusing on His disciples with Him. As His time for the cross drew near, the hostility from the Pharisees and religious leaders increased.
- One such incident is **Matthew 15:1-20** where the scribes and Pharisees came after Jesus because He allows His disciples to ‘transgress the tradition of the elders’ by not ritually washing their hands before eating.

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<sup>2</sup> Kevin Smith, *The Words and Works of Jesus Christ* (2012:110)

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

- Jesus takes this opportunity to teach the principle that it's not what goes in which defiles a man, but what comes out.
- He then travelled to the region of Tyre and Sidon where He healed a Gentile woman's daughter.
- After this, He left the region and went to the Decapolis.
  - Here He performed more miracles, including feeding 4,000 with seven loaves of bread and a few small fish. After this He got into His boat and went to the region of Dalmanutha.
- After 2 ½ years of ministry, Jesus asks the question 'who do you say I am?' to His disciples.
  - This is what His whole ministry had been leading up to.
  - Jesus is now announcing to them He is the Christ.
  - After Peter correctly answers Him, Jesus starts teaching them about His mission as the Messiah.
  - This is perhaps Jesus' main concern.
- **Jesus would now spend a majority of time preparing His disciples for His impending death.**

### **Final Six Months**

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- After being rejected in Galilee, Jesus spends most of his final six months ministering in Judea with two special trips to Jerusalem.
- This final six months Jesus had the cross in His focus. He would go to Jerusalem in six months for the Passover and His death.
- **His ministry focus during this time was calling people to repent and believe.**
- Jesus' first trip to Jerusalem was for the Feast of Tabernacles.
- He went there to teach, heal and give people one more opportunity to believe who He was.
- Through the days of the feast, Jesus was constantly troubled by the religious leaders.
- Once such incident is in **John 8:12-59**. This is interaction with the Pharisees ends when 'they took up stones to throw at Him.'
- After leaving the feast, **Luke 10** says Jesus sent out at least seventy disciples ahead of Him to the towns He planned on visiting.
- Jesus spent 2-3 months ministering in the Judean area. At the end of this time, Jesus makes His way to Jerusalem for the second time for the Feast of Dedication.
- Once again, Jesus is harassed by the Pharisees who again want to stone Him for blasphemy (**John 10:33**).
- After trying to seize Him in Jerusalem, Jesus left and went away beyond the Jordan.
- Though the religious leaders wanted to kill Him, John says in **verse 41** 'many came to Him.'
- Jesus is continuing His final trip to Jerusalem.
- As He is traveling, He preaches repentance and teaches parables to the people. He teaches what it means to be a disciple and what one must give up following Him.

- He tells them about God's true heart for lost humanity and practical living advice.
- Travelling to Bethany, Jesus again shows His power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead.
- After this, Jesus goes away from Jerusalem to spend some time with His disciples and continue ministering in Judea.
- Jesus took his last two months before His crucifixion and packed in as much practical teaching as possible. He made sure to teach on subjects such as prayer, divorce, the importance of children and what a genuine conversion looks like.
- He wanted to be sure that after His death, His disciples would know how to conduct themselves and what to teach others around them. Jesus would head to Bethany on the Saturday before His crucifixion, six days before Passover.

## JESUS CAME AS A PROPHET, A PRIEST, AND A KING

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- These are the three main offices which are often spoke of throughout the Old Testament. It is important to see that Jesus fulfills all of them.
- As powerful as sin is, the blood of Christ is more powerful still. In Christ, the chains of our captivity have been broken, and the light of His grace has shone the way of freedom. But how has He freed us? Christ has secured our freedom because, in the shedding of His blood, He operated in the divinely ordained *munus triplex*, the threefold office of Prophet, Priest, and King. This is why He is called "the faithful witness" (as Prophet); "the firstborn of the dead" (as Priest); and "the ruler of kings on earth" (as King) in Revelation 1:5. In the threefold office of Christ, we are granted our freedom from sin.<sup>4</sup>

### As a Prophet<sup>5</sup>

- Prophets were ordained by God to speak God's Word to the people. They were to be a mouthpiece for God so that the people would know what God expected.
- During His incarnation, people often referred to Jesus as a prophet.
  - **Matthew 21:11** "And the crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee."
  - **Luke 7:16** "Fear gripped them all, and they began glorifying God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and, "God has visited His people!"
- Jesus taught the people as a prophet as well.
  - **Mark 1:21-22** "They went into Capernaum; and immediately on the Sabbath He entered the synagogue and began to teach. They were amazed at His teaching; for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.ligonier.org/learn/articles/jesus-christ-our-prophet-priest-and-king>

<sup>5</sup> Walvoord, 136.



- Like many of the Old Testament prophets, Jesus performed multiple healings and miracles (Matthew 8:1–17; 9:18–33; Mark 1:32–34; 2:1–12; Luke 17:11–19; 18:35–43; John 2:1–11; 6:1–24). He even compared Himself to Elijah and Elisha (Luke 4:24–27). The people of Nazareth rejected Jesus, just as the people of Israel did not believe Elijah and Elisha.<sup>6</sup>
- Without question, Christ is the greatest of the prophets.
  - His teachings contained in the four Gospels demonstrate a greater variety of subjects, a broader scope of prophecy and a more comprehensive revelation than is found in any of the Old Testament records of the prophets.
  - In almost every aspect of revelation, Christ made a distinct contribution.
- Unlike all other prophets, Christ revealed God not only in His spoken ministry but in His life and person.
- As the Logos of John, Christ was eternally the source of knowledge, truth, wisdom and light.
- When He became incarnate, He became a declaration in human flesh of what God is (John 1:4–18).
- In His life, death and resurrection, Christ was a revelation of God far beyond that of any preceding prophet. Even after His resurrection Christ continued to exercise His prophetic office, teaching His disciples the things they needed to know to adjust themselves to the new age into which they were going.
- However, after His ascension, the Holy Spirit was sent to continue the prophetic work, revealing to the saints the truth that Christ would have them know (John 16:12–15).

## **As a Priest<sup>7</sup>**

- Just as Christ fulfilled to the utmost the office of prophet so also, He qualifies as the High Priest and is the embodiment of all that is anticipated in the Old Testament priesthood.
- As a Priest, He fulfilled the primary definition of what constitutes a priest: “a man duly appointed to act for other men in things pertaining to God.”
  - Not only in His person but also in His work, Christ fulfilled the ministry of a Priest, offering gifts, sacrifices and intercession.
- He acted as a true Mediator between God and man.
- According to the epistle to the Hebrews, Christ fulfilled the five necessary requirements of the priesthood:
  - (1) He was qualified for the office (Heb. 1:3; 3:1–6);
  - (2) He was appointed of God (Heb. 5:1–10);
  - (3) His priesthood was of a higher order than that of Aaron’s—Christ’s priesthood superseded Aaron’s as Aaron’s had superseded the patriarchal system (Heb. 5:6, 10; 7:1—8:6);
  - (4) all functions of the priesthood were performed by Christ (Heb. 7:23–28; 9:11–28; 10:5–18);

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html>

<sup>7</sup> Walvoord. 136-137.

- (5) His priesthood is eternal, indicating His superiority and finality (Heb. 7:25).
- Hebrews 7 shows how Jesus is a priest after the order of Melchizedek. Melchizedek was both a priest and the “king of Salem” who blessed Abraham (Hebrews 7:2; Genesis 14:18). Likewise, Jesus is not just a “priest forever,” but also a king.<sup>8</sup>

## **As a King<sup>9</sup>**

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- One of the fundamental purposes of the incarnation was the fulfillment of the earthly purpose of God in the Davidic covenant.
- The Old Testament had predicted the coming of a King who would fulfill the promise of God to David (2 Sam. 7:16; Ps. 2; 45; 72; 110; Isa. 9:6–7; Dan. 7:13–14; Micah 5:2; Zech. 9:9).
- When Christ came, He fulfilled the requirements of the prophesied King, though the full revelation of His work as King was reserved for His second coming.
- The record in the New Testament is both historical and prophetic (John 1:49; 18:37; 19:12; 1 Cor. 15:25; 1 Tim. 6:15; Rev. 1:5; 17:14; 19:16).
  - **Luke 1:31-33** "And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus. "He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end."
- The rejection of Christ as King by Israel (John 19:15) resulted in the postponement of the millennial kingdom, but it did not alter the certainty of complete fulfillment of His work as King, nor the fact that in His person He is the King of Israel.
- The Son of David would be a ruler of God’s people, and also their deliverer. The Jews of Jesus’ time expected a political king (Matthew 21:1–11). Instead, Jesus conquered sin and death (1 Corinthians 15:54–57). He promised He will also return to the earth to rule as a king, first in the Millennial Kingdom and then forever (1 Corinthians 15:24–28).<sup>10</sup>

## **The Perfect Prophet, Priest, and King**

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- Taken together, the three offices of Christ as Prophet, Priest and King are the key to the purpose of the incarnation. His prophetic office was concerned with the revelation of the truth of God; the priestly office was related to His work as Saviour and Mediator; His kingly office had in view His right to reign over Israel and over the entire earth. In Christ the supreme dignity of these offices is reached.

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html>

<sup>9</sup> Walvoord, 137.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-prophet-priest-king.html>

## **Psalm 110**

<sup>1</sup>A Psalm of David. The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." (His enemies as His footstool shows that Jesus is going to be **King**...verses 2-3 continue)

- Speaking of Jesus in **1 Peter 3:22** "...who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven..."

<sup>2</sup>The LORD will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

<sup>3</sup>Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew.

- **Revelation 19:14** "And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, were following Him on white horses."
- **Jude 1:14-15** "It was also about these men that Enoch, in the seventh generation from Adam, prophesied, saying, "Behold, the Lord came with many thousands of His holy ones, to execute judgment upon all, and to convict all the ungodly of all their ungodly deeds which they have done in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him."

<sup>4</sup>The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, "You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek." (He is / will be our eternal **Priest**)

- **Hebrews 7:25** "Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."

<sup>5</sup>The Lord is at Your right hand; He will shatter kings in the day of His wrath. (**Prophet and Judge**)

<sup>6</sup>He will judge among the nations, He will fill them with corpses, He will shatter the chief men over a broad country.

<sup>7</sup>He will drink from the brook by the wayside; Therefore He will lift up His head.

- As a **conqueror**, He will rule His land with peace and prosperity.