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JESUS: SON OF MAN AND SON OF GOD

Jesus was different from you and me; He was different from Mohammed and Buddha and Moses and every other religious leader; Jesus was a man, a human, but he was also divine. Jesus was God in human flesh; he was Emmanuel, "*God with us.*" (Matthew 1:23) This is the way the Bible describes Jesus, and it is either true or false.

(1) The Bible - Sense or Nonsense?

You and I have to decide whether to trust the Bible as a message from God. The Bible claims to be the "Word of God." It claims to have been "breathed" out by God through human agents and to show us the way to eternal life, beginning now and extending forever. The Bible was written by 40 different human authors on three different continents over a period of more than 1,500 years, yet connected from Genesis to Revelation by over 65,000 "hyper-links" that demonstrate that it is a supernatural book. But you and I can't be convinced by any such proofs, we can only "hear" God speak to us through the Bible by the humble path of faith. Have you chosen to believe that the Bible is the Word of God?

(2) Jesus was a man.

Most of us don't question that Jesus was a historical man, but in early centuries some believed that he only "seemed like" a man because they couldn't believe that a human could do the things he did while on earth. Jesus was born of a woman just like the rest of us. He grew, was tempted, suffered, bled and died like all other men. But he lived as a perfect man, unstained by sin, a life of perfect love and obedience to his Father.

(3) Jesus was God. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit. (Matthew 1:18) His birth had been foretold in as many as 300 prophecies going back to Moses (1500 BC), and David and Solomon (950 BC). Seventeen times in the book of John, Jesus claimed to have preexisted in heaven (*I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me.* John 6:38) When Moses asked God his name at the

burning bush, God answered, "I Am," which is "Yahweh" in Hebrew. Seven times in the book of John, Jesus described himself as "I Am." *I am the bread of life; I am the light of the world; I am the gate for the sheep; I am the good shepherd; I am the resurrection and the life; I am the way, the truth and the life; I am the vine, you are the branches.* Jesus received worship from people. (John 9:38) Jesus claimed that the words that he spoke were the very words of God. (John 12:49) Jesus foretold his death on the cross, his resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and his return on the clouds of heaven to judge the world. (Many scriptures) Mark quoted Jesus as claiming that he had the right to forgive men's sins (Mark 2:10) In Luke, Jesus claimed to be the fulfillment of Isaiah's famous prophecy that the Messiah, Savior, Healer, Deliverer would come. (Luke 4:18-19) Colossians declares that Jesus is the very image of the invisible God and that all things were created through him (Col. 1:15-16) Hebrews says that the universe was made through Christ and that he sustains everything that exists. (Heb. 1:1-3) Peter said that Jesus was God: *To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ...*(2 Peter 1:1) The Bible says that Jesus will return on the clouds of heaven to judge all mankind and that every knee will bow to him (Isaiah, Romans and Revelation).

About a hundred years ago, C. S. Lewis said that Jesus was either who he claimed to be or he was an evil man and/or a madman. If you knew someone who made the grandiose claims listed above, what would you think of him or her?

In view of these claims about Jesus, we must reject them as nonsense or accept them as true. If we reject them, then we totally reject Jesus; we reject everything he said and taught; we reject his death on the cross as having any significance; we reject his resurrection as a fiction and a false myth; we reject the idea that we too will be resurrected to a life beyond the grave; we reject Christianity totally and completely; we reject the God that Jesus prayed to and taught us to call our Heavenly Father.

If we believe the Bible is truly the Word of God, then we must bow down to Jesus Christ as the way God has provided for our salvation from hell and to heaven, and we must live in submission to him as our Savior and our God.

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THE SIN OF LUCIFER

In the 14th chapter of Isaiah, the fall of the king of Babylon is described, but it is clear that this chapter is not simply describing an evil earthly king but that it is describing Lucifer, the archangel who fell and became Satan. For instance, Isaiah 14:12 says, *How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn.* And why did

Lucifer fall from heaven? The reason is described in Verses 13 & 14, and note the multiple times he uses the word "I:"

I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.

Lucifer's sin was **pride** as expressed in his **selfish ambition**.

I recently learned that the word ambition is not in the Bible. The Greek word is *eritheia*, which translates "selfish ambition." "*Eritheia* described a person who was only concerned with his own welfare, a person susceptible to being bribed, an ambitious, self-willed person seeking opportunities for promotion." It also described a person that we would identify today as factious and political.

We Americans consider ambition a positive virtue. We look down on anyone who doesn't have any ambition as being lazy, unmotivated, worthless. In fact, the definition of "The American Dream" is: "The ideal by which equality of opportunity is available to any American, allowing the highest aspirations and goals to be achieved." Note: I will achieve my highest aspirations and goals. I will ascend to the highest position in my company or my chosen field. I will be enthroned as the CEO of my company, as the most honored scientist in my field, as the most famous industrialist, the most wealthy investor, the general or field marshal of the army, the most famous actor or musician or football player. I will be in the hall of fame. I will be the president of my country, and when I retire I will build a huge presidential library in honor of myself. I will make my mark on the world. I will build a big church and be remembered as the most famous Christian since Peter, Paul and Mary. (Or was that a singing group?)

Men and women of God certainly aren't lazy and unmotivated. But they have died to the American Dream, which is the Kingdom of Self. They are citizens of a more glorious Kingdom, the Kingdom of God.

Unfortunately, being a Christian doesn't exempt us from pride and selfish ambition. The following teaching, "The Highest Form of Treason," is from The Morning Star Journal by Bobby Conner, and it deals with this subject from the standpoint of a Christian preacher. Perhaps Bobby's teaching will impact you as deeply as it did me.

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THE HIGHEST FORM OF TREASON

by Bobby Conner

"The Lord told me, "The highest form of treason is for ministers to take the gifts I give to win souls to Myself - - and to use these gifts to win people to themselves." Here is a marvelous truth of the Kingdom of God: when we preach, teach, or minister in love, in the Spirit of God, we impart the substance of Christ, not simply information about Him. Jesus affirmed the prophecy in Isaiah 61:1-5 - *The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor...*(Luke 4:18) The Greek word anoint is the same word from which we derive the name of Christ. He is the anointing! For us to be anointed means that we don't just give people information but the substance of Christ Himself.

Many of us have had the experience of hearing someone preach or teach, and while their words were true, scriptural and wise, our heart was unmoved and our life was unchanged. The experience was similar to reading a textbook or attending a lecture. Why does this happen? The speaker's words were not being carried by the breath of God's Spirit, but by their own soul and good intentions - or by their pride and ambition. Their words were not anointed with the very substance of Christ.

But we may have had a different experience of hearing someone preach or teach: perhaps their words were not polished; they may have been unlearned, awkward or inexperienced - but we were stirred to the very core of our being. Our heart burned as if Christ Himself were standing in front of us. And indeed - He was! This is the difference between ministering through Christ's anointing and speaking out of one's own abilities and natural training.

How do we carry and maintain this precious anointing? Jesus tells us in John 15: *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can you except you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches: He that abides in Me and I in him, the same brings forth much fruit: for without Me can do nothing.*

I pray much about being both prophetic and anointed, with the ability to impart. One must spend time in the presence of our Lord in order to have within ourselves His spiritual substance that we might impart His very being. We must come before the throne each day to receive fresh bread from heaven to feed the flock of God. I have been preaching now for over fifty years, averaging speaking five times each week. During this lifetime of ministry, I have learned how to lead people to Christ - not to myself.

Paul wrote to the Corinthians in chapter 2: *And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring to you the testimony of*

God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power.

Paul said that his speaking was not with the words of man's wisdom but in demonstration of the Spirit. This demonstration of the Spirit is the impartation that is taking place, which has nothing to do with the words themselves. It is divine life and energy of Christ flowing from the Lord, through the speaker and into the one who is receptive.

My deepest desire is to impart the life of Christ who has been imparted to me."

POST SCRIPT FROM GLENN:

When I, Glenn, read Bobby's sentence about treason against God, tears came to my eyes because that is what I did. When I left the Methodist Church and started an independent, Charismatic church, I became filled with selfish ambition. My goal was to build a big, successful church to the glory ofGlenn. I didn't come up with this idea because of an overly sensitive conscience. I wasn't even aware of what I had been doing until God showed it to me in a dream. It devastated me. I eventually understood that God revealed this to me because He still loved me. He gave me the opportunity to repent and to ask Him to change my heart. Thank God He showed this to me while I had opportunity to change so that I won't go dragging this terrible sin behind me to the Judgment Seat of Christ. Remember that Paul wrote to the believers at Corinth and told them: *For we must all appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due him, for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.* (2 Cor. 5:10)

Paul had previously written to the same church concerning the same subject in 1 Cor. 3:11, as follows:*For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. If any one builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay, or straw, his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work. If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.*

Of course you know that the Bible says again and again that we are not saved by our good works, but that salvation is a gift of God that we receive through faith in Christ and His sacrifice on the cross and His resurrection. But you surely know that Christ who becomes our Savior becomes, at the same time, our Lord. That is, we repent of our sin

and self-rule and bow down to him as the King of our life. Romans 10:9 explains it as follows: *That if you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* (I underlined the phrase, Jesus is Lord, because it seems easy for people to miss it.) And let me share one other crucial Scripture passage: *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* (Ephesians 2:8-10) Note that we not saved by our good works, but we are saved in order to do good works.

Unfortunately, some church members seem to believe they were saved for nothing but to resume their life devoted to self-fulfillment. Let me close with a testimony that I recall from maybe 40 years ago:

A young man was saved in a certain church and was mentored for years by his pastor, whom I will call Abe. Abe was a wise and faithful man. The young man, whom I will call Josh, grew to love the Lord and spent much time in prayer and in the Word. In his early 20's, Josh started a church that grew in about ten years to be a mega-church. Josh wrote a book that was also very successful, and he became in demand by other pastors and denominations and the national Christian media. Josh had become a Christian celebrity. He also became super busy flying to Christians conventions, writing articles, etc.

At this time, God spoke clearly to Abe and told him to deliver a personal message to Josh. Abe drove to the big city where Josh lived, went to his church and tried to see him. The secretary said No way, without an appointment! Abe insisted she tell Rev. Josh that he needed to see him. Finally, he was permitted to go into the office. Josh was very cordial but told the old man that he could only give him ten minutes.

Abe started sharing some Bible stories that were well-known to both of them about men who had been called by God but had fallen away from their first love for Him. Then Abe said, "God told me to tell you that He loves you very much and that He misses you. He wants you to come back to Him."

Josh was stunned. He cancelled his appointments and spent the rest of the day in quiet reflection. That night he had a dream. He saw many men and women standing before Christ at the Bema, the Judgment Seat of Christ. In front of each person was a little mound representing all of their "good works," all of their acts of service, their prayers, their giving, their words, and even their motivations. Jesus stepped down from

His throne and in His hand was a torch. He approached each person standing before Him, looked into their eyes, and lowered the torch to the mound before them. For some, the fire had no effect. Their works were gold and silver, done to the glory of God. Jesus said to each of them, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into the joy of the Lord." For others, when Jesus lowered the torch to the mound, it was totally consumed, and the person started weeping and wailing for their lost opportunity and their lost rewards. And for still others, the fire partially consumed the mound, their life and service had been a mixture. They, too, wept because of their lost opportunity.

Then Jesus approached Josh and his mound. Jesus looked deeply into Josh's eyes, and His eyes were like a flame of fire. Then He slowly lowered the torch to the mound, and suddenly Josh awoke from his dream..

Now, please picture yourself in that multitude of people waiting for Jesus to judge your lifetime of service to Him. If you are a believer, that day is coming. Imagine Jesus walking purposefully up to you, stopping and staring deeply into your eyes. Slowly He lowers His torch to the mound before you.

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HAVE YOU WATCHED THE CHOSEN?

Wow! This is the best Christian series you have ever seen. Really. You can Google "The Chosen, Episode 1"; or get the App; etc. It will bless you.

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INVITATION TO TUESDAY NIGHT ZOOM MEETING

On Tuesday evenings at 7:00 PM, Lynne Cumming and I have been leading a one-hour Zoom meeting for a few people that are overcoming their issues and learning to be followers of Jesus. We have some very interesting discussions. You are invited to join us.

Tuesday, 7:00 PM - MST

Meeting ID - 3286045985

Password - 12345

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God bless,

Glenn

I would like to thank each of you for your support of this ministry.

If any of you want to receive a tax credit for your financial contributions, you may send them to:

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