



Dear Brother George,

It has been brought to my attention that in **Luke 4:20**, the phrase, "He sat down" may mean on the Messiah seat. Have you any information on this teaching? It is completely new to me since the Rabbi sat to teach in the synagogue anyway.

ANSWER:

Jesus had been doing miracles and became renown in Galilee where many Gentiles lived (See **Luke 4:14**). Now He was in Nazareth, His hometown (**Luke 16**). I doubt if there was a special "seat" for Messiah in their Synagogue, (maybe in the temple in Jerusalem, but doubtful one in every town) and He, like all others, stood while He read the Scripture.

He read this Messianic prophecy, "**The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He hath appointed me to preach the Gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**" (**Luke 4:18-19**) from **Isaiah 61:1**.

This was considered by the Jews to be a Messianic prophecy. He handed the book to the minister. He then sat down to teach like all Rabbis did. Every eye was fastened on Him waiting with hushed silence to see what this renowned miracle worker would say about a clearly known Messianic prophecy.

Once He sat down, He said to His neighbors and friends who had known Him from childhood, "**This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.**"

They could not believe it was the boy they had seen grow up. Everything was fine until He said the word "Gentiles".

He had been healing in Galilee and He rebuked their unbelief by telling how the Old Testament prophets Elijah and Elisha had done miracles among other races rather than Israel. He gave them examples of Gentiles they had helped. He then reminded them that prophets are not usually accepted in their own country.

They then tried to throw Him over a cliff head first, but He passed through the crowd and went His way.

So, I do not believe He sat in some unusual chair called a "Messiah Chair". There He sat down in the chair that all the teachers sat in to teach.

Simply saying He was fulfilling prophecy was enough to incite them to murder. He actually was telling His hometown folks, "I am the Messiah", and for that they wanted to kill Him.

Anyone may claim that He was the Messiah by sitting in a revered chair, but to do miracles as He was doing and apply a Messianic Scripture to Himself by doing miracles among despised Gentiles, was more than they could bear.