

Jeremiah 17:1: “. . . with a pen of iron, and with the point of a diamond”.

These texts are by far the oldest words in existence quoting Bible verses, and contain the oldest usage of the Memorial Name of God. Needless to say, the dating of these inscriptions was at first challenged by critics who maintain that very little of the Bible is historically trustworthy. They claimed that the amulets had been written in the Hellenistic period, between the Old and New Testaments, rather than being genuine products of

the Old Testament era, even though they were discovered in the lowest and oldest layers of the artefacts in the tomb.

However, in 1994 new high-resolution digital photographs, taken using fibre-optic lighting techniques and computer imaging, revealed traces of letters that were not previously identified, as well as clarifying letters that were previously much harder to read and identify. The shape and form of the letters, together with the location of the amulets in the lowest layers of the tomb, confirms their dating to the late seventh

century B.C., the time of Josiah and Jeremiah, *before* the Babylonian exile. These amulets thus once again confirm the antiquity of God’s Word and the accuracy of the faithful scribes who copied it over so many centuries.

**Source:** Gabriel Barkay, “The Riches of Ketef Hinnom”, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, Jul.-Oct. 2009, pp. 22ff.; Stephen Caesar, “The Blessing of the Silver Scrolls”, *Associates for Biblical Research Newsletter*, Jan. 2010. See also “Metals in the Bible (3) Silver”, P. Hemingray, *Testimony*, Sept. 2004, p. 370, [www.testimony-magazine.org/back/sep2004/hemingray.pdf](http://www.testimony-magazine.org/back/sep2004/hemingray.pdf).

## Exposition

# “Behold the man!”

## The titles and descriptions of Jesus of Nazareth

### 22. The instructor of the ecclesia

Greg Palmer

**I**N THE SAME WAY as Jesus Christ (the husband) is the instructor of the Bride and the house of God, so are husbands to be to their wives and families. The message from the Sermon on the Mount is clear. Those who heed the instruction of Christ will have no cause for fear when the storms come, but those who do not are like the foolish builder who will come to ruin.

#### **Master (instructor)**

This word means ‘instructor’ or ‘teacher’. It was used by the Greeks as an instructor of anything. In the New Testament it is used as a title of Jesus over forty times. It is used of Jesus by others, and by Jesus of himself.

#### **Master (teacher)**

This is a Greek transliteration of the Hebrew word *rabbi*. It was traditionally used by the Jews to refer to teachers of religion.

#### **Rabboni**

This is the Aramaic form of *rabbi*. It is found twice, once as ‘Rabboni’ in John 20:16 and once as ‘Lord’.

The combined message from these three words is that Jesus Christ was and is a great teacher. The testimony of him is outstanding: “he taught them as one having authority” (Mt. 7:29); “Never man spake like this man” (Jno. 7:46). If we wish to be instructed in the things of God, there is no better instructor than our Lord.

#### **Prophet**

A prophecy was given to Moses in Deuteronomy 18:18: “I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will put My words in his mouth; and he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him”. This is referred to on a number of occasions in the New Testament. John the Baptist confessed twice that he was not the one. The people on two occasions declared that Jesus was the fulfilment (Jno. 6:14; 7:40). Peter the apostle declared in Acts 3:22,23 that Jesus was the Prophet. Stephen in Acts 7:37 repeated the same words. Elsewhere, on several occasions in the Gospels, Jesus is declared by the people to be a prophet. He was declared to be “a prophet mighty in deed and word” (Lk. 24:19). It was both

the miracles and the teaching that compelled the people to declare him to be a prophet.

We do not commonly think of Jesus as a prophet, and yet he gave many prophecies. At times he gave his prophecies in parables; at other times he used signs, and sometimes plain words. He prophesied of his own death and resurrection, of the traitor, of the fleeing of the disciples in A.D. 70. Many of his prophecies were concerning his second coming and the Kingdom of God.

### **Counsellor**

This is another in the list of titles found in Isaiah 9:6. We might today more readily identify with the noun 'advisor'. There is much good advice in the words of our Lord that are left on record. The people of the world largely ignore his counsel and do what they please. The results of this course of action are distressingly evident. At every level of society, individually and internationally, the neglect of the wise instruction of Jesus Christ has brought ruin. The peoples of the world now ignore Christ to such an extent that they are on

the verge of self-destruction. Except for the timely return of the Counsellor to force them to accept his wisdom, we might witness the annihilation of mankind. It is a sad tribute to the folly of humanity that the wise counsel of Christ is rejected.

Jesus is called a Counsellor in the context of his Kingdom—not that he was not a Counsellor when he first came, but it will not be till the Kingdom of God that men and women everywhere will recognise him as such. Jesus will be the chief of those who in the Kingdom direct men and women, saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it" (Isa. 30:20,21).

*With this issue we conclude Brother Greg Palmer's series. Brother Palmer also dealt with some other issues, such as a comparison with the titles and descriptions of God, and descriptions from particular portions of Scripture. Readers who would like a full copy of his notes, please contact the Publishing Editor, or email [emb.testimony@googlemail.com](mailto:emb.testimony@googlemail.com)*